

EVELINA BELDEN PAULSON  
1885-1966

After graduating from Oberlin College in 1909, Evelina Belden became a resident social worker at Hiram House, Cleveland, Ohio. She directed the Boys' Game Club, activities for girls on the settlement playground, and other recreational activities. In addition, the United States Department of Commerce certified Evelina Belden as a census enumerator for the year 1910.<sup>1</sup>

A research fellowship from the Russell Sage Foundation was awarded to Miss Belden in 1911. She then terminated her employment at Hiram House to attend the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy. While pursuing her studies, Evelina Belden lived and worked at Northwestern University Settlement, 1911; Chicago Commons, 1911-1914; and Bethesada House, 1912. In 1912 she was awarded a certificate from the school.<sup>2</sup>

Evelina Belden joined the staff of the Juvenile Protective Association of Chicago as a social case worker assigned to investigate public dance halls in Chicago, 1912-1913. She then served as a special officer at the Cook County Jail - Juvenile Division, 1913-1914, where she interviewed and counseled juveniles (boys) who were awaiting trial. This assignment was a prelude to Evelina Belden's appointment as the first social service director of the newly established Chicago Boys' Court.<sup>3</sup>

In 1915 Evelina Belden left Chicago to become a special agent for the United States Department of Labor-Children's Bureau. Along with a group of enterprising young women, Miss Belden was given the task of investigating infant mortality and social agencies in New Bedford and illegitimate births in Boston, Massachusetts. Before conducting a survey of the standards and procedures of the Juvenile Courts in the United States, Evelina Belden attended the Child Welfare Institute of New York School of Philanthropy the summer of 1917.<sup>4</sup>

After Miss Belden completed the Juvenile Court survey, she became a field agent for the American Red Cross, 1919-1920. She conducted surveys on the community welfare needs of various counties within Illinois, especially Macon and Rock Island. From 1921 to 1922, Evelina Belden was a member of the American Red Cross Commission to Poland.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>United States Department of Labor - Children's Bureau - correspondence, August, 1914 - March, 1920.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>American Red Cross - Central Division - correspondence and report, February - August, 1919.

On October 16, 1922, Henry Thomas Paulson and Evelina Belden were married. They had two children; a son, Dr. Belden H. Paulson, and a daughter, Mary Evelina Paulson Harrington (Mrs. Gordon). The use of nicknames for family members will be found throughout the collection. A chart of nicknames is in folder 12.6

In 1940, Evelina Paulson accepted the directorship of the Protestant Woman's Protectorate, a position which she held until 1942 when illness forced her to resign.<sup>7</sup>

Mrs. Henry T. Paulson, who was born in Bridgeton, New Jersey, 1885, died on February 19, 1966.

A concise alphabetical arrangement of this collection was achieved when the initial segment of these papers were interfiled with supplement one. These papers comprising 3.5 ft. were received by the cataloger and deposited at the University of Illinois Library, Circle Campus on August 21, 1970 with no known restrictions. The donor of these papers was Mrs. Paulson's daughter, Mrs. Gordon Harrington.

Pamphlets written by prominent social workers were placed in the small manuscript files of Special Collections - Manuscript Division and of Hull-House. Each folder was marked with the accession number 70-72 and this separation in no way destroyed the provenance of the unarranged papers. In addition, some of these pamphlets and folders 15, 17, and 35 reflect the social work activities of her husband, Henry T. Paulson.

These papers consist of correspondence, clippings, programs, reprints, notes, proceedings, forms, pamphlets, questionnaires, reports, lists, bulletins, case studies, fliers, statements pertaining to Evelina Belden Paulson's career as a social worker specializing in investigations of infant mortality, social agencies, illegitimate births, community welfare needs, juvenile courts, disabled veterans, dance halls, juvenile delinquency, etc., including material relating to the establishment of the Chicago Boys' Court; relief work of Chicago Commons and United Charities of Chicago; the effects of war on children; socialism; U. S. Census, 1910; Neva Boyd; and correspondence with Adena Miller Rich, Julia Lathrop, Katherine Lenroot, Lea Taylor, Graham Taylor, Edith Abbott, Jessie Binford and others.

The folders of the Evelina Belden Paulson Papers are filed under the following titles:

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<sup>6</sup>Biographical Data - clippings, 1905 - May, 1968.

<sup>7</sup>Protestant Woman's Protectorate - correspondence and notes, May, 1933 - September, 1947.

