

Inventory of the

Robert Borden
Rockford, Illinois

Collection

In the

Regional History Center

RC 186

INTRODUCTION

Robert Borden, of Rockford, Illinois, donated his personal collection of school materials and correspondence to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center in November 1987. Additional school records and his World War II Navy Correspondence were added at later dates.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to materials in the collection.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT

These records partially document the history of Thomas Jefferson Junior High School, Rockford, Illinois, 1956-1969 which became Thomas Jefferson High School in 1970. The collection is comprised of material received and generated by Robert Borden during his twenty-eight year tenure at Thomas Jefferson School, 1958-1986.

The first record series covers the policies and administrative decisions, daily life of both teachers and students, special events at Jefferson, and Robert Borden's classroom activities. This material concentrates on the time period of 1970-1986. Of particular interest in this series is the correspondence of Mr. Chalmer Hart, principal of Jefferson, to the teachers, generated between 1969-1985. The series of Daily Notices 1966-1986 is an excellent source of information for documenting the day-to-day activities at the school. Researchers should note that historical information on Jefferson Junior High can be found in Jefferson's Ten Year History 1956-1966.

Material documenting Robert Borden's classroom teaching and academic activities includes his correspondence with administrators, parents, and students; teaching materials for his classes in economics, government and history; class enrollment lists; and students' academic papers. The bulk of this material documents Borden's work with high school students. Borden's activities as leader of the student History Club, Swedish Club, and as Jefferson High's Debate Club coach are also documented.

Record series two partially documents decisions and activities of the Rockford Public School Board and its' superintendent through correspondence received by the teachers, and periodical publications during the years 1964-1986. Included in series 2, subseries A, are records documenting the activities of two teachers' professional organizations in Rockford: the Rockford Federation of Teachers and the Rockford Education Association (REA) from the years 1952-1986. Of special note are the copies of the professional agreements between the REA and

the Rockford Public Schools spanning the years 1968-1984. Periodical publications of the REA from 1964-1986 are also useful in tracking the relationship of the REA, their constituency, and the administration of the Rockford Public Schools.

Note: Researchers should be aware that the term "correspondence" needs to be interpreted rather loosely for the Robert Borden collection. Files described as correspondence will include letters, memos, and directives which were mass distributed by the office or person of origin, as well as exchanges of a personal nature. Researchers should also note that runs of periodical publications tend to have gaps within the indicated span of dates.

Added at a later date were Borden's correspondence written during his World War II service in the Navy.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Robert Hjalmar Borden is a native of Rockford, Illinois, born July 16, 1926. He graduated from East High School, Rockford, in 1944. After serving in the Navy for two years during World War II, he attended Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois and graduated with an A.B. degree in 1950. His majors at Augustana were education and social sciences. He minored in language arts, studying the Swedish language. From 1954 to 1963 Robert Borden studied part-time at Northern Illinois State Teachers College in DeKalb, Illinois. He graduated in 1963 with a Master of Science in Education, with an area major in social studies.

Robert Borden has been employed in the field of secondary school education steadily since earning his A.B. degree. He taught at three different Rockford area schools during the years 1950-1955: Morris Kennedy, Kishwaukee Consolidated School, and Harlem Junior High School (now Hamilton). From 1955 to 1958 he briefly left the field of education to work as a technical writer for the Aviation Division of Sundstrand Corporation of Rockford.

In the fall of 1958, he returned to teaching as the geography, history, and civics instructor at Thomas Jefferson Junior High School, Rockford, Illinois where he would remain for the next twenty-eight years, until his retirement from teaching in 1986.

Robert Borden's tenure at Jefferson encompassed many changes, some local, and some of national scope which impacted upon the world of Jefferson school. In 1970, Jefferson became a senior high, which brought many organizational changes to the campus. As a civics and history instructor, Borden was in the unique position of presenting and discussing the many social and political changes of the world with his students which came about so rapidly from the early 1960's through the mid-1970's.

Robert Borden was also an active member of the Rockford Education Association during those years. The REA was an active force in determining salaries, job security, and formal negotiations procedures for teachers with Rockford Public School Administration.

He has always been especially interested in the history of the Rockford area, and taught local history classes at Jefferson. He is a past president of the Rockford Historical Society, president of the Swedish Historical Society of Rockford, and a member of the First Lutheran Church of Rockford. He is also an active member of the American Legion Post No. 864, called the Daniel Post, which was originally organized in 1937 as a non-drinking, religiously oriented veterans group in Rockford. The group became affiliated with the American Legion in 1945.

