

Guy Bailey Papers: Eugenics and H.F. Perkins, University Archives, Record Group 2
Annotations by Hannah Johnson, Silver Special Collections Library
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Box 58, Folder 21 (Perkins: July 1926 – June 1927)

July 3, 1926: HFP comments on petty cash allowances for his Eugenics Survey assistant field workers

May 7, 1927: HFP fails “to see Mr. Hatch about the Four Brothers Islands”; wants to meet with “executive officers of organizations likely to be interested in the Survey”; has met with two executives from the Institute of Social and Religious Research (Brunner and Fisher) and Harrison from the Russell Sage Foundation (Harrison also being a secretary for the Social Science Research Council); hopes to present “proposed scheme” to SSRC; claims that these organizations have been “almost overwhelmingly cordial” towards Perkins’ “scheme” and promises to send letters proving this

HFP to Bailey: “Please do not let anything interfere with the highly strategic plan that you proposed the first time I talked with you about this Survey, namely, to get the newspaper men here for a conference. I should be exceedingly sorry were anything to prevent the carrying out of this plan. The more I think of it the more it strikes me as a brilliant piece of statesmanship on your part to think of doing it.”

Sept. 30, 1926: HFP requests \$70 to purchase expertly modeled heads of “two of the primitive ancestors of man” for use in classes and presentations to the general public

Dec. 9, 1926: HFP requests that student trip to Natural History Museum become an annual affair; inquires about “the question of exemption from taxation” re: Four Brothers Islands

Dec. 28, 1926: Bailey’s latest info re: Four Brothers Islands (whether or not UVM owns the islands is uncertain)

Box 63, Folder 11 (Perkins, Harry F.: 1927-1928)

Nov. 5, 1927: HFP sends Bailey a report of progress from the Oct. 20th meeting of the Eugenics Survey Advisory Committee; says that he and the Committee were sorry that Bailey couldn’t attend the meeting (report attached to letter; report mentions the comprehensive “cooperative” survey the Committee hopes to conduct with five interested agencies, including the Social Science Research Council)

Sept. 7, 1927: General newsletter to Committee members (from HFP)

Jan. 21, 1928: HFP asks who he should apply to for more funds for the Eugenics Survey

April 26, 1928: Rough draft of program for the initial meeting of the Vermont Commission on Rural Life

June 6, 1928: HFP thanks Bailey profusely for "all of the nice things that [he was] good enough to say about [HFP's] plan"

HFP to Bailey: "Your kind endorsement of my work was most warmly welcomed, especially as I really had no idea you felt so cordially about it"

Box 68, Folder 10 (Perkins, Etc.: 1928-1929)

July 24, 1928: Invitation to luncheon/meeting for Executive Committee of the Vermont Commission on Country Life

Sept. 7, 1928: HFP asks for Bailey's advice on the proper qualifications for a Field Investigator; feels that at least a Master's degree is necessary, but that Ph.D. commands more respect in publications; worries about valuing degrees over practical experience

Oct. 11, 1928: Invitation to luncheon/meeting for Executive Committee of the Vermont Commission on Country Life

Oct. 12, 1928: Bailey declines invitation to Commission luncheon (see Oct. 11)

Oct. 12, 1928: HFP personally invites Bailey to meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Eugenics Survey; mentions that Martha M. Wadman has been hired as the new field investigator

Oct. 13, 1928: Bailey declines invitation to the Committee meeting (see Oct. 12)

Oct. 24, 1928: HFP sends materials from Oct. 18th meeting of the Committee; recommends that L. Josephine Webster be added to Committee (possibly replacing "Miss Ross"), and asks for Bailey's thoughts; also sends last year's and this year's budgets [for the Committee?]

Nov. 10, 1928: HFP reports that Webster has been elected to the Committee; reports progress on the study of Sandgate and Readsboro families and discusses plans to survey families in Lincoln and Pomfret; asks for recommendations on "the matter of the choice of towns" for surveying (towns must "represent most typically the rural parts of the state" in terms of "their history and present condition")

Nov. 16, 1928: HFP asks for Bailey's opinion on Dorothy Canfield Fisher and her Committee chair (i.e. whether or not she should change it in light of her health); some members have

suggested that she become a Chairman of the Committee on Literature and Idealism instead of the Committee on Educational Facilities for Rural People

Nov. 22, 1928: HFP questions Bailey's ballot vote on the DCF question (see Nov. 16)

Jan. 4, 1929: Newsletter personally addressed to Bailey with Survey updates; HFP comments on sterilization legalization bill, and wonders if it would be wise for the Survey to be "officially active" in the next attempt to pass the bill; comments on the Survey's relation to the Vermont Commission on Country Life; mentions work on Sandgate and Lincoln/Bristol pedigrees
HFP to Bailey: "It is important that nothing should be allowed to arouse suspicion among any important group, social, economic, political or religious"; the Survey should "avoid antagonizing some people who have strong convictions on the sterilization question. This would not hamper any of you, but perhaps I [HFP] had better keep out of it."

