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Zee and Schober Families Papers UA.17.144.1

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Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

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East Lansing , MI 48824

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections
Creator:	Schober family
Creator:	Zee family
Source - dnr:	Jones, Margaret Zee
Title:	Zee and Schober families papers
ID:	UA.17.144.1
Date [inclusive]:	1908-1987
Physical Description:	7.5 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Some of the materials are in German.

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Biographical/Historical

JAMES AND MARY CASSADAY ZEE

James Zee was born July 23, 1868 in Gloucester County, New Jersey. He was the son of Irish and German immigrants. On June 15, 1907 he married Mary Cassaday. Together they had two children, James Wilmer Zee and Rebecca C. Zee (born August 24, 1911).

Zee operated a dairy farmer on New Freedom Road in Monroeville, New Jersey. He was a member of the Bible Protestant Church of Hardingville, Upper Pittsgrove Board of Education, P.O.S. of A., and Zelo Lodge No. 149, Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) of Elmer, N.J.

James Zee died June 27, 1951.

Mary Cassaday Zee was born on February 14, 1873. Her ancestors emigrated from London, England to Rhode Island in 1640. In 1685 they settled in Cumberland County in southern New Jersey. Her family also had farm land in Salem County, New Jersey

She died on June 13, 1956.

JAMES WILMER ZEE

James Wilmer Zee, son of James and Mary Cassaday Zee, was born in Hardingville, New Jersey on July 2, 1908. He took over the family farm but soon decided he did not want to be a dairy farmer. In 1944, he began a farming operation (Zee Orchards) in Gloucester County, New Jersey. Zee started with 64 acres of fruit trees and eventually expanded it to 700 acres. He designed and built cold storage buildings and a hydrocooler for the orchard without assistance from architects or engineers.

During the Great Depression, Zee performed many odd jobs, including growing tomatoes for the Campbell Soup Company and delivering fuel oil. He had contracts with the United States for Prisoner of War labor. German P.O.W.s assisted with the fruit harvests. After returning to Germany, some of the P.O.W.s wrote letters to the Zees thanking them for their kindness and requesting care packages.

Zee was a member of several local organizations, including Richwood Church (1945-1987), New Jersey Farm Bureau, New Jersey Apple Institute (trustee), N.J. Horticultural Society, Mullica Hill Grange, Pomona Grange No. 51, National Peach Council, Upper Pittsgrove Board of Education, Board of Directors, Elmer Community Hospital, and the Monroeville Fire Company.

James Wilmer Zee died December 24, 1987.

ELSIE SCHOBER ZEE

Elsie Emilie Schober, daughter of William and Gertrude Schober, was born on September 16, 1909 in Monroeville, New Jersey. She was their only child to complete high school. After graduation from Glassboro High School, she attended Glassboro State Normal School to obtain a teaching degree. While at GSNS, Elise began a courtship with James Wilmer Zee. Following graduation in 1929, Elsie began teaching seventh grade at Aura School in New Jersey. In July 1931 Elise married James Wilmer Zee. Together they had four children, including Margaret Eileen Zee (Jones).

In addition to teaching, Elsie supervised packing at the Zee orchard, was a member of the PTA and the Gloucester County (N.J.) African Violet Society, and taught Sunday school. Elsie kept meticulous diaries, documenting her life in rural New Jersey and trips taken to California and Florida.

Elsie S. Zee died October 15, 1989.

WILLIAM AND GERTRUDE SCHOBER

William (Wilhelm) Frederick Schober was born March 2, 1872 in Rechau, Germany, a small town near Oschatz. In 1891 he immigrated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There he met Gertrude Marie Noll (born September 8, 1873), a fellow German immigrant. The two were married in 1893 and, in 1897, relocated

to Monroeville, New Jersey. Eight children were born of the union. All of their children were born in their Monroeville, New Jersey home.