Borden passed away on October 6, 2007 in Swedish American Hospital, Rockford, Illinois.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Borden, Robert Hjalmar
Debate, High School Students
Education
Education Associations
Forensics
High Schools
Jefferson High School, Rockford
Rockford
Rockford Education Association
Thomas Jefferson High School, Rockford
World War II

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Thomas Jefferson Junior High School, 1956-1969 Thomas Jefferson Senior High School, 1970-1986		
1	1 volume	<u>Jeff's Journal</u> (Yearbook), 1963
	1	Yearbook sales list, 1963
	1 volume	<u>Jeff's Journal</u> , 1967
	1 volume	<u>Jeff's Journal</u> , 1970
	1 volume	<u>Crossing Bridges</u> (Supplement), 1976
Subseries A. Photographs		
	2	Envelope 1 Robert Borden, 1964, n.d. (5)
		Envelope 2 Thomas A. Shaheen, Rockford Superintendent of Schools, n.d. (1) Thomas A. Shaheen with Robert Borden, 1967 (1) Thomas A. Shaheen, Robert Borden, other dignitaries, and students, n.d. (1)
		Envelope 3 Robert Borden in classroom with students, 1962, 1964, 1970, 1975, n.d. (8)
		Envelope 4 Robert Borden with History Club, 1962, n.d. (3)
		Envelope 5 Debate Club at Augustana College Tournament, 1976 (1)
		Envelope 6 ROTC sponsored school dance, n.d. (19 negs.)
		Envelope 7 Boys Basketball Team, 1970 (1 neg.) Girls Gymnastics class, 1970 (1)
		Envelope 8 Students Brian Gustafson and Doris Benner acting in a school play, n.d. (2 negs.)
		Envelope 9 Individual student portraits, 1970 (13)
		Envelope 10 Governor Richard Ogilvie with Jefferson students (boys), n.d. (autographed) (1)

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
1	2	Envelope 11 Thomas Jefferson School building, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1970 (4)	

Subseries B. Publications and Correspondence

2	1	<u>Jefferson's Ten Year History 1965-1966</u>	
	2-3	Student Handbooks, 1963-1982	
	4	Staff Handbooks, n.d.	
	5	Memorabilia, n.d. 1 J-Hawks sticker 1 tag (red cardboard) 2 buttons, Junior High 2 buttons, Senior High 1 commencement tassel 1 J-Hawks ribbon 1 fan association member card	
	6	Curriculum and course information, 1971-1987	
	7	Student Activities guides, 1981, 1983 Principals' correspondence:	
	8	John R. Wise, 1965	
	9-11	Chalmer Hart, 1969-1985	
	12	<u>Pitter Patter</u> - Chalmer Hart newsletter to staff, 1970-1985	
	13	David Johnson, 1985-1986 Assistant Principals' correspondence:	
	14	Caryl McDonald, 1980-1985	
	15	Dale Meyers, 1984-1985	
	16	North Central Association School Evaluation, 1979	
	17	Faculty Advisory Committee, 1970-1986	
	18	Building Advisory Committee, 1971, 1976, 1977	
3	1	Teacher's Advocate Council, 1984-1986	
	2	Teacher Assistance Team, 1985	

Subseries C. General School Information, Circulars, Memorandums

3	School directories, maps, teacher lists, (1954-1985)
4	School calendars, 1967-1980
5	Financial organizational reports, 1967-1978
6	School policy and goal statements, 1952-1986
7	Attendance, truancy directives, 1973-1986
8	Bus schedules, 1980-1986

