

Identifier: 216

Location(s): Cushing Remote Storage

Title: Ide Peebles Trotter Papers

Date(s): 1922-1964

Extent: 4 boxes

Name of creator(s): Trotter, Ide Peebles

Ide Peebles Trotter was born in Brownsville, Tenn. on 12 December 1895, the son of Isham Patten and Susie Eager Trotter. Most of his working career was devoted to education, mainly in Texas, though he also spent several years in Missouri.

Trotter received a B.A. from Mississippi College in 1915, and a B.S. (1918) and M.S. (1921) from Mississippi A & M. In 1933 the University of Wisconsin awarded him a Ph.D. in Agriculture. His dissertation topic was A Comparative Study of the Individual and Group Behavior of Farmers as Influenced by Certain Methods of Soils and Crops Extension Teaching Used in Missouri.

For one year following the receipt of his B.A., Trotter served as the Assistant Principal of the High School in Hernando, Miss. He then re-entered college. Immediately after receiving his B.S., he entered the military and served as Director of Agriculture for the military base hospitals at Camp Travis, Texas, and Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Upon being released from military duties, he entered graduate school. For slightly more than two years after receiving his M.S., Trotter worked at the Delta Branch Experiment Station in Stoneville, Miss., serving first as Foreman and later as Assistant to the Superintendent.

During 1923-1936, Trotter served as the Extension Agronomist at the Missouri College of Agriculture. While serving in this capacity, he was charged with several additional responsibilities, in 1933 he was placed in charge of the Federal Cotton Plow-up Program, and in 1934, the A.A.A. Program in eighteen counties in Southeastern Missouri. Trotter also represented the University of Missouri on the Bankhead Committee, and, from 1935 to 1936, served as Agronomy Advisor to the Administrator of the U.S.D.A., the A.A.A., and Soil Conservation Programs.

In 1936, Trotter came to Texas A & M University, then called the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, where he held several responsible positions before his retirement in 1960. Until 1944, he served as Head of the Department of Agronomy. From 1944 until 1949, he was Director of the Agricultural Extension Service. During these years, he made several changes, such as having regional directors reside in the regions in which they served rather than in College Station, and, to avoid duplication of effort, having subject specialists in the Extension Service work more closely with the people in their subject area in the School of Agriculture. Trotter also devoted a great deal of effort to the professional improvement of Extension personnel. Between 1949 and 1956, Trotter was Dean of the Graduate School and thereafter served as Associate Dean until his retirement in 1960. In addition, he was an Extension Consultant on Personnel and Professional Improvement during this time. He was particularly active in the training of African American Extension personnel.

Twice during his long career, Trotter was engaged in activities that took him abroad for extended periods. Upon retiring from Texas A&M University, Trotter accepted a position on the faculty of the University of Missouri. He served on the U.S. AID team for India until 1964, during which time he helped organize the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology on the Pattern of U.S. Land Grant colleges, where research, teaching, and extension are coordinated.

In 1948 Trotter also served as an International Commodity Specialist in cotton, and surveyed cotton activities in Japan, China, India, Pakistan, and Greece for the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

Throughout his career, Trotter was committed to religious and civic involvement. His numerous early morning radio talks on various agricultural topics as well as New Year's and Thanksgiving greetings demonstrate this. He was largely responsible for the planning for and organization of the first Rural Church Conference in College Station in 1946. His speech on that occasion, "Soils and Souls," was reprinted several times in church and agricultural publications.

Trotter and his wife, Lena Ann Breeze Trotter, live in Bryan, Texas. They have two sons, Ide Peebles Trotter, Jr., and Benjamin Breeze Trotter, both of whom are graduates of Texas A&M University. Ide Peebles Trotter has also long been an active member of numerous societies and social and fraternal organizations.

Content and structure elements

Scope and content:

This collection consists of correspondence, telegrams, notes, reports, speeches, newspaper clippings, and publications which span most of Trotter's career in Agricultural Education.

