

# **Florence Deakins Becker Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**LIBRARY OF  
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**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2011**

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010287>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm76023523>

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Revised by Joseph K. Brooks

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Florence Deakins Becker Papers

**Span Dates:** 1891-1963

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1910-1963)

**ID No.:** MSS23523

**Creator:** Becker, Florence Deakins, 1878-1969

**Extent:** 3,000 items ; 10 containers plus 21 oversize ; 8.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English and French

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Nurse and volunteer worker. Correspondence, diaries, family papers, subject files, speeches and writings, scrapbooks, and other papers relating principally to Becker's volunteer activities on behalf of various health and medical causes, especially the crusade against tuberculosis and cancer.

## 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.

### People

Barron, Clarence W. (Clarence Walker), 1855-1928--Correspondence.

Bartlett, Suzanne Earle Ogden-Jones Emmons, 1861-1954--Correspondence.

Becker, Florence Deakins, 1878-1969.

Becker, George F. (George Ferdinand), 1847-1919--Correspondence.

Bloodgood, Joseph Colt, 1867-1935--Correspondence.

Borah, William Edgar, 1865-1940--Correspondence.

Brown, W. Norman (William Norman), 1892-1975--Correspondence.

Devine, Edward T. (Edward Thomas), 1867-1948--Correspondence.

Dillingham, William P. (William Paul), 1843-1923--Correspondence.

Forrester, John Campbell--Correspondence.

Keen, Florence--Correspondence.

Rush, Thomas E., 1867-1947--Correspondence.

Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.

### Organizations

American Public Health Association--Correspondence.

George Ferdinand Becker Memorial Library.

Ligue du Nord Contre la Tuberculose.

Michigan Tuberculosis Association.

Tuberculosis Association of Bengal.

Urgent Relief for France.

Washington Animal Rescue League.

### Subjects

Animal rescue--Washington (D.C.)--Societies, etc.

Cancer--Prevention.

Health.

Libraries--Virginia--Independence.

Nursing.

Public health--Societies, etc.

Refugees--France.

Tuberculosis--France--Prevention.

Tuberculosis--India--Prevention.

Tuberculosis--Prevention.

Tuberculosis--United States--Prevention.

Veterans' hospitals.  
World War, 1914-1918--Medical care.

### **Places**

Maryland--Centennial celebrations, etc.

### **Occupations**

Nurses.  
Volunteers.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Provenance**

The papers of Florence Deakins Becker, nurse and volunteer worker, were given to the Library of Congress by her grandniece, Mrs. George F. White, in 1969.

### **Processing History**

The papers of Florence Deakins Becker were arranged and described in 1977. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

### **Transfers**

Some photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Florence Deakins Becker Papers.

### **Related Material**

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of her husband, [George F. Becker](#).

### **Copyright Status**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Florence Deakins Becker is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

### **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Florence Deakins Becker are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

### **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Florence Deakins Becker Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Biographical Note**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1878, Nov. 20	Born, Fort Pendleton, Garrett County, Md.
1898	Volunteer hospital worker, Fort Meade, Md., during the Spanish-American War
1902	Married George F. Becker (died 1919)
1903-1917	Member, Board of Managers, Emergency Hospital, Washington, D.C.
1914	Established with nine other women the Grey Ladies, a volunteer organization of the Red Cross

1920-circa 1923	Joined the Rockefeller Anti-Tuberculosis Organization and served as a volunteer in Lille, France
1921	Married John Campbell Forrester (divorced 1930)
1923	Founded the Incorporated Tuberculosis Association and a training school for tuberculosis workers in Bengal, India
1930-circa 1934	Administrator, Joseph Colt Bloodgood's cancer clinic, Baltimore, Md.
1969, Mar. 22	Died, Cambridge, Md.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Florence Deakins Becker (1878-1969) span the years 1891-1963, with the bulk of the material dating between 1910 and 1963. The papers document her activities as a volunteer worker for several medical causes. Becker devoted her time and energies to combating cancer and tuberculosis. Her papers consist of the following seven series: [Diaries](#), [Family Papers](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Writings File](#), [Subject File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [Diaries](#) cover 1924, 1929, and 1944, with some undated entries. Subjects in the diaries and engagement calendars include the Michigan Tuberculosis Association and American efforts to render medical aid to French refugees during World War I.

Most information about Becker's personal life is in the [Family Papers](#). Included is correspondence with various relatives and with her husbands, geologist George F. Becker (died 1919) and John Campbell Forrester, a British national who was a businessman and politician in Scotland and Bengal (India). Following her divorce from Forrester in 1930, Becker resumed her former married name.

The [General Correspondence](#) series includes business and personal letters as well as letters exchanged with prominent contemporaries. Business correspondence ranges from the American Public Health Association to professional associates such as Joseph Colt Bloodgood and Thomas E. Rush. Correspondence with friends includes letters exchanged with Clarence W. Barron, Suzanne Bartlett, W. Norman Brown, and Florence Keen. Other correspondents include William Edgar Borah, Edward T. Devine, William P. Dillingham, and William H. Taft.