Schober planted his first orchard in 1915. Over the decades, it grew from 40 to 235 acres, spread over Salem and Gloucester Counties. In 1930 he was named Master Farmer of the State of New Jersey, an honor bestowed on few people. Throughout his life he was an active member of the Monroeville Methodist Church and in many organizations, including the New Jersey Farm Bureau, the N.J. Horticultural Society, and the Grange. From 1946 to 1949, Schober kept in close contact with his relatives in Germany and frequently sent care packages.

William Schober died June 27, 1949. He was preceded in death by his wife, Gertrude (August 12, 1941).

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Scope and Content

This collection consists of memorial books, correspondence, diaries, notebooks, school materials, scrapbooks, Elsie Zee's teaching materials, family photographs, and genealogical papers. James Wilmer Zee and Elsie Schober Zee's courtship love letters are also included. There are also post-World War II letters to Elsie Schober Zee and William (Wilhelm) Schober from family members in Germany and from former German P.O.W.s who worked for the Zees. The letters are in German. Many were translated into English by William Schober, who dictated the translations to his daughter, Elsie. Later translations were done by another family member.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions

Collection is open for research. A portion of the collection is restricted. Archivist should see the processing note for details.

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.

Processing Information

The record group was changed from 00215 to UA 17.144.1 to reflect its connection to the Margaret Zee Jones papers (UA 17.144). September 2019, M. Badgley Malone

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

See also: Margaret Zee Jones papers (UA 17.144).

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Controlled Access Headings

- Child rearing
- Depressions -- 1929 -- United States
- Farm life
- Orchards
- World War, 1939-1945
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)

- Diaries
- Family histories
- Letters (correspondence)
- Photographs
- Postcards
- Programs (Publications)
- Notebooks
- Reports
- Scrapbooks
- Jones, Margaret Zee
- Jones, Margaret Zee

Collection Inventory

ZEE AND SCHOBER FAMILIES, 1908-1989

Gertrude Marie Noll Schober

Title/Description	Instances	
Memorial book, 1941	box 6064	folder 18

William (Wilhelm) Frederick Schober

Title/Description	Instances	
Letters from Franz & Marichen Gierisch, 1946-1949	box 6067	folder 1
Letters from family in Germany (not translated), 1947-1949	box 6067	folder 2
Letters from Martin Schober (Herman's son), 1948-1949	box 6067	folder 3
Letters from Oswald Henker (schoolmate of W.S.), 1948	box 6067	folder 4
Letters from Frithjof Henker (Oswald's son), 1947-1949	box 6067	folder 5
Letter from Max Schober (Heinrich's son), 1947	box 6067	folder 6
"Last Day of Papa's Life" by Elsie S. Zee, June 27, 1949	box 6067	folder 7
"The Master Farmer Awards for 1930"	box 6065	folder 1
Master Farmer scrapbook pages, 1930	box 6065	folder 2
Auto insurance policy, 1931	box 6065	folder 3
Letters from Curt Schober, 1947-1948	box 6065	folder 4
Letters from Martha Bergmann, 1947-1948	box 6065	folder 5
Letters from Anna Wolfgram (mother of POW Heinz Wolfgram), 1948	box 6065	folder 6

Letters from Karl Schober, 1948	box 6065	folder 7
Memorial book, 1949	box 6065	folder 8
Funeral sympathy cards and attendance list, 1949	box 6065	folder 9
Last will and testament, 1946	box 6065	folder 10
Death certificate, 1951	box 6065	folder 10
Correspondence, Undated	box 6065	folder 11

Elsie Schober Zee & William Schober

Title/Description	Instances	
Family letters from Germany (with translations dictated to ESZ by WS), 1946-1949	box 6067	folder 11-12
Translations of POW letters from Germany, by Tina Schober (translations, 1987), Circa 1946	box 6067	folder 13
Family letters from Germany (with translation dictated to ESZ by WS), 1946-1948	box 6063	folder 17