Some periods are much better documented than are others. Materials for the period before 1936 include some leaflets, a few letters, circulars and clippings, and one pamphlet. Trotter's move from Missouri to Texas is well documented in letters, bills, and telegrams, but his transfer to Agricultural Extension and then to the Graduate School at Texas A&M College in College Station, Texas are poorly covered. Most of the available information is in the newspaper clippings. Both moves were made during periods of controversy. Hopefully additional documentation can be found elsewhere in the records of Texas A&M University.

Trotter's activities as Director of Extension and Dean of the Graduate School at Texas A&M College should be well covered in the records of those two offices. Unfortunately, his personal papers contain very little information on them. The only documentation on Trotter's two periods of foreign service is in the reports he wrote on his cotton surveys in 1948. Some special activities such as service on the Postwar Planning Committee and participation in Rural Church Conference are fairly well documented.

System of arrangement:

This collection is arranged into the following 5 series:

Series 1. General Correspondence and Other Academic Materials, 1925-1968; Undated (Box 1)

Series 2, Rural Church Conferences, 1940-1958; Undated (Box 1-2)

Series 3, Postwar Committee on Planning and Policy, 1938-1960; Undated (Box 2-3)

Series 4, Speeches, Radio Talks, and Publications, 1922-1957; Undated (Box 3-4)

Series 5, Publications, and Speeches by Others, 1925-1964; Undated (Box 4)

Conditions of access and use elements

Physical access:

These materials are housed offsite and require additional time for retrieval.

Conditions governing reproduction and use:

Copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law. It is the responsibility of the researcher to secure those rights when needed. Permission to reproduce does not constitute permission to publish. The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming to the laws of copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

Languages of the material: English

Acquisition and appraisal elements

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer: Acquired during Fall 1971 and Spring 1972.

Access points

Subject access points:

Texas A&M University Archives

Genre access points:

Notes

Personal Papers

Publications

Series 1: General Correspondence and Other Academic Materials, 1925-1968; Undated

Box 1 (15 folders total)

1/1: Correspondence and telegrams regarding the appointment of Trotter as Head of the Agronomy Department at Texas A&M. July - September 1936

1/2: Bills for Trotter's household move from Missouri to College Station. September 1936 - June 1937

1/3: Course outlines and papers pertaining to the training of Agricultural Extension workers in Texas. 1937-1938; Undated

1/4: Correspondence regarding summer cooperative training for Agricultural Extension workers. December 1938 - March 1939

1/5: Correspondence about the Summer Cotton School. 1937; April 1943 - April 1944

1/6: Correspondence regarding the history of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. 1938; July - August 1949

1/7: General Personal Correspondence. November 1925 - October 1931; December 1935

1/8: General Personal Correspondence. 1936-1937

1/9: General Personal Correspondence. 1938-1941

1/10: General Personal Correspondence. 1942-1943

1/11: General Personal Correspondence. 1944

1/12: General Personal Correspondence. 1945-1949

1/13: General Personal Correspondence. 1950-1951; 1956-1957; 1959-1961

1/14: General Personal Correspondence. 1964-1965

1/15: General Personal Correspondence. 1966-1968; Undated
-Includes Constitution and Bylaws of the Knife & Fork Club of Bryan-College Station (adopted March 15, 1966).

Series 2, Rural Church Conferences. 1940-1958; Undated

2 boxes (9 folders total)

Box 1

1/16: Correspondence regarding Rural Church conferences and programs. 1940; 1944-1946

Box 2

2/1: Correspondence regarding Rural Church conferences and programs. January - February 1947

2/2: Correspondence regarding Rural Church conferences and programs. March - April 1947

2/3: Correspondence regarding Rural Church conferences and programs. May - July 1947

2/4: Correspondence regarding Rural Church conferences and programs. August - December 1947

2/5: Correspondence regarding Rural Church conferences and programs. 1948

2/6: Correspondence regarding Rural Church conferences and programs. 1949

2/7: Correspondence regarding Rural Church conferences and programs. 1951; 1953-1955

2/8: Miscellaneous publications used by Trotter in preparing for Rural Church Conferences. 1943; 1951-1958; Undated

Series 3, Postwar Planning and Policy Committees and Subcommittees. 1938-1960; Undated

2 boxes (10 folders)

This series consists of correspondence, reports, and newspaper clippings concerning the Postwar Committee on Planning and Policy, including the Subcommittee on Research, the Subcommittee on Student Life; the State Postwar Agricultural Planning Steering Committee.