The [Speeches and Writings File](#) provides insight into Florence Becker's extensive work in cancer prevention. Among the most significant material in this series are speeches about protective measures for women against cancer.

Becker was involved in a number of medical organizations, and there is considerable material on these activities in the papers. The [Subject File](#) documents her work with the Tuberculosis Association of Bengal, Urgent Relief for France, and the Ligue du Nord Contre la Tuberculose. Becker also studied and reported on medical conditions within veterans' hospitals. Other interests documented in the Subject File include the Maryland tercentenary, her founding of the George Ferdinand Becker Memorial Library in Independence, Virginia, and the Washington Animal Rescue League.

The [Miscellany](#) series contains scrapbooks, clippings, miscellaneous printed matter, financial papers, and memorabilia. There are also honors and awards, including La Medaille de la Reconnaissance Lilloise and a citation from the French Committee for Defense Against Tuberculosis.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Diaries, 1924-1944](#)
- [Family Papers, 1891-1957](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1902-1962](#)
- [Speeches and Writings File, 1922-1933](#)
- [Subject File, 1901-1963](#)

- Miscellany, 1891-1954
- Oversize, 1903-1929

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<b><u>Diaries, 1924-1944</u></b> Diaries and engagement calendars. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1-2	<b><u>Family Papers, 1891-1957</u></b> Letters sent and received between family members, including files of Becker's correspondence with her two husbands, biographical information, estate files, memoirs, and printed matter. Arranged by name of family member and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 2-5	<b><u>General Correspondence, 1902-1962</u></b> Letters received, copies of letters sent, and memoranda. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 6	<b><u>Speeches and Writings File, 1922-1933</u></b> Speeches, class compositions, literary fragments, and writings by others. Arranged alphabetically by title or type of material.
BOX 6-8	<b><u>Subject File, 1901-1963</u></b> Topical files, reports, printed matter, correspondence, photographs, biographical material, and notes. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.
BOX 8-10	<b><u>Miscellany, 1891-1954</u></b> Financial papers, printed matter, passports, memorabilia, and newspaper clippings. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX OV 1-OV 21	<b><u>Oversize, 1903-1929</u></b> Scrapbooks, awards, honors, photographs, and printed matter. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folder from which the items were removed.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	<b>Diaries, 1924-1944</b> Diaries and engagement calendars. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	Diaries, 1924, 1929, 1944, undated
BOX 1	Engagement calendars, 1929-1954
BOX 1-2	<b>Family Papers, 1891-1957</b> Letters sent and received between family members, including files of Becker's correspondence with her two husbands, biographical information, estate files, memoirs, and printed matter. Arranged by name of family member and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 1	Bayard, Ora D., 1920-1930
BOX 1	Becker, Conrad, 1921
BOX 1	Becker, George F.
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1907-1910
BOX 1	Estate, 1919-1953
BOX 1	Writings, printed matter, and memoirs, 1868-1927
BOX 1	Deakins, Mary L., 1891
BOX 1	Forrester, Isabella, 1921
BOX 2	Forrester, John Campbell
BOX 2	Correspondence, 1921-1926, undated (3 folders)
BOX 2	Biographical information, printed matter, writings, and resolutions, 1922-1929
BOX 2	Underwood, Bayard, 1957
BOX 2-5	<b>General Correspondence, 1902-1962</b> Letters received, copies of letters sent, and memoranda. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent and thereunder chronologically.
BOX 2	"A-B" miscellaneous
BOX 2	American Archaeological Society
BOX 2	American Public Health Association
BOX 2	Ames, Joseph S.
BOX 2	Anspacher, Louis K
BOX 2	Barnett, Lelia
BOX 3	Barron, Clarence W.
BOX 3	Bartlett, Suzanne
BOX 3	Bidault, Suzanne Borel
BOX 3	Bloodgood, Joseph Colt
BOX 3	Borah, William E.
BOX 3	Brown, Ernest W.
BOX 3	Brown, Norman W.