Elsie Schober Zee

Title/Description	Instances	
Baptismal certificate (copy), September 16, 1909	box 6067	folder 8
Stock certificate – Glassboro (N.J.) State Normal Student & Alumni Camping Association, 1928	box 6067	folder 9
Forest Grove School. Plan Book (with student grades & seating chart - Restricted), 1930-1931	box 6067	folder 10
"New Jersey" assignment, Circa 1920s	box 6062	folder 1
Valentines, Circa 1920s	box 6062	folder 2
Eighth grade assignments & commencement program (handwritten), Monroeville School (N.J.), 1921	box 6062	folder 3
Christmas cards, 1922-1930	box 6062	folder 4
GHS - Biology notes, 1923	box 6062	folder 5
Silas Mariner essay, Undated	box 6062	folder 5
Review of Elementary Subjects Workbook, Circa 1923-1924	box 6062	folder 6
Rules for punctuation notes, Circa 1923-1924	box 6062	folder 6
Latin notebooks, 1923-1924	box 6062	folder 7
Sesquicentennial Memorabilia, Philadelphia, PA, October 3, 1926	box 6062	folder 8
GHS - Cooking notebook & assignments, 1926-1927	box 6062	folder 9

Composition books, 1926-1927	box 6062	folder 10
"Graduation Memories" scrapbook, 1927	box 6062	folder 11
Washington D.C. trip memorabilia, 1927	box 6062	folder 12
Photographs, Undated	box 6062	folder 12
Glassboro State Normal School - Biology Notes, 1927	box 6062	folder 13
GSNS "Correlated Handwriting: Complete Teachers' Manual, 1927-1931	box 6062	folder 14
Notebooks: 1. Garden State Fair October 1928; 2. Costs – Home Renovation, 1931	box 6062	folder 15
Programs, 1928-1931	box 6062	folder 16
Love letters to James Wilmer Zee, 1928	box 6062	folder 17
GSNS English assignments and notes, March 30, 1928	box 6062	folder 18
GSNS "Dear Pal" daily journal assignments, April 1928	box 6062	folder 19
Correspondence, 1929	box 6062	folder 20
GSNS notes, various classes, Circa 1929	box 6062	folder 21
GSNS "Secrets" papers; notes for various classes, 1929	box 6062	folder 22
Student grade book (student teaching? - Restricted); spelling book, 1929	box 6062	folder 23
GSNS grades & achievement certificate, Undated	box 6062	folder 24
Photos of GSNS classmates	box 6062	folder 25
GSNS yearbook "The Oak", 1929	box 6062	folder 26
Teacher contracts, 1929-1930	box 6062	folder 27
N.J. State Teachers' Association annual conventions, 1929-1930	box 6062	folder 28
Plan Book. Aura School (N.J.), Seventh grade, 1929-1930	box 6062	folder 29
Notebook (spiritual, trips, etc.), 1929, 1937-1938	box 6062	folder 30
Trip to Florida from N.J. scrapbook, December 23, 1930-January 4, 1931	box 6062	folder 31
Trip to Florida from N.J. scrapbook – correspondence & diary, December 23, 1930-January 4, 1931	box 6062	folder 32
Trip to Florida from N.J. scrapbook #2, December 23, 1930-January 4, 1931	box 6062	folder 33-34
Notebooks, Circa 1930s-1960s	box 6062	folder 35
Wedding scrapbook, July 1931	box 6062	folder 36