Box 2

2/9: Report of a faculty committee appointed in 1937 "to study problems which affect the general welfare of the college". The report was used as a resource document by the Postwar Committee on Planning and Policy. 1938

2/10: Correspondence, notes, reports, newspaper clippings, and other papers pertaining to the work of the Postwar Committee on Planning and Policy along with Subcommittee work and the State Postwar Agricultural Planning Steering Committee. 1943

2/11: Correspondence, notes, reports, newspaper clippings, and other papers pertaining to the work of the Postwar Committee on Planning and Policy along with Subcommittee work and the State Postwar Agricultural Planning Steering Committee. January - April 1944

2/12: Correspondence, notes, reports, newspaper clippings, and other papers pertaining to the work of the Postwar Committee on Planning and Policy along with Subcommittee work and the State Postwar Agricultural Planning Steering Committee. May - December 1944; September 1945

2/13: "Information Basic to Post War Planning For Texas Agriculture (Preliminary). February 1944

2/14: Subcommittee on Growth of the College Reports, "Forecast of Postwar Enrollment" (3x).
March 21, 1944; June 16, 1944; August 1, 1944

2/15: Subcommittee on Research, "Proposal for Research". August 25, 1944

2/16: Subcommittee on Student Life, "Proposals for Improving Student Life and Living. August
31, 1944

2/17: Newspaper clippings and news releases about Trotter and others. 1926-1944

Box 3

3/1: Newspaper clippings and news releases about Trotter and others. 1945-1946; 1948-1950

3/2: Newspaper clippings and news releases about Trotter and others. 1957-1958; 1960;
Undated

3/3: Miscellaneous honors, programs, and other papers concerning Trotter (1938-1945) and his
sons, Ide P. Trotter, Jr. and Ben Trotter (1953-1960). 1938-1945; 1953-1960

Series 4, Speeches, Radio Talks and Publications, 1922-1957; Undated

63 folders

Box 3

3/4: Speech, "Alfalfa - The Cadillac of the Crops Kingdom". circa 1936-1944

3/5: Speech, "Better Crops in Southeast Missouri Through Improvement of Planning Seed".
Undated

3/6: Speech outline of "The Cotton Producers Problems" and "For Information on Cotton".
Undated

3/7: Speech, "Damaged Corn Best Preserved in Silos". Undated

3/8: Speech, "Facts for Future Farmers or Facts Future Farmers Must Face". Undated

3/9: Speech outline, "Feed Crop Rotation". Undated

3/10: "A Plant Food Football Team". Undated

3/11: Speech, "Great Agricultural Leaders are Essential Now: What About 1975?". Undated

3/12: Speech, "The Importance of Legumes in a Livestock Farming System". Undated

3/13: Speech, "Missouri Clover and Prosperity Conferences Gain in Interest to Farmers".
Undated

3/14: Speech, "The Missouri Plan for Soil Improvement: Clover and Prosperity Campaign
Outline". Undated

3/15: Speech, "Recommendations for Planning Fall Pasture", State of Missouri Agricultural and
Economics. Undated

3/16: Speech, "A Reviving Empire (Southeast Missouri is Staging a Remarkably Rapid Recovery"
with notes (3 copies). Undated

3/17: Speech, "Save the Soil: For Our Preservation and Expression of Patriotism", "An abstract
of two related articles published in Acco Press, Houston". Undated

3/18: Address abstract, "Soils and Souls" given by Trotter before the First Annual Rural Church
Conference in College Station, Texas by C. A. Price. Undated