## General Correspondence, 1902-1962

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 3	"C-E" miscellaneous
BOX 3	Carr, Edith K.
BOX 3	Davis, William M.
BOX 3	Dennis, Alfred
BOX 3	Devine, Edward T.
BOX 3	De Witt-Guizot, Martha
BOX 3	Dillingham, William P.
BOX 3	"F-H" miscellaneous
BOX 4	Flanagan, Edward J.
BOX 4	Flexner, Simon
BOX 4	Flournoy, Richard W.
BOX 4	Frazer, Robert
BOX 4	"G-M" miscellaneous
BOX 4	Goldthwait, Joel E.
BOX 4	Goto, Baroness Shimpei
BOX 4	Jawdat, Ali
BOX 4	Keen, Florence
BOX 4	Lowell, Abbot L.
BOX 4	MacCurdy, George G.
BOX 4	Mendehhall, W. C.
BOX 4	Mitchell, Harry B.
BOX 4	"N-R" miscellaneous
BOX 4	Parron, Thomas
BOX 4	Pesson-Didion, Viola
BOX 4	Reynolds, C. R.
BOX 4	Rush, Thomas E. (2 folders)
BOX 5	"S-T" miscellaneous
BOX 5	Shallow, Michael N.
BOX 5	Taft, William H.
BOX 5	Tankersley, John F.
BOX 5	"U-Z" miscellaneous
BOX 5	Vogel, Lilli
BOX 5	Walsh, Thomas J.
BOX 5	Correspondence of others
BOX 5	Unidentified
BOX 5	Incoming (2 folders)
BOX 5	Outgoing
BOX 6	<b>Speeches and Writings File, 1922-1933</b> Speeches, class compositions, literary fragments, and writings by others. Arranged alphabetically by title or type of material.
BOX 6	"Education of Mothers and Their Doctors in Cancer Prevention"
BOX 6	"Knowledge Brings Prevention"
BOX 6	"Mothers Should Know"

## Speeches and Writings File, 1922-1933

### Container

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BOX 6	"Prevention and Protection"
BOX 6	"Prevention of Cancer of the Cervix through Education of Mothers and Their Doctors"
BOX 6	"The Protection of Mothers from Cancer"
BOX 6	Untitled speeches
BOX 6	Student compositions, 1922
BOX 6	Fragmentary writings
BOX 6	By Becker
BOX 6	By unidentified author
BOX 6	Writings by others
BOX 6-8	<b>Subject File, 1901-1963</b>
	Topical files, reports, printed matter, correspondence, photographs, biographical material, and notes.
	Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.
BOX 6	Bedstead patent
BOX 6	Biographical information
BOX 6	Cancer
BOX 7	Divorce proceedings
BOX 7	Founding of library in Independence, Va.
BOX 7	Harvey Johnson drowning, legal case
BOX 7	Health and medical conditions in veterans' hospitals
BOX 7	Maryland tercentenary
BOX 7	Tamarack, home of George F. Becker, Stockbridge, Mass.
BOX 7	Tuberculosis
BOX 7	Correspondence and writings
BOX 7	Ligue du Nord contre la Tuberculose
BOX 8	Michigan Tuberculosis Association
BOX 8	Printed matter
BOX 8	Tuberculosis Association of Bengal <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 8	Urgent Relief for France
BOX 8	Washington Animal Rescue League
BOX 8	Welfare of the Blind
BOX 8-10	<b>Miscellany, 1891-1954</b>
	Financial papers, printed matter, passports, memorabilia, and newspaper clippings.
	Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 8	Financial papers, 1925-1953
BOX 8	Correspondence
BOX 8	Investments
	(2 folders)
BOX 9	(1 folder)
BOX 9	Holy cards and religious printed matter
BOX 9	Honors and awards <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 9	Lists, autographs, address books, itineraries, and programs
BOX 9	Funeral instructions

## Miscellany, 1891-1954

### Container

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BOX 9	Passport, membership cards, menus, invitations, calling cards, and prescriptions
BOX 9	Printed matter
BOX 10	Clippings in English, 1911-1954 (4 folders)
BOX 10	Clippings and printed matter in French
BOX 10	Scrapbooks <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1-OV 21	<b>Oversize, 1903-1929</b> Scrapbooks, awards, honors, photographs, and printed matter. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folder from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Subject File
BOX OV 1	Tuberculosis
BOX OV 1	Tuberculosis Association of Bengal, photograph 1937 (Container 8)
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Honors and awards, 1920-1926 (Container 9)
BOX OV 2	Miscellany
BOX OV 2	Scrapbooks
BOX OV 2	Clippings
BOX OV 2	1909, Dec.-1914, Aug.
BOX OV 3	1914, Aug.-Oct.
BOX OV 4	1914, Oct.-1915, Jan.
BOX OV 5	1915
BOX OV 5	Jan.-Mar.
BOX OV 6	Mar.-May
BOX OV 7	May-Sept.
BOX OV 8	Sept.-Dec.
BOX OV 9	1915, Dec.-1916, Mar
BOX OV 10	1916
BOX OV 10	Mar.-June
BOX OV 11	June-Sept.
BOX OV 12	Sept.-Dec.
BOX OV 13	1917
BOX OV 13	Jan.-Apr.
BOX OV 14	Apr.-July
BOX OV 15	Aug.-Dec.
BOX OV 16	Miscellaneous
BOX OV 16	Return address book, 1928-1929
BOX OV 17	Travels in India, Europe, Kashmire, Great Britain, and United States
BOX OV 18	Menus, calling cards, and related material, 1903-1911
BOX OV 19	Photographs
BOX OV 19	Personal
BOX OV 20	India
BOX OV 21	Prospective houses