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LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY

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Kate Gleason

Research Guide

SCOPE

This guide is intended to assist in locating materials and information about Kate Gleason and Gleason Works in the Rochester Central Public Library. Materials that are available for checkout from other divisions are also listed below. Please ask at the reference desk if you have any questions about a particular item. For more of the library's holdings on Kate Gleason, check with other divisions. Note: Restrictions may apply to the use of some of these materials. Please ask the librarian if you have any questions.

INTRODUCTION

Born in Rochester in 1865, Kate Gleason (born Catherine Anselm Gleason) became the first woman to attend the Sibley College of Engineering at Cornell University in 1884. Her father owned a machine tool company that would later be known as Gleason Works, which was known for being one of the most important manufacturers of gear-cutting machine tools in the world. When Kate was 12, she asked for and received permission to work in her father's factory. Two years later, Kate became responsible for keeping the company's books. Kate spent many productive years developing Gleason Works' business, helping it to become one of the first American manufacturers to globalize international sales. In 1914, she was the first woman elected to full membership in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. In 1917, after leaving Gleason Works, Kate became president of the First National Bank of East Rochester, a community that also saw her efforts to create affordable housing for working class families. These structures still stand today. In acknowledgement of her achievements, the Rochester Institute of Technology named its engineering college The Kate Gleason College of Engineering after this inspirational woman.

Key:

L/H = Local History Division (these materials do not circulate)

BUS = Business & Social Sciences Division – 4th floor, Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building (These materials circulate and may be available for checkout.)

HIS = Science, History, and Travel Division – 3rd floor, Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building (These materials circulate and may be available for checkout.)

CHILD = Children's Division 2nd floor, Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building (These materials circulate and may be available for checkout.)

BOOKS

- L/H
920.0747
B261f Barnes, Joseph. *4 Score & 4 Rochester Portraits*. Rochester: Rochester Sesquicentennial, 1984. (A biography of Gleason appears on p. 100.)
Also in HIS
- L/H
920
B3622g Beale, Irene A. *Genesee Valley People, 1743-1962*. Geneseo, N.Y.: Chestnut Hill Press, c1983. (A short biography of Gleason appears on p. 190.)
Also in HIS
- L/H
Rr974.789
C397c v. 2 Dow, Harriet Brown, "Influence of Women in the Life of Rochester," in *Centennial History of Rochester, New York*, v. II, ed. Edward R. Foreman, Rochester, NY, 1932.
- L/H
Rrq974.788
C752e *East Rochester, New York: One Hundred Years of History, 1897-1997*. Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing Company [1997?].
Also in HIS
- L/H
Rr621.834
G554f *Fourscore Years of Bevel Gearing: The Story of Gleason Works Today, Of Its Employees, and Of Their Contribution to Mankind; The Pioneering and Development of Bevel Gears and Bevel Gear Machinery for Better Transmission of Motive Power*. Rochester, N. Y.: The Gleason Works, 1945.
- BUS
305.409
F822w Franck, Irene M. *Women's World: A Timeline of Women in History*. New York, NY: HarperPerennial, c1995. NOTE: ONLY AVAILABLE IN THE CENTRAL LIBRARY BUSINESS DIVISION.
- HIS
Rq920.073
A5125a Garraty, John A. and Mark C. Carnes, eds. *American National Biography*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999, v. 9, pp. 111-112. NOTE: ONLY AVAILABLE IN THE CENTRAL LIBRARY HISTORY DIVISION.
- L/H
Rr620.0092
G554g Gleason, Janice F., ed. *The Life and Letters of Kate Gleason*. Rochester, N. Y.: RIT Press, c2010.
Also in HIS
- L/H
338.7
G554a Gleason Works (Rochester, N.Y.). *Annual Report*. [Rochester, N.Y.]: Gleason Works, 1977-1985; 1987-1997.
- L/H-OS
Rr621.834
G554g Gleason Works. *Gleason Works, Rochester, N.Y.: Manufacturers of Gear Planers, 8 Inch to 30 Feet Diameter, Gears, 1 Inch to 18 Feet Diameter*. [Rochester, N.Y.: Gleason Works], 1908.
- L/H-OS
Rr621.834
G554g
1915 Gleason Works. *Gleason Works: Manufacturers of Gear Cutting Machinery 3 Inches to 30 Feet Diameter, Gears 1 Inch to 20 Feet Diameter*. Rochester, N.Y.: Gleason Works, c1915.
- L/H-OS
Rrq338.7621
G554g Gleason Works (Rochester, N.Y.). *Gleason, 1865-1940*. [Rochester, N.Y., 1940].
- L/H
Rr621.834
G654gL *The Gleason Works, 1865-1950*. Rochester, N.Y.: Gleason Works, c1950.