3/19: Speech, "State Clover and Prosperity Program Reaches 20,000 People per Year". Undated

3/20: Speech, "Tobacco Shortens Life" (for use in AGR 105). Undated

3/21: Publication, "Nitrogenous Fertilizer Experiments" Delta Branch Station, by C. B. Walker, E.
C. Ewing and Ide P. Trotter, Bulletin 207 of the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station. April
1922

3/22: Agricultural Extension Service Circulars. 1928; 1936
-Circular 193, March 1928, "Cotton Varieties for Missouri"
-Circular 199, April 1928, "Thick Spacing of Cotton for Missouri"
-Circular 340, March 1936, "Grain Sorghums for Grain Production"
-Circular 347, July 1936, " Soybeans and Winter Barley in One-Year Rotation"

3/23: Missouri Extension Studies Publication No. 2, "The influence of Color on the Effectiveness
of Extension Circular Letters" by C. C. Hearne. June 1933

3/24: Publication, "The Effectiveness of Ten Years of Agronomic Extension in the Missouri
Clover and Prosperity Program", reprinted from Vol. 26, No. 7 of the *Journal of the American
Society of Agronomy*. July 1934

3/25: Missouri Agricultural Extension Service Leaflets. 1936
-Leaflet 35, February 1936, "Better Practices in Oat Production"
-Leaflet 36, February 1936, "RAPE FOR PASTURE; Oats and Canada Field Peas for Hay"
-Leaflet 38, March 1936, "Testing Seed Corn"

-Leaflet 41, March 1936, "Millet for Forage and Grain"
-Leaflet 42, March 1936, "Growing Cowpeas for Hay"

3/26: Speech, "Reaching and Teaching the Farmers of the 'Show Me' State" delivered before the county agents' meeting of Mississippi State College. December 12, 1932

3/27: Speech, "Soils and Crops Information Necessary for Should Agricultural Development". April 22, 1935

3/28: Publication, "The Missouri Program for cooperative Hay Production". 1936

3/29: Radio Talk, "Notes on Fall Care of Pastures". October 3, 1939

3/30: Radio Talk, "New Cotton Information Presented to Agronomists". November 28, 1939

3/31: Radio Talk, "Alfalfa Fiesta". May 28, 1940

3/32: Radio Talk, "What for Winter Pasture?". September 10, 1940

3/33: Radio Talk, "Rest the Range for Reseeding". September 17, 1940

3/34: Radio Talk, "Winter Legumes for Pasture". September 24, 1940

3/35: Radio Talk, November 12, 1940

3/36: Radio Talk, "Grass was Featured at the International Livestock Exposition". January 28, 1941

3/37: Radio Talk, "Wet Field Suggestions". July 29, 1941

3/38: Notes, Notes for an Oklahoma speech. April 23, 1944

3/39: Outline, "The Soils That Support Us in Texas". August 8, 1944

3/40: Speech, "A Proposal for Agricultural Scholarships for Developing Agricultural Leaders". June 1945

3/41: Speech, "Nation Faces a Critical Deficit in Training Leadership". June 1945

3/42: Speech, "Applying Research for Rural Progress" Delivered before the Annual Convention of the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas at Ft. Worth, Texas. December 4, 1945