1. American Red Cross - Central Division - clippings  
November, 1918 - December, 1920
2. American Red Cross - Central Division - correspondence and  
report  
February - August, 1919
3. American Red Cross - Central Division - correspondence and  
report  
September, 1919 - May, 1920
4. American Red Cross - Central Division - notes - miscellaneous  
n. d.
5. American Red Cross - Central Division - Child Welfare - lists  
and notes  
n. d.
6. American Red Cross - Central Division - Macon County, Illinois  
Survey - questionnaires  
April - May, 1920
7. American Red Cross - Central Division - Macon County, Illinois  
Survey - reports  
1918 - June, 1920
8. American Red Cross - Central Division - Macon County, Illinois  
Survey - reports  
n. d.
9. American Red Cross - Central Division - Rock Island, Illinois  
Survey - notes and questionnaires  
December, 1919
10. American Red Cross - Central Division - Rock Island, Illinois  
Survey - notes and questionnaires  
December, 1919
11. American Red Cross - Central Division - Rock Island, Illinois  
Survey - reports  
September, 1919 - February, 1920
12. Biographical Data - clippings  
1905 - May, 1968
13. Boyd, Neva - Folk Dances - notes  
1912
14. Chicago [Illinois] Boys' Court - clippings and reprint  
March, 1913 - August, 1915
15. Chicago [Illinois] Commons - lists and report  
October, 1914 - October, 1917
16. Chicago [Illinois] School of Civics and Philanthropy - notes  
1910 - November, 1911
17. Chicago [Illinois] School of Civics and Philanthropy - notes  
1912 - January, 1916
18. Children in War Time - speech  
March, 1919
19. Correspondence - miscellaneous  
July, 1918 - February, 1941
20. Correspondence - Family - general  
January, 1911 - September, 1915

21. Correspondence - Family - general  
January, 1916 - December, 1952
22. Hart, Hornell - correspondence and statements  
June - October, 1918
23. Hiram House - correspondence  
October, 1909 - August, 1919
24. Illegitimacy - pamphlet  
January, 1914 - January, 1916
25. Juvenile Court of Cook County, Illinois - case studies, and reports *(Restricted)*  
February, 1908 - July, 1918
26. Juvenile Protective Association - correspondence and reports  
August, 1912 - November, 1913
27. Juvenile Protective Association - correspondence and reports  
December, 1913 - April, 1918
28. Protestant Woman's Protectorate - correspondence and notes  
May, 1933 - September, 1947
29. Protestant Woman's Protectorate - notes  
July, 1940 - August, 1941
30. Protestant Woman's Protectorate - notes  
November, 1940 - May, 1942
31. Protestant Woman's Protectorate - notes - miscellaneous  
n. d.
32. Protestant Woman's Protectorate - reports  
May, 1940 - December, 1941
33. Rich, Adena Miller - correspondence  
January, 1928 - April, 1967
34. Social Workers, Psychiatry for - notes  
June - November, 1941
35. United Charities of Chicago, Illinois - reports  
1914 - 1937
36. U. S. Department of Commerce and Labor - Bureau of the Census -  
forms  
July, 1909 - April, 1910
37. U. S. Department of Labor - Children's Bureau - correspondence  
August, 1914 - May, 1919
38. U. S. Department of Labor - Children's Bureau - Illegitimacy -  
correspondence  
1914 - November, 1915
39. U. S. Department of Labor - Children's Bureau - Illegitimacy -  
correspondence  
December, 1915 - February, 1916
40. U. S. Department of Labor - Children's Bureau - Infant Mortality -  
reports  
January, 1915 - 1920
41. U. S. Department of Labor - Children's Bureau - Juvenile Courts -  
notes  
November, 1917 - July, 1920
42. U. S. Department of Labor - Children's Bureau - Social Agencies -  
reports  
1913

43. Veterans, Disabled - report  
March - June, 1923

The following pamphlets have been cataloged. These pamphlets are housed in the ~~Dr. Preston Bradley Library at the Jane Addams Hull House~~

JAMC Book Collection. Search LUIS vs card catalog you call #5.

1. Hughes, Elizabeth A., Living Conditions for Small-Wage Earners in Chicago, Department of Public Welfare, Chicago, Illinois, 1925.
2. Sears, Amelia, The Charity Visitor: A Handbook for Beginners, Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy, 1913.
3. Abbott, Edith and Sophonisba P. Breckinridge, Finding Employment for Children Who Leave the Grade Schools to go to Work, December, 1911.
4. Abbott, Edith, Democracy and Social Progress in England, The University of Chicago War Papers, October, 1918.
5. Rich, Adena Miller, Prenatal Care in Chicago: A Survey, Chicago Community Trust, 1922.
6. Report of City Council Committee on Crime of the City of Chicago, March 22, 1915.
7. Chicago Commons 1894-1911, Chicago Commons, 1912.
8. Reports - Comprising - The Survey of the Cook County Jail, Chicago Community Trust, June 30, 1922; Adena Miller Rich, "Detention of the Woman Offender" and "Jail Records and Reports" and Edith Abbott, "Recent Statistics Relating to Crime in Chicago."
9. Summer Camps of Chicago - 1922, April, 1923.

Mary Ann Bamberger  
April 20, 1971