- L/H Rqr621.834 G554gL Gleason Works. *The Gleason Works, 1865-1965*. [Rochester, N.Y.: Gleason Works, 1965?].
- HIS q920.7 N899N James, Edward T., Janet Wilson James and Paul S. Boyer, eds. *Notable American Women, 1607-1950; A Biographical Dictionary*. Cambridge, Mass., Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971. (Gleason's biography appears in vol. II, pp. 51-52.)
- CHILD j92 GLEASON *Kate Gleason, Woman of Vision: Building A Community*. [East Rochester, N.Y.: East Rochester School District, c2005]. NOTE: ONLY AVAILABLE AT THE EAST ROCHESTER BRANCH.
- L/H 378.7478 P291p *Past Meets Present: Recovering the History of Women at Rochester Institute of Technology, 1885-1945*. [Rochester, N.Y.]: The Pathways Collective, c2009.
- L/H 974.78 R6762g Rochester Historical Society. *Genesee Country Scrapbook*, v. XV. Rochester, N. Y.: The Society, 1976. (A short biography of Gleason appears on pp. 51-52.)
- BUS 331.4815 R835w Rossiter, Margaret W. *Women Scientists in America: Struggles and Strategies to 1940*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, c1982.
- L/H-OS Rfr920 W8552s 1971 Wolfe, Andrew D. *Saints, Sinners, and Salesmen: 1821-1971, Half A Hundred Memorable Personalities from Monroe County History*. Pittsford, N.Y.: Genesee Valley Newspapers, 1971.
- L/H Rr920 W872w *Women of Rochester Who Made A Difference! A Sesquicentennial Tribute to Rochester Women*. Rochester, N.Y.: The Council, c1984. (A short biography of Gleason appears on p. 27.)

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND CLIPPINGS

Clipping File

RVF Biography – Women – Gleason, Kate

Local Coverage of Gleason: Available on microfilm

- Rochester Herald*. August 18, 1918, p. 10
Rochester Times-Union. August 19, 1918, p. 7
Rochester Post Express. August 19, 1918, p. 3
Rochester Democrat & Chronicle. May 4, 1919, p. 39
Rochester Democrat & Chronicle. May 17, 1919, p. 21
Rochester Times-Union. August 18, 1930, p. 8
Rochester Evening Journal and Post Express. January 9, 1933, p. 1 (obituary)
Rochester Times-Union. January 9, 1933, p.1 (obituary)
Rochester Democrat & Chronicle. January 10, 1933, p. 8 (obituary)
Rochester Times-Union. January 11, 1933, p. 9
Rochester Democrat & Chronicle. January 14, 1933, p. 1 (provisions of will)
Rochester Democrat & Chronicle. January 15, 1933, p. 1B
Rochester Democrat & Chronicle. July 26, 1933, p. 15
Rochester Times-Union. December 12, 1951, p. 37

ONLINE RESOURCES

Rochester Voices. "Kate Gleason." <http://rochestervoices.org/content/collections/kate-gleason-letters/>

Shilling, Donovan A. "The Extraordinary Kate Gleason: How She Put the World in Gear." *Crooked Lake Review*, May 1995.

http://www.crookedlakereview.com/articles/67_100/86may1995/86shilling.html

Winning the Vote, Western New York Suffragists. "Kate Gleason."

<http://rrlc.org/winningthevote/biographies/kate-gleason/>

PAMPHLET FILES

RVF2 Biography – Gleason, Kate

RVF2 Industries – Gleason Works

PERIODICALS

The American Magazine (October 1928), p.43. "Kate Gleason's Adventures In a Man's Job." (Upper Stacks)

Pictorial Review (September 1919), p. 29. "Kate Gleason of Rochester: America's Pioneer Woman Mechanist." (Upper Stacks)

The Rochester Engineer (vol. XI, no. 8, February 1933), p. 99, "Kate Gleason, A Woman Who Was First"; p. 106, "Kate Gleason, Tribute to Her Profession."

Rochester History (vol. 21, no. 3, 1959), p. 11-12. "Some Former Rochesterians of National Distinction." Also available online: http://www.libraryweb.org/~rochhist/v21_1959/v21i3.pdf

Rochester History (vol. 7, no. 2, 1945), p. 24. "Susan B. Anthony." Also available online: http://www.libraryweb.org/~rochhist/v7_1945/v7i2.pdf

Woman Citizen (January 1926), p. 10. Chappell, Eve, "Kate Gleason's Careers." (Upper Stacks)

PHOTOGRAPHS

RPF2 Portraits – Gleason

TRADE CATALOGS

Box 42

"Bevel Gear Manufacture...the Gleason System," by George Hessler, 1957.

"Gleason Bevel Gear Machinery," 1957.

"Gleason Curvic Couplings," 1957