- 3/43: Speeches, "Nation Faces a Critical Deficit in Training Leadership" and "A Proposal for Agricultural Scholarships for Developing Outstanding Agricultural Leaders". June 1945
- 3/44: Speech, "Report on Migratory Phase of the Extension Service Farm Labor Program". 1946
- 3/45: Speech, "Soils and Souls" delivered before the First Annual Rural Church Conference at College Station (includes 7 copies in various forms and formats). July 11, 1946
see Series 2, Box 1/16 and Box 2/1-7
- 3/46: Speech, "Preservation, Patriotism, and Piety-Three Motives for Saving the Soil". April 14, 1947
see Series 2, Box 1/16 and Box 2/1-7
- 3/47: New Years' greetings given by Trotter on behalf of Texas A&M College to the listening audience of the Texas Farm and Home Program. January 1, 1948
- 3/48: Publication, "Agricultural Workers' Part in Farm Electrification". 1947
- 3/49: Publication, "Save the Soil for Our Personal Preservation, as an Expression of Our Patriotism, and as a Demonstration of Our Piety" in Acco Press. 1947
see Series 2, Box 1/16 and Box 2/1-7
- 3/50: Speech, "Teamwork and its importance in Agriculture". February 20, 1948
- 3/51: Radio Talk, "A Family Thanksgiving for Today". November 25, 1948
- 3/52: Speech, "Texas Agriculture in World Trade". Delivered at the Fifth Annual Session of the Texas Dirt Farmers Congress in Austin, Texas. February 18, 1949
- 3/53: Radio Talk, On the Graduate School at Texas A&M. December 29, 1949
- 3/54: Publication, "Observations on the Cotton Situation in China in 1948". 1949
- 3/55: Publication, "Observations on the Cotton Situation in Japan in 1948". 1949
- 3/56: Publication, "Observations on the Cotton Situation in the Dominions of India and Pakistan in 1948". 1949
- 3/57: Publication, "Your Extension Service". 1949
- 3/58: Publication, "The New Agriculture". 1949
- 3/59: Speech, "How to Make Extension More Effective". December 11, 1950

3/60: Speech, "How to Make Extension More Effective". Delivered at the American Farm Research Association and Service Cooperatives Conference at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas. Also included is a copy of the Conference program. December 11, 1950

3/61: Speech, "Regional Education on the Graduate Level". February 5, 1951

3/62: Rotary Radio Program, "Why Graduate Work Grows". June 19, 1952

Box 4

4/1: Notes for a speech delivered at the celebration commemorating the ninth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations held at Texas A&M. October 22, 1954

4/2: Speech, "What about Graduate Work". March 13, 1956

4/3: Excerpts and notes for a talk presented at a banquet honoring 11 District winners in the State FFA Tractor Operators Contest, Ft. Worth, Texas. July 16, 1957

4/4: Background information for Future Farmer Contestants in Texas FFA Tractor Operators Contest, Ft. Worth, Texas. July 16, 1957

Series 5, Miscellaneous Publications and Speeches by Others, 1925-1964; Undated

7 folders

Box 4

4/5-6: Miscellaneous publications collected by Trotter, written by authors other than himself. All but one deal with some phase of agronomy or agricultural extension. 1925-1953

4/7: Radio Show Scripts

4/8: Speeches and Summary of a Speech, 1946-1947

Speech dealing with the history of agricultural extension by H. E. Babcock regarding public relations.

"Gearing Research to Rural Progress, The Origin, Development, and Outlook of Cooperative Extension Work Among Farm and Ranch Families " by Tyrus R. Tim, delivered at the Fourth Southwest Regional Conference on Adult Education.

"Let's Look Around" by H. H. Williamson, delivered at the Annual Conference of State Leaders for Negro Extension Work.

4/9: Publication, "Comparative State Appropriations for Agricultural Research and Extension for Texas and the Ten Other States Having Highest Farm Income in the U.S. and for the States Boarding Texas, Fiscal Year 1954-1955 ". 1956

4/10: Publication, "Fifteenth Annual Regional School for Extension Workers". 1964

4/11: Speeches by others pertaining to church and other topics:

"The College and the Church". Undated

"If I were a Rural Pastor". Undated

"Influence of Soils on the Effectiveness of the Country Church". Undated

"Evangelistic Agriculture". Undated

4/12: Speeches by others:

"Rejoice, Oh Ye Gamma Alpha", given by Gordon B. Nance. April 30

"Philosophy and Operation of Credit Unions", address given by C. R. Orchard at the 14th Annual Midwinter Meeting of Wisconsin Bankers Association. Undated

"How Shall the College Recognize the Place of Radio in Present Day Life?" report produced by a committee of the School of Arts and Science. Undated