

The University of Toledo Archives  
Manuscript Collection

Finding Aid

➤ Frank Hickerson Papers, 1925-1973 ◀  
UM 12

**Size:** 3 linear feet

**Provenance:** Unknown, Biography Files (UR 88/5)

**Access:** Open

**Related Collections:** UR 87/67, Administrative Offices – Early Documents; MSS-245, Mel Klein Papers; UM-104, A. Monroe Stowe Papers

**Processing Note:**

**Condition:** Fair

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**Location:** 15/A/4 (1); 2/C/3 (2); 104/C/1 (3); 2/C/1 (4)

**Completed by:** Julie Onnenga, 1/4/1985; Maureen S. O'Brien, 10/22/1990; updated by Sara Mouch, 2/4/2016

### **Biographical Sketch**

Frank Raymond Hickerson was born in Wellsville, Missouri in 1896. The son of a farmer, he grew up to be a teacher, first for three years in a one-room rural school and later, after service in World War I and attending the Universities of Missouri for his BA, Wisconsin for his MA, and Cincinnati for his Doctorate, in 1921 as a principal and superintendent in Kansas. Hickerson then taught for three semesters as a Visiting Lecturer at Friends University and served eight years as professor of education at the University of Wisconsin. It was thereafter, in 1938, that Hickerson joined the faculty at the University of Toledo, where he spent 29 years of his career before his retirement in 1967.

While at UT, Hickerson served as Dean of the College of Education as well as supervised teacher placement and, in 1966, as the university prepared to celebrate its centennial in 1972, he was appointed the University Historian and tasked to write an updated history of the university, an effort he began as a doctoral student at the University of Cincinnati where he wrote his dissertation on the history of UT from its inception through World War II.

Throughout the following years, now retired and with emeritus status, Hickerson delved deep into UT's history, thoroughly researching the people and events that impacted the university's development. Much of that research included correspondence filled with anecdotes from major players and which comprise a large part of this collection.

Frank R. Hickerson died on July 23, 1971, before the manuscript of this significant project, *The Tower Builders: The Centennial Story of the University of Toledo, 1872-1972*, went to the printer.

**Frank Hickerson  
Papers, 1925-1973**

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Frank R. Hickerson consist of the research and manuscript materials for the *Tower Builders*, the centennial history of the University of Toledo. The collection is divided into three series: **Research Materials**, which contain the correspondence and primary source materials Hickerson used in writing the book; **Manuscript Production Materials**, comprised of original and edited manuscripts of the *Tower Builders*, as well as the printer's and author's galley proofs, and unbound copies, excerpts as appeared in UT's *Alumnus* magazine, and an unpublished chapter 30 written by Jesse Long; and **Retirement**, a small series of correspondence and a bound letter book from the UT community wishing Hickerson a happy retirement.

Of note in the **Research Materials** are memoirs about the history of UT found in the correspondence. Most of this information has only been recorded in this correspondence. Topics covered here include: difficulties in publishing Hickerson's thesis, the attempt to find Jesup Scott's descendant and have them sign a quitclaim to the Scott Park property, and the lives of former UT presidents, faculty and administrators. Correspondents include Presidents Stowe, Nash, Cockayne, Knowles, and Carlson; Frederick Tisdell; Mary Gillham; Jesse Long; A.J. Townsend; Scott Nearing; and Brenton Stevenson.

**Frank Hickerson  
Papers, 1925-1973**

**Series List**

**S1 Research Materials**

1925-1973, .5 linear foot

Arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically within the subject.

Series includes correspondence and primary source materials Hickerson used in the writing of the *Tower Builders*.

**S2 Manuscript Production Materials**

ca. 1970, 1.25 linear feet

Arranged chronologically by development of the manuscript.

Series includes original and edited typed manuscripts, galley proofs, published excerpts, and an unpublished chapter.

**S3 Retirement**

1967, .25 linear foot

Arranged alphabetically.

Series includes correspondence from the UT community celebrating Hickerson's retirement.

Frank Hickerson  
Papers, 1925-1973

Folder List

Box	Folder	Item Description
		<b>S1. Research Materials</b>
1	1	Correspondence, Board of Directors, 1968-1970
1	2	Correspondence, Centennial Committee, 1968
1	3	Correspondence, Coaches, 1967-1968
1	4	Correspondence, College of Law, 1969-1970
1	5	Correspondence, Deans, 1967-1970
1	6	Correspondence, Doctorate Thesis, 1941-1943
1	7	Correspondence, Editorial, 1949, 1965
1	8	Correspondence, General, 1944, 1969, n.d.
1	9	Correspondence, Jesup Scott and the Scott Park Quitclaim, 1927-1928, 1941, 1967-1968
1	10	Correspondence, Miscellaneous Historical Anecdotes, 1947, 1949-1951, 1954-1955, 1960, 1967-1969
1	11	Correspondence, Presidents, 1944, 1958, 1964, 1967-1970
1	12	Correspondence, Professors, 1965-1970, n.d.
1	13	Correspondence, Publisher Solicitations, 1965
4	n/a	Doctorate Thesis, 1941
1	14	Doctorate Thesis Abstract, 1941
1	15	Lists of Primary Figures in UT History, 1972, n.d.
2	1-9	Photographs of subjects, filed alpha by name
1	16	Primary Source Research, 1925, 1934, 1946-1949, 1952
		<b>S2. Manuscript Production Materials of <i>The Tower Builders</i></b>
1	17	Original typed manuscript, chapters 1-12
1	18	Original typed manuscript, chapters 13-19
1	19	Original typed manuscript, chapters 20-25
1	20	Original typed manuscript, chapter 26-30
1	21	Original typed manuscript, appendices
1	22	Edited manuscript, chapters 1-12
1	23	Edited manuscript, chapters 12-22
1	24	Edited manuscript, chapters 23-29 and appendices
1	25	Successive draft, foreword-chapter 13
1	26	Successive draft, chapters 14-24
1	27	Successive draft, chapters 15-29
3	n/a	Proofs, printer's and author's sets
1	28	Published copy, unbound (copy 1)
1	29	Published copy, unbound (copy 2)
1	30	Unpublished chapter 30, "Grand Old Men and Women of the University", written by Jesse Lone
1	31	Excerpts that appeared in <i>ALUMNUS</i> magazine , 1972-1973

**Frank Hickerson  
Papers, 1925-1973**

		<b>S3. Retirement</b>
1	32	Correspondence, 1967
1	33	Letter book, 1967