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
3	9	Curriculum and class announcements, (1972-1986)	
	10	Opening and closing of school procedures, 1966, 1970-1986	
	11	General correspondence to parents, 1969-1986	
	12	School surveys and results, academic and social, 1968-1985	
	13	All-school testing and scores, 1957-1986	
	14	Teachers' parties, teachers' peer recognition awards, 1972-1986	
	15	Teachers' classroom schedules, 1965-1984	
	16	Teachers' hall duty rosters, 1972-1986	
	17	Teachers' salary, payroll notices, 1962-1984	
	4	1	Teachers' Institute agendas, 1958-1984
		2	Teachers' Institute materials, 1958-1984
		3	Student athletic eligibility, faculty tickets, 1981-1986
		4	Sports schedules, 1971-1982
		5	Sports schedules, 1983-1986
		6	Student government, 1972-1987
		7	Student academic awards, 1961-1986
		8	Commencement lists, memorandums, 1972-1986
9		Commencement programs, 1972-1979	
10		Student field trip announcements, 1972-1985	
11		Student programs, concerts, dances, awards ceremonies, 1965-1987	
12		Teacher assistance for student activities, 1972-1986	
13		Student assistance program, 1984-1985 (anti-drug flyers)	
14		Audio-visual department, closed circuit television, 1972-1986	
15		Learning lab and school library, 1973-1974	
16		In-school lunch programs, 1972-1985	
17		Office manager's memorandums, 1981-1986	
5	1-5	<u>Daily Notices</u> , June 1966-May 1980	
6	1-6	<u>Daily Notices</u> , June 1980-December 1985	
7	1	<u>Daily Notices</u> , January 1986-June 1986	
	2-7	Student suspensions, withdrawals, additions lists, January 1971-June 1986	
Subseries D. School Periodical Publications			
8	1-2	<u>J-Hawk Newsletter</u> , March 1970-June 1986	
	3	<u>Sage Page</u> , 1961-1969	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
8	4-6	<u>T. J. Times</u> , October 1971-May 1986
	7	<u>Original Cosmos Truth Express</u> , March 1971
	8	<u>Spectrum</u> , 1981 (Literary magazine)
Subseries E. Social Studies Department		
9	1	Correspondence, 1966-1987
	2	Memo series, 1985
	3	Memo series, 1986
	4	Law Day program, April-May 1986
	5	World History curriculum, January-February 1986
	6	Teacher's schedules, 1979-1981, n.d.
	7	Curriculum and skills requirements, 1975-1986
Subseries F. Robert Borden Classroom and Activities		
	8-11	Borden correspondence, 1955-1987, n.d.
	12	Disciplinary referrals to administration, 1981-1986
	13	Reports to parents, 1966-1986
	14	Reports from parents, 1967-1986
	15	Learning impaired and handicapped students, 1980-1986
	16	Correspondence between students, 1964-1987
	17	Correspondence from students, 1984-1987
10	1	Correspondence with NIU and Rock Valley College, 1954-1985
	2	Substitutes' reports, 1965-1986
	3	Classroom seating charts and grade lists, 1952 (Harlem School)
	4-5	Classroom seating charts, 1965-1986
	6	Locker lists, 1962-1977 n.d.
	7	Text distribution lists, 1960-1986
	8	Open House attendance lists, 1964, 1982
	9	Class lists, 1972-1981
	10	Administrative directives on computerized class lists, 1980-1985
	11-14	Class lists, 1973-1980
11	1-7	Class lists, January 1981-January 1986
		Classroom enrollment forms:
12	1	Civics, 1960

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	8	
12	2	U.S. History, sections 1,2, 1960		
	3	U.S. History, sections 3,5,7, 1960		
	4	Geography, 1961		
	5	History, 1962		
	6	Publications, 1962, 1963		
	7	Civics, 1963		
	8	History, 1963		
	9	Home Room, 1965		
	10	Economics, 1975		
	11	Introductions to Social Studies, 1985		
	12	World History, 1985		
	13-14	Lesson Plans, 1973-May 1984		
	13	1-2	Lesson Plans, September 1984-May 1986 Teaching materials:	
		3	U.S. History, 1952, 1961-1982	
4		U.S. History, 1967		
5		World History, 1959-1984		
6		State and Local History, 1976-1986		
7		Government and Civics, 1972-1984		
8		Economics, 1974, n.d.		
		Student academic papers:		
9		National election ballots, 1960-1964		
10-12		U.S. History, 1965-198?		
13-16		World History, 1985, n.d.		
17-19		State and Local History, 1976, 1982		
20		Geography, 1950		
21-23		Economics, 1974-1975		
24	Critiques of "Law Day" speeches, 1980, 1986			
14		History Club:		
	1	History Club, 1961-198?		
	2	Illinois State Historical Society, regional meetings, History Fairs, 1968-1983		
	3	Illinois State Historical Society Regional Meeting, Northwest, Jefferson Junior High (host), April 19, 1969		
	4	Swedish Club, 1980-1983		
		Debate Club:		
	5	Coaches correspondence, 1970-1977		
6	Budget materials, 1971-1974			
	7	Instructional materials, n.d.		