Teacher's Contract, April 28, 1931	box 6063	folder 1
Letter to teachers, December 1, 1931	box 6063	folder 1
Bank statements and canceled checks, 1932	box 6063	folder 2
Accounts of children's births (James Wilmer Zee, Jr. 9/13/1932; Margaret Eileen Zee 6/24/1934; Douglas Schober Zee 5/15/1941), 1932-1941	box 6063	folder 3
Pregnancy Notebook, 1932	box 6063	folder 4
Correspondence, 1932-1949	box 6063	folder 5
Journal entries, January 1933	box 6063	folder 6
Cards to William Schober, Circa 1936-1946	box 6063	folder 7
Visitor log for Wilmer Zee during hospitalization, Circa 1937-1938	box 6063	folder 8
Richwood United Methodist Church reports, 1937-1945	box 6063	folder 9
PTA notebooks, membership cards, "History of the Salem County Council of Parents and Teachers", 1937-1939	box 6063	folder 10
PTA materials and thank you letter, 1938-1949	box 6063	folder 11
"Morning Cheer: Favorite Radio Songs and Poems", 1943	box 6063	folder 12
Correspondence with Howard and Marie Eifert, 1943-April 1944	box 6063	folder 13
Diary of Relocation to Richwood, N.J., February 2-9, 1944	box 6063	folder 14
Correspondence with Howard and Marie Eifert, May 1944-July 1945	box 6063	folder 15
Correspondence from "Peggy" (MZJ), May 1946	box 6063	folder 16
Envelopes from family letters (from Germany), 1946-1948	box 6063	folder 18
Letter from Walter Seyffert (a translator in Germany), 1947	box 6063	folder 19
Letters from former German POWs, 1947-1948	box 6063	folder 20
Correspondence to William Schober, 1949	box 6063	folder 21
Condolences (death of William Schober), 1949	box 6063	folder 22
Gloucester County (N.J.) African Violet Society records, April 1950	box 6063	folder 23
Wedding photo (James Wilmer Zee, Jr.?), Circa 1950s	box 6063	folder 24
National Apple Institute Annual Tour, Yakima, WA., June 14, 1952	box 6063	folder 25
Correspondence, 1952-1988	box 6063	folder 26
Notebook: Richwood Church Records, 1951-1958; MZJ's Apple Queen crowning, October 28, 1952, 1951-1958	box 6063	folder 27

Church correspondence, 1954-1966	box 6063	folder 28
Monroeville M.E. Church, 100th Anniversary, June 8, 1958	box 6063	folder 29
Faith studies notebook, 1958	box 6063	folder 30
Open house tour, Glassboro celebration of N.J.'s centenary, 1964	box 6063	folder 31
Loose materials – "Back of the Bible collection", 1980s-2010, Undated	box 6063	folder 32-33
Memory Quilt newspaper clipping – 50th wedding anniversary of Elsie S. and Wilmer Zee, July 2, 1981	box 6063	folder 34
Retirement from Sunday school teaching, 1984	box 6063	folder 35
Funeral service/eulogies [restrict – SS#], 1989	box 6063	folder 36
Richwood society column newspaper clipping, Undated	box 6063	folder 37
Church notebook, Undated	box 6063	folder 38
Family obituaries (newspaper clippings)	box 6063	folder 39
Memorabilia	box 6063	folder 40
Holy Bible, with notes	box 6063	folder 41
Appointment book, 1953	box 6063	folder 43
Wilmer and Elsie Zee 50th anniversary (?), photos, 1981	box 6064	folder 14

Elsie S. Zee scrapbooks

Title/Description	Instances
Scrapbook (misc.)	box 6071
Florida trip (folder with photo), 1930-1931	box 6071
Get well cards (appendicitis), August 1943	box 6072
American Farm Bureau trip to San Francisco, CA, 1946	box 6070
Ephemera – ESZ & James Zee, Circa 1929-1930	box 6070

Schober and Zee families

Title/Description	Instances
Photo collection and other family materials on DVD/CD ROM	box 6064 folder 15
Heinrich Schober family photos	box 6064 folder 16
Schober genealogy	box 6064 folder 17

