

# Guide to the Helen Solberg Fowler Papers

WA MSS S-4552



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2023

P. O. Box 208330  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-4552

**CREATOR:** Fowler, Helen Solberg, 1905-1972

**TITLE:** Helen Solberg Fowler papers

**DATES:** circa 1890-1962

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 6.21 linear feet (8 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** Chiefly in English, some correspondence in Norwegian.

**SUMMARY:** The collection documents the life and career of Helen Solberg Fowler, 1890-1962. Correspondence primarily consists of personal correspondence relating family news. Personal papers include her school records, a teaching contract, her parents' marriage certificate, ephemera, and a lock of her hair. The bulk of the collection comprises photographs, including photograph albums and scrapbooks. Present are family photographs ranging from Fowler's childhood to her married life and photographs and ephemera from Fowler's time at Montana State University and Omnibus College, as well as her career as a teacher in Montana. The collection also includes photographs and ephemera from Fowler's social and religious life, including teaching Sunday school at her church and cultural events in Montana.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.hsflower>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.hsflower>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from McBride Rare Books on the Arthur Corbitt Hoskins Memorial Fund, 2022.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Helen Solberg Fowler Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

Helen Solberg Fowler Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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### Processing Information

The collection was put in its current arrangement during processing in 2023. When acquired by the library, the papers were arranged primarily by size, with no discernible original order.

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## Biographical / Historical

Helen Solberg Fowler (1905-1972) was a teacher in Montana. She was born in Big Timber, Montana to John S. Solberg and Hannah Becken. Her father was a Norwegian immigrant who owned a clothing store. Fowler studied at Montana State University and Omnibus College, a traveling caravan of college students and professors which made field trips to historic sites, national parks, and cultural institutions across the United States. After graduating from college, Fowler became a teacher in Darby, Montana. She married Francis Fowler in 1934, and they had two children, John and Nancy.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection documents the life and career of Helen Solberg Fowler, 1890-1962. Correspondence primarily consists of personal correspondence relating family news. Personal papers include her school records,

a teaching contract, her parents' marriage certificate, ephemera, and a lock of her hair. The bulk of the collection comprises photographs, including photograph albums and scrapbooks. Present are family photographs ranging from Fowler's childhood to her married life and photographs and ephemera from Fowler's time at Montana State University and Omnibus College, as well as her career as a teacher in Montana. The collection also includes photographs and ephemera from Fowler's social and religious life, including teaching Sunday school at her church and cultural events in Montana.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into three series: I. Correspondence, circa 1909-1962. II. Personal Papers, circa 1890-1960. III. Photographs, Photograph Albums, and Scrapbooks, circa 1900-1959.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, circa 1909-1962

Arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence	1909–1916
b. 1, f. 2	Correspondence	1920–1929
b. 1, f. 3	Correspondence	1930–1937
b. 1, f. 4	Correspondence	1940–1949
b. 1, f. 5	Correspondence	1950–1959
b. 2, f. 1	Correspondence	1962
b. 2, f. 2-3	Correspondence	undated

**Series II: Personal papers, circa 1890-1960**

Arranged chronologically.

b. 2, f. 4	John Solberg and Hannah Becken marriage certificate	1890
b. 2, f. 5	School report cards	1912-1919
b. 2, f. 6	Montana State University diploma	1927
b. 2, f. 7	Teaching contract	1927
b. 2, f. 8	Church and religious materials	circa 1929-1960
b. 2, f. 9	Notes and ephemera	undated
b. 2, f. 10	Printed material	undated
b. 2, f. 11	Newspaper and magazine clippings	undated
b. 2, f. 12	Lock of Helen Solberg Fowler's hair	undated
b. 3, f. 1-2	Drawing stencils and drawings	undated

## Series III: Photographs, photograph albums, and scrapbooks, circa 1900-1959

Arranged by format and size.

b. 3, f. 3-10	Mounted family photographs	circa 1900-1930
b. 3, f. 11	Family photographs	circa 1930s-1950s
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 1-9	Mounted family photographs	circa 1900-1915
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 10	Panoramic photograph of a sheep farm  This photograph was removed from its original frame by the library to prevent damage from the rusting metal of parts of the frame.	1921
b. 5	Photograph album  The photograph album contains circa 197 photographs, primarily family photographs of the Solberg family in Montana. Present are family portraits, candid, and photographs of holiday celebrations and vacations, including a trip to Yellowstone National Park.  In-process material. Research use may require advance notice. For further information, consult Access Services.	circa 1908-1917
b. 6	Photograph album  Photograph album containing circa 513 photographs. Early photographs document Helen Solberg Fowler's time as a student at Montana State University, including photographs of campus and her recreational activities. Also present are photographs from her career as a teacher in Darby, Montana and her family life in Big Timber and Darby, Montana.  In-process material. Research use may require advance notice. For further information, consult Access Services.	circa 1924-1935
b. 7	Scrapbook  Scrapbook containing clippings, ephemera, and correspondence compiled by Helen Solberg Fowler. Present are invitations, programs, and clippings related to social and cultural events in Montana, including sorority events at Montana State University and activities for Solberg's church and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).  In-process material. Research use may require advance notice. For further information, consult Access Services.	circa 1919-1950
b. 8	Scrapbook  Scrapbook containing photographs, maps, clippings, postcards, brochures, programs, and other ephemera documenting Helen Solberg Fowler's time as a student at Omnibus College in the summer of 1933. As part of her studies, Fowler participated in a traveling caravan of students and teachers, which included field trips in Wyoming, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Kentucky.  In-process material. Research use may require advance notice. For further information, consult Access Services.	1933



## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

College students -- Montana  
Scrapbooks  
Teachers -- Montana  
Tourists -- West (U.S.)  
Women college students -- Montana  
Women teachers -- Montana  
Women -- West (U.S.)

### **Geographic Names**

Big Timber (Mont.)  
Darby (Mont.)  
Montana -- Description and travel  
Montana -- Pictorial works  
Montana -- Religious life and customs  
Montana -- Social life and customs -- 20th  
Century  
West (U.S.) -- Description and travel  
West (U.S.) -- Pictorial works

### **Genres / Formats**

Human hair  
Photograph albums  
Photographs

### **Corporate Bodies**

Montana State University -- Bozeman --  
Students  
Omnibus College -- Students

### **Names**

Fowler, Francis, 1900-1977  
Solberg, Hannah Becken, 1866-1929  
Solberg, John S., 1863-1933