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Biography of Mary LaSelle

Mary A. LaSelle was born April 16, 1894 in Portland, Ionia County, Michigan, to Edward Lester LaSelle, and Nora McCutcheon LaSelle. She had a sister, Katharine (October 16, 1891–February 16, 1966), and a brother, Franklin (September 4, 1897–September 29, 1898). LaSelle earned a B.S. in home economics from Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) in 1917. From 1925 until 1954-1955, she taught home economics classes at Walter French Junior High School in Lansing, Michigan.

LaSelle was a member of the Alpha Phi sorority alumnae club, and the Mortar Board alumni group. She also was active in the Lansing community. She volunteered for the Ingham County unit of the American Cancer Society and the YWCA's Adventures Unlimited club. She was as a member of the Lansing Area Retired Teachers Club and the Plymouth Congregational Church.

Beginning in the 1920s, LaSelle lived with her sister at 420 W. Hillsdale St. in Lansing, until Katharine's death in 1966. LaSelle later moved to Jarvis Acres retirement home near
Dimondale, then to Burcham Hills Retirement Community in 1976. She died on September 9, 1995, at age 101.

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Biography of Edward Lester LaSelle

Edward Lester LaSelle was born May 2, 1860 in Bedford, Cuyhoga County, Ohio. When he was a child, his parents moved to Portland, Michigan. He attended Olivet College from the Fall Term of 1878 through the Winter Term of 1881. On August 28, 1889, he married Nora McCutcheon (August 12, 1865 – July 11, 1921). The LaSelles had three children: Katharine (October 16, 1891 – February 16, 1966), Mary (April 16, 1894 – September 9, 1995), and Franklin (September 4, 1897 – September 29, 1898). According to the 1910 U.S. Census, LaSelle was a farmer. He also worked as a teacher. LaSelle was a member of the Knights Templar (Freemasons). A year prior to his death, he moved to Lansing, Michigan. He died February 28, 1920 in Lansing, and was buried in the Portland (Michigan) Cemetery.

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Scope and Contents

The collection contains the diary of Edward Lester LaSelle while he was a student at Olivet College and later a teacher in Portland, Michigan, 1880-1881; a farm account book, 1884-1991; minutes of School District No. 4 of Portland Township in Ionia County, 1862-89; Postmaster appointment certificate, 1891 and a Diamond Jubilee Book of First Congregational Church, Portland, Michigan, 1918.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall
943 Conrad Road, Room 101
East Lansing, MI 48824
Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish material from this collection must be obtained from University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

Conditions Governing Access

Legal Status: Donor(s) have transferred any applicable copyright to Michigan State University but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright was not transferred. Copyright restrictions may apply. Property Rights: Michigan State University.

Custodial History

Gift of Mary LaSelle.

Processing Information

Record group changed from c.00481 to UA 10.3.448 to reflect Mary A. LaSelle's connection to Michigan State University. -M. Badgley-Malone, August 2021

Controlled Access Headings

- Farm life -- Michigan
- Portland (Mich.)
- Account books
- Diaries
- Minutes (Records)
- LaSelle, Edward Lester
## Collection Inventory

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