Cassaday/Zee family

Title/Description	Instances
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Cards	box 6065	folder 23
James Zee		
Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1911, Undated	box 6065	folder 12
Memorial book, 1951	box 6065	folder 13
Mary Cassaday Zee		
Title/Description	Instances	
Diaries, 1944-1945	box 6065	folder 14
Diaries, 1946-1947	box 6065	folder 15
Diary, 1948	box 6065	folder 16
Diaries, 1953-1954, 1956	box 6065	folder 17
Selected diary transcripts, 1944-1945	box 6065	folder 18
Selected diary transcripts, 1946-1948	box 6065	folder 19
Selected diary transcripts, 1949-1954	box 6065	folder 20
Memorial book – clippings, 1956	box 6065	folder 21
Memorial book, 1956	box 6065	folder 22
Mary C. Zee scrapbooks		
Title/Description	Instances	
Cards (fragile), Circa 1908-1909	box 6069	
Postcards (fragile), Circa 1908-1909	box 6069	
Postcards scrapbook (#1), Circa 1908-1909	box 6068	
Postcards scrapbook (#2), Circa 1908-1909	box 6068	
James Wilmer Zee		
Title/Description	Instances	
Early European History, Circa 1920s	box 6065	folder 24
Bookkeeping, Circa 1920s	box 6065	folder 25
General Science, Circa 1920s	box 6065	folder 26
English notebook, Circa 1920s	box 6065	folder 27
Geography & History notebooks, Circa 1920s	box 6065	folder 28
Boy Scouts and 4-H, 1920-1930	box 6065	folder 29
Shorthand, 1922-1923	box 6065	folder 30

Physics, 1924	box 6065	folder 31
Shorthand, 1924-1925	box 6065	folder 32
Love letters to Elsie Schober, 1928-1929	box 6065	folder 33
Insurance policies, 1932-1935	box 6065	folder 34
Agriculture correspondence, 1933-1936	box 6065	folder 35
Correspondence and memorabilia, 1934-1964	box 6065	folder 36
Cards and correspondence, 1936-1950	box 6066	folder 12
Work materials – correspondence, notes, maps, etc., 1938	box 6067	folder 14
Invoices and work contracts, 1938-1971	box 6065	folder 37
Cashbook – Fuel oil delivery, January 1942	box 6065	folder 38
Salem County (N.J.) Board of Education Dinner meeting, March 10, Circa 1943-1944	box 6065	folder 39
Dog licenses, 1943-1950	box 6065	folder 40
War rations, 1944-1945	box 6066	folder 1
War rations – correspondence, 1944-1947	box 6066	folder 2
Contracts for Prisoner of War labor, 1945	box 6066	folder 3
Richwood Lodge No. 243 membership, 1948-1949	box 6066	folder 4
Candidate for Freeholder, Harrison Township (N.J.), April 21, 1964	box 6066	folder 5
Candidate for Freeholder newspaper clippings, 1964	box 6066	folder 6
Newspaper clippings, 1971-1987	box 6066	folder 7
Funeral memorial book and sympathy cards, 1987	box 6066	folder 8
Funeral – Eulogy, attendance list, and bulletins, 1987	box 6066	folder 9
Funeral correspondence, 1987-1988	box 6066	folder 10
Memorabilia	box 6066	folder 11

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RESTRICTED

Computer Disks, 1990-2003	box 6067
Title/Description	Instances
ESZ diaries - 1958, WP5.1 format	
ESZ diaries – 1957 transcription	

MCZ diaries – 1944-1947; MCZ notes (transcriptions)
ESZ Diaries 1946, 1957 (Partial) – Word perfect 5.1
ESZ Diaries 1946, 1957 (with list [for both])
ESZ Diary 1959 with list
ESZ Diary 1960 with list
ESZ Diary 1961 with list
ESZ Diaries 1961 and 1965, saved as 5.1 wpd
ESZ Diary 1965 with list
ESZ Diaries 1958 Jan-Oct
ESZ Diaries 1966
ESZ Diaries 1966-1970, wp6.1 [5 disks]
ESZ Diaries 1968
ESZ Diaries 1959, 1960 – [name] info redlined

Elsie S. Zee diaries

Title/Description	Instances	
1946	box 6063	folder 42
1957	box 6063	folder 44
1958	box 6064	folder 1
1959	box 6064	folder 2
1960	box 6064	folder 3
1961	box 6064	folder 4
1962	box 6064	folder 5
1963	box 6064	folder 6
1964	box 6064	folder 7
1965	box 6064	folder 8
1966	box 6064	folder 9
1967	box 6064	folder 10
1967	box 6064	folder 11
1969	box 6064	folder 12
1970	box 6064	folder 13
Flash drive: Elsie S. Zee & Mary C. Zee diaries (transcripts) – approximately 2400 pages	box 6067	

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