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	9	
14	8	National Forensic League, constitution, manuals, certificates, 1971-1977		
	9	National Forensic League, newsletters, 1971-1972		
	10	National Forensic League, <u>The Rostrum</u> , (1969-1977)		
	11	Big Nine Individual Events Speech Tournament, January 30, 1970, January 29, 1972, January 26, 1974		
	12	Rockford Classic, January 9, 1971, December 4, 1971		
	13	Big Eight Tournament, January 22, 1971, January 23, 1971		
	14	Rockford East Novice Tournament, February 20, 1971, February 24, 1973		
	15	Rockford East New Topic Tournament, May 15, 1971		
	16	Big Nine Conference Tournament, October 30, 1971, December 11, 1971, January 8, 1972, February 12, 1972		
	15	1	Carthage College Invitational, November 6, 1971	
		2	Evanston "Rock of Chicago" tournament, November 13, 1971, November 11, 1972	
		3	Augustana Invitational, January 13-14, 1972	
		4	Rock Valley Annual, January 22, 1972	
		5	Glenbrook North Tournament, February 19, 1972	
		6	IHSA Sectional, March 11, 17, 18, 1972	
		7	Carthage College Invitational, November 4, 1972, November 3, 1973	
8		Big Nine Tournament, December 16, 1972, February 10, 1973		
9		Rockford Classic, December 2, 1972, December 1, 1973		
10		Rock Valley Annual, February 3, 1973		
11		IHSA District tournament, March 3, 1973		
12		IHSA Sectional, March 24, 1973		
13		Big Nine Tournament, December 15, 1973		
14		Augustana Invitational, January 4, 1974, January 5, 1974		
15		Rock Valley Annual, February 2, 1974		
16		Big Nine Tournament, February 9, 1974		
17		Rockford East Novice Tournament, February 23, 1974, February 22, 1975		
18		IHSA Sectional, March 22, 1974		
16	1	Augustana Invitational, January 3, 1975, January 4, 1975		
	2	Elk Grove International, January 11, 1975		
	3	Jefferson Invitational, January 18, 1975		
	4	Big Nine Tournament, February 8, 1975		
	5	ISTA Sectional, February 14-15, 1975		

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	10	
16	6	ISTA State Finals, March 6-8, 1975		
	7	Carthage College Invitational, November 1, 1975		
	8	Illinois State University Tournament, November 14-15, 1975		
	9	Northern Illinois University Tournament, November 21-22, 1975		
	10	Rockford Classic, December 7, 1974, December 6, 1975		
	11	Augustana Invitational, January 2, 1976, January 3, 1976		
	12	Elk Grove Invitational, January 10, 1976		
	13	Jefferson Invitational, January 17, 1976		
	17	1	Big Nine Tournament, February 7, 1976	
		2	ISTA Sectional, February 14, 1976	
		3	Rockford East Novice Tournament, February 21, 1976	
		4	ISTA State Tournament, Finals, March 4-6, 1976	
		5	Crystal Lake Tournament, March 10, 1973, January 24, 1976	
6		Jefferson Novice Tournament, March 13, 1976		
7		IHSA Finals, March 30-31, 1976		
8		Rockford East Invitational, January 14, 1978		
Series II. Rockford Public Schools				
	9-12	Superintendent of Schools correspondence to teachers, 1964-1986		
18	1	Gifted students materials, 1966-1979		
	2	Secondary school catalogs, 1965-1967		
	3	Reports to the public, 197?-1983		
	4	<u>Bulletin</u> , 1960-1969		
	5-6	<u>Weekly Bulletin</u> , 1968-1971		
	7-8	<u>Direct Line</u> , 1965-1981 (summaries of Board of Education meetings)		
	9	<u>Newsletter</u> , 1966-1977		
	10	<u>Staff News</u> , 1978-1980		
	11	<u>Lasting Impressions</u> , 1986		
	19	1	<u>Chalk Talk</u> , 1965, 1968	
		2	<u>Chalkboard</u> , 1981-1985 (early 1981 title - <u>The Slate</u>)	
3		<u>Communicator</u> , 1985-1986 (summaries of Board of Education meetings)		

