

Guide to the Gertrude Folks Zimand and Savel Zimand Papers, 1911-1958

Biographical Note

Gertrude Folks Zimand (1894-1966) was born in New York City and graduated from Vassar College in 1916. As an undergraduate she was head of the Suffrage Club and the Socialist Club; she was also active in the Settlement Association and the debating society. After graduation Gertrude Folks became a field investigator for the National Child Labor Committee, an organization which her father, Homer Folks, had helped found in 1904. When her Vassar classmates selected her for the Borden Memorial Fund Prize for a year of travel, she decided to use the money to work in France. After a brief stint with the American Red Cross she returned to work with the National Child Labor Committee, devoting the rest of her life to the problems of child labor. She wrote extensively on that subject, publishing several books and editing the committee's magazine *American Child*. Gertrude Folks Zimand served as both general secretary and a trustee of the National Child Labor Committee and was a founder of its National Committee on Employment of Youth. She was married in 1926 to Savel Zimand, a writer and correspondent for several newspapers including the *New York Times* and *New York Evening Post*. As one of the foremost campaigners against child labor abuses, she fought for an eight-hour work day for children and for a law to keep children in school until the age of fourteen. She also fought for a constitutional amendment outlawing child labor.

Savel Zimand (1891-1967) was born in Rumania. He came to the United States in 1913. He was a writer, educator and advocate for public health and economic reform. His work took him around the world and introduced him to luminaries in the arts, sciences and politics.

[Top](#)

Scope and Content Note

The Zimand papers primarily concern Gertrude Folks Zimand's work in France during World War I with the American Committee for Devastated France and include a diary for 1917, letters written to her family, 1917-1919, and photographs. Other items include a tribute to her father, Homer Folks, Zimand's publications, the 1911 Yonkers High School yearbook, letters received on her retirement from the National Child Labor Committee, 1955, an inventory of her papers at the Social Welfare History Archives Center, University of Minnesota, and biographical material.

There is also material relating to Savel Zimand's work as a journalist. Correspondents include the painter, Jack B. Yeats; poet George Russell (AE); historian and supporter of Irish independence, Alice Green; Mizra Ismail, the Diwan of Mysore (now Karnataka, India); biologist and sociologist, Patrick Geddes; Irish labor leader and politician, Robert Smillie; and a variety of other political, cultural and social figures.

[Top](#)

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Gertrude Folks Zimand and Savel Zimand Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Original processing date unknown. Last updated March 2007 by Laura Streett.

Description of Savel Zimand material in boxes 2 and 3 added to guide in March 2007 by Laura Streett.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Savel Zimand.

[Top](#)

Gertrude Folks Zimand

Folder 1.1 Lists of items in the collection. Folder 1.2 Information about Gertrude Folks Zimand's honors and tributes. Folder 1.3 Inventory of G.F.Z. Papers deposited in the Social Welfare History Archives Center, University of Minnesota Libraries. Folder 1.4 Diary, while in France, 14 July - 4 Oct 1917 Folder 1.5 Summary of diary dated 23 August 1917, and extract from a diary "while with the American Commission to Devastated France at Blerancourt, Department of the Aisne, during the German offensive of March 1918," 1917-1918 Folder 1.6-7 Letters to a family from France, and typescripts, 1917-1918 Folder 1.8 Blerancourt photographs. Folder 1.9 Letters from Homer Folks, Gertrude's father, to the family, from France, ca. 1919 Folder 2.1 Retirement as General Secretary of National Child Labor Committee, 1955 (photostats) Folder 2.2 Publications Folder 2.3 Tributes to Homer Folks, 1937, 1959 Box 3 Thirty Years of Service: A Tribute to Homer Folks, 1923 Box 3 Gertrude Folks Zimand: A Tribute, 1967 (3 copies) Box 3 Yonkers High School Yearbook, 1911 Folder 3.1 Miscellaneous biographical material Folder 3.2 Correspondence with Burgess Johnson, 1953 (photocopies) Folder 2.4 Photographs and news clippings re Gertrude and Savel Zimand

Savel Zimand

Folder 2.5 Russell, George (AE), 1921-1930 Folder 2.6 Green, Alice, 1921-1923, n.d. Folder 2.7 Ireland — Yeats, Jack B., 6 Sep 1921 Folder 2.7 Ireland — Williams, R.V., 13 Dec 1921 Folder 2.7 Ireland — Gallagher, Paddy, 14 Dec 1921 Folder 2.7 Ireland — Skeffington, Hanna F. Sheehy, 28 Sep 1921 Folder 2.7 Ireland — Childers, Molly (Mrs Robert Erskine Childers), 16 Nov 1921 Folder 2.8 Trotsky, Leon — interview, 1923 Folder 2.9 Soviet Union — paper rubles Folder 2.10 India — Andrews, C.F. (Charles Freer), 9 June 1925, 3 Apr 1924 Folder 2.10 India — Ghandi, Devadas, 14 Feb 1924 Folder 2.10 India — Transcript of interview with Mahatma Ghandi Folder

2.11 England — Cole, G.D.H (George Douglas Howard), 23 June 1921 Folder 2.11
England — Greendwood, Arthur, 1 June 1923 Folder 2.11 England — Tawney, R. H.,
1920-1921 Folder 2.11 England — Middleton, J.S., 1920-1930 Folder 2.11 England —
Webb, Sydney and Beatrice, 1921 - 1922 Folder 2.12 Responses from world political
leaders re: world peace — includes Lord Robert Cecil, Gustav Stresemann,
Constantine Rakovsky, Austen Chamberlain, Michael Hainisch and Leon Blum
Folder 2.13 La Fontaine, Henri-Marie, 25 Mar and 10 Jan 1920 Folder 2.14 Geddes,
Patrick, 1923-1924 Folder 2.15 Smillie, Robert, 1920-1925 Folder 2.16 Gompers,
Samuel, 23 Dec 1921 Folder 2.16 Nevinson, Henry W., 24 Dec 1921 Folder 2.17
Autographed photographs of Leon Trotsky, Madame Lenin and Mikhail Ivanovich
Kalinin, 1922 Folder 2.18 Ismail, Mizra, 1924-1958 Folder 2.19 Khan, Zulfiqar Ali,
24 Feb 1924 Folder 2.19 Calvert, H., 15 Feb [1924] Folder 2.19 Chintamani, C.Y., 26
Mar 1924 Folder 2.19 Darling, Malcolm, 25 Feb [1924] Folder 2.20 Douglas, James
G, 12 Oct 1921 Folder 2.20 Henry, Paul, 18 Aug 1921 Folder 2.20 Henry, Paul and
Grace, 7 Jan 1924 Folder 2.20 Henry R.M., 8 Oct 1921 Folder 2.21 Marshall, John,
12 Mar 1924 Folder 2.21 Plunkett, Horace, 9 Sep 1921 Folder 2.21 Sastri, Srinivasa,
13 and 25 Mar 1924 Box 3 Living India, by Savel Zimand, dedicated to G.F.Z.
Multiple Collections — Box 8 Photograph of Anatoly Lunacharsky, Commissar for
Education of the Soviet Union