

The Veda Stone Papers:

COLLABORATING ON A DIGITAL FINDING AID

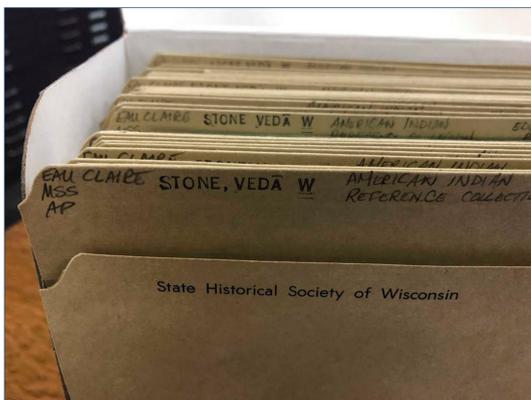
Kaitlyn Dehnke, Principal Investigator, History Department | Faculty Mentors: Greg Kocken, McIntyre Library; James W. Oberly, History Department



University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this project was to have an organized method in which researchers would be able to sort and find data easily within the many primary sources left by Veda Stone. Veda Stone was a remarkable woman who through her work was able to bring aid and different programs to American Indians. The McIntyre Library was fortunate to be given part of the collection of Veda Stone's work and personal notes. Having an organized calendar of Veda Stone's work gives researchers the opportunity to explore the immense impact that Veda Stone had locally. The Veda Stone calendar was created out of collaborative work conducted by twenty-seven students. Each student went through one box of the Veda Stone Papers collection and documented what was in each box. Next, the individual research was combined into one digital calendar archiving the contents of the Veda Stone Papers collection. The completed digital calendar will allow researchers to efficiently conduct research through the expansive Veda Stone collection. Furthermore, now that the Veda Stone Papers collection has been digitized more research, papers, presentations, and projects can be done on the immense work that Veda Stone conducted in Eau Claire.



Box Twenty-one of the Veda Stone Collection, courtesy of the University Wisconsin-Eau Claire Archives

VEDA STONE AND WISCONSIN INDIANS

Veda Stone was a social worker devoted to ensuring that Wisconsin Indians had the same opportunities in education as their peers. She kept extensive records of her social work with Wisconsin Indians; a majority of her papers are housed at the University-Eau Claire Archives and Special Collections. Many of her papers relate to the American Indian Education Program at UWEC that she helped found.



Portrait of Veda Stone courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society

ARRANGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

Dr. James W. Oberly requested students in AIS/History 369 to create a item-level calendar so researchers can easily find and search the Veda Stone Collection digitally. The students focused on twenty-seven boxes of the Veda Stone Collection at UW-Eau Claire. The project was a collaborative effort as each student took one box and documented individual items in each folder. This collaboration allowed for each student to do a small amount of work that benefited the project as a whole. Students shared their data to be placed in an Excel spreadsheet. The Principal Investigator, from here on known as the P.I., combined the twenty-seven files into one to complete the digital calendar.



Principal Investigator working with the Veda Stone Collection at UWEC Archives courtesy of the University Wisconsin Eau Claire Archives

ORGANIZATION OF THE DIGITAL CALENDAR

The P.I. proofread the twenty-seven files and smoothed out data anomalies. There are more than 1,600 entries in the digital calendar. The P.I. next used the table function within Excel to make keyword searching possible on all fields. Fields include box, folder, date, sender/recipient, subject heading, and area of interest. The P.I. edited the digital calendar to create uniformity. With editing concluded, the digital calendar is now ready for use by researchers studying the Veda Stone Collection.

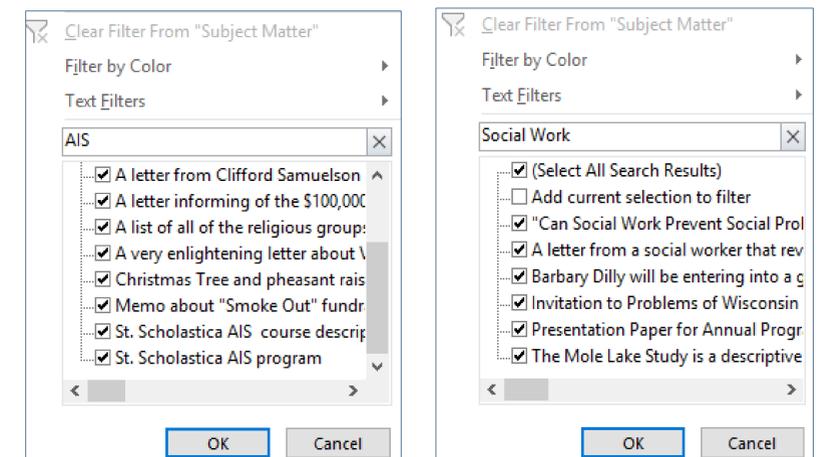
Year-Month-
1966 December 27
n/a
1961 July 10
n/a
1966 July 20
1966 October 27
1966 December 22
1965 October 2/3
1967
1965 - June
1966 - December
1971 - January - 08
1971 - January - 12
1971 - January - 12
1974 - June - 11

Year-Month-Day
1964, September 25
1962, April 22
1964, February 2
1964, February 11
1966, April 24
1966, June 16
1966, November 28
1969-1970
1971, August 27
1971, May 1
1971, March 1
1966, April 17
1965, December 12
1964, May 9-12
1964, November 1

Dates within the Digital Calendar prior to edits made by the P.I. (left) and Post (right) courtesy of the Veda Stone Digital Calendar

MOVING FORWARD

The time and effort that the students in AIS/History 369 and the P.I. put into creating the digital calendar of the Veda Stone Collection will benefit researchers for years to come. Students in AIS classes may quickly and easily study the origins of the AIS Program at UWEC. Students in the History capstone course may study Native organizations on campus. Students in Social Work may study the history of their profession in the mid-twentieth century. Finally, the digital calendar is necessary for a planned future forum and book on the life and work of Veda Stone. Veda Stone gave so much to Eau Claire and members of Wisconsin Indian Nations. Now, her collection is more accessible for future researchers to explore.



Examples of keyword searches that can be conducted in the digital calendar courtesy of the Veda Stone Digital Calendar

SOURCES

Veda W. Stone American Indian Reference Collection (1940-1995). University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Archives and Special Collections, McIntyre Library, Eau Claire, WI.

Wisconsin Historical Society. Veda W. Stone American Indian Reference Collection, 1940-1995. (n.d.). Retrieved April 5, 2019, from <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/wiarchives.uw-whs-ec00ap>

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