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	11
19	4	Rockford Public Schools Teachers' Center - <u>The Center</u> , 1981-1986	
	5	<u>Boone-Winnebago By-Ways</u> , 1979-1986	
	6	Winnebago County <u>Intersections</u> , 1971-1975	

Subseries A. Teachers' Professional Associations

	7	Rockford Federation of Teachers, 1965-1981 Rockford Education Association:	
	8	Membership directories, 1964-1966	
	9-12	Correspondence to teachers, 1952-1986	
	13	Representative Council minutes, 1961-1968	
20	1	Professional agreements, 1968-1969	
	2	Professional agreements, 1970-1984	
	3	<u>Have You Heard</u> , 1964-1969	
	4	<u>News</u> , 1964-1969	
	5	<u>Table Talk</u> , 1967-1972	
	6	<u>The Straight Line</u> , 1969-1971	
	7	<u>Developments</u> , 1968	
	8	<u>Reach</u> , 1970	
	9	<u>The Issue</u> , 1971-1974	
	10	<u>Action Relay</u> , 1972-1978	
	11	<u>Reporter</u> , 1981-1986	
	12	National School Public Relations Association - <u>It Starts in the Classroom</u> , 1981-1986	

ADDENDUM

Series I. Thomas Jefferson Junior High School, 1956-1969
Thomas Jefferson Senior High School, 1970-1986

Subseries C. General School Information, Circulars, Memorandums

	13	School procedures, 1966-1982
	14	School calendars, (1958-1981)
	15	Class and teacher schedule, n.d.
	16	Teacher salary schedule, 1957-1986
	17	Student government, 1974, n.d.
	18	Student excuse lists, (1970-1976)
	19	Status of Ability Grouping and 7 hour day, 1960-1961

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	12
20	20	Recommendations on Certified and Non-Certified Personnel, August 23, 1971	
21	1-4	Absence lists, (1969-1985)	
Subseries E. Social Studies Department			
	5	Memos, (1966-1978)	
Subseries F. Robert Borden Classroom and Activities			
	6	SRA reading record, n.d.	
	7	Teaching contracts, request for leave, etc., 1950-1986	
	8	Teacher evaluations, 1975, 1978, 1980	
	9	Winnebago County Bicentennial Commission, 1973-1976	
		Class room enrollment:	
	10-11	U.S. History, 1966, 1968	
	12	Adult and Occupational Services, 1973	
	13	Class improvement suggestions, n.d.	
	14	Student notes and memos, 1974-1983	
	15	Instructions notes, (1960-1980)	
	16	Class assignments, 1966-1968, n.d.	
	17	Class study guides, n.d.	
	18	Economic class, 1974	
	19-21	Student identification cards, n.d.	
22	1	Speech grades, n.d.	
	2	Student papers, 1973-1975, n.d.	
		Exams:	
	3	History, n.d.	
	4	Social Studies, n.d.	
	5	Economics, 1976-1977, n.d.	
		Debate Club:	
	6	Student Historian, Northwest Regional Meeting, April 28, 1979	
	7	Big 9 Critique Debate, 1974	
	8	ISTA State Debate Tournament - Judging Philosophy Form, n.d.	
		Rockford Board of Education:	
	9	Supplemental list of vacancies, (1974-1991)	

BOX FOLDER DESCRIPTION

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Series III. Borden Navy Correspondence

23 1-3 Navy correspondence, July 1944-December 1945

ADDENDUM

Series I. Thomas Jefferson Junior High School, 1956-1969
Thomas Jefferson Senior High School, 1970-1986

Subseries C. General School Information, Circulars, Memorandums

22 10 Awards program, May 24, 1979
 11 Memos, 1969, 1972, 1984, n.d.
 12 School forms, 1969-1970, n.d.
 13 Summer school announcements, 1970, 1972

Subseries F. Robert Borden Classroom and Activities

14 Book reports and other reports assignments sheets, 1966, n.d.
15 Called-in absences list, October 31, 1973
16 Class list, tardy listing, n.d.
17 Classroom enrollment, June 1967, 1969-1970
18 Drop from class roll list, n.d.
19 Excused absence slips, July ?
20 History exam, n.d.
21 Lesson plans, 1971, 1973, n.d.
22 Room assignments, summer school, 1972
23 Student chapter outlines, n.d.
24 Text book check out sheets, 1972, n.d.