Feb. 13, 1929: HFP announces that he will be sending out the latest Committee circular; comments on Wadman's plan to visit the Reformatory for Women; asks Bailey for "full and frank comments and criticisms" on the Committee's activities

March 14, 1929: HFP comments on Bailey's plan for "interesting newspaper editors in the Comprehensive Survey" and says that a conference will not be possible; says that Dr. Taylor has gone ahead and personally interviewed a number of these editors (list of these interviews is attached to letter), and that most have shown "genuine interest" and have guaranteed their "active cooperation"

Box 74, Folder 2 (Perkins, Prof. Henry: 1929-1930)

July 1, 1929: HFP sends a brief outline of plans/activities for the Committee on the Human Factor (Bailey couldn't attend meeting)

Aug. 17, 1929: HFP announces upcoming meetings of the Vermont Commission on Country Life and the Joint Committee on Research and Planning; announces the beginning of a monthly newsletter on Commission activities

Sept. 30, 1929: HFP announces that the Advisory Committee won't meet this fall due to the difficulty of finding good meeting dates for the members

April 1, 1930: HFP forwards a letter of endorsement from Dr. W. E. Castle to Advisory Committee members; reports that Anderson has been prepping for more town studies and has been interviewing potential assistants

Box 79, Folder 22 (Perkins, Henry F.: 1930-1931)

July 18, 1930: HFP invites Bailey to Eugenics Survey Advisory Committee lunch

Mar. 4, 1931: Bailey returns a questionnaire and reaffirms something said in a conversation with Dr. Taylor; insists that UVM has “no responsibility with respect to the nature of the expenditures” (which are somehow connected to “the grant made by the Carnegie Corporation”)

Box 86, Folder 15 (Perkins, Prof. Harry F.: 1931-1932)

Aug. 7, 1931: Invitation to The Farm and Home Week meeting; HFP wants to discuss the future of the Vermont Commission

Sept. 4, 1931: Announcement of upcoming meeting of the Committee; HFP asks Bailey if, “as a personal favor,” he could favor the members at the meeting with a few minutes of his time

Sept 30, 1931: HFP notifies Bailey that he sent Charles B. Adams a copy of “Rural Vermont” on his behalf and “with the compliments of the Vermont Commission”

Nov. 9, 1931: HFP wants Bailey to remain treasurer of the Commission and asks that he be appointed assistant treasurer “to do the actual work,” so that he can take over the bookkeeping from Edwin Abbott; notes that the Commission is no longer responsible for the Laura Spelman Memorial

Nov. 14, 1931: Bailey asks not to be treasurer, since he is trying to cut back on his involvement in organizations generally (see Nov. 9); he recommends that HFP become Treasurer instead; asks for HFP to stop by so that they can discuss a three-year-old charge against the Commission that has yet to be paid

Nov. 17, 1931: HFP discusses the Commission debt; claims he thought that UVM would not charge the Commission for bookkeeping; says the Commission can’t pay up right away; asks for the debt to be forgiven

Nov. 27, 1931: Invitation to an event that Bailey (on paper, at least) is hosting

Jan. 19, 1932: HFP sends Bailey a quote from Colonel Sanctuary (who is pro-Creation, anti-Evolution)

Not Dated [sometime after March 10]: A general Commission newsletter; Commission Committee has been selected; several changes/additions within the Commission are under consideration (including the creation of new committees and the election of new officers)

Box 93, Folder 6 (Perkins, Harry: 1932-1933)

July 1, 1932: Committee newsletter; HFP remarks on reviews of and outside interest in the Survey's annual report in the Journal of Heredity; considers the possibility of a study of national ratios, birth rates, and other eugenics-related demographic information

Jan. 19, 1933: Copy of the Commission constitution and by-laws attached; HFP lists the members of the Legislative Committee; mentions that a Commission dinner was held and that Commission objectives were discussed there (several locals and members of the Legislature attended, as well as a few out-of-towners); requests that outstanding membership dues be paid; asks that those receiving the newsletter try to recruit more members for the Commission

March 29, 1933: Report from Advisory Committee (addressed to Bailey); HFP discusses developments in social work prompted by eugenical social research (e.g. roundtables); comments on the influx of foreign (esp. French-Canadian) immigrants into Vermont and wonders at the "significance of the American melting pot as found operating in Vermont"

Box 99, Folder 6 (Perkins, Harry F.: 1933-1934)

Feb. 6, 1934: HFP appeals to Bailey personally (though letter content seems to be for a general audience) for funding for the American Eugenics Society (the AES is in debt by \$2500 and must either raise the funds or disband in debt)

Box 106, Folder 23 (Perkins, Harry F.: 1934-1935)

Aug. 16, 1934: HFP asks Bailey if he would write him two letters of introduction that he can use while traveling in Europe (one letter will verify that he is the Director of the Eugenics Survey of Vermont and President of the American Eugenics Society)

Aug. 17, 1934: Bailey's letter of introduction for HFP (see Aug. 16)

Box 112, Folder 26 (Perkins, Harry F.: 1935-1936)

Oct. 29, 1935: Bailey passes along a request from Farr not to be solicited for funds for the Eugenics Survey after July 1st; Farr insists that she must put her family's financial security before anything else, and Bailey thinks that they should heed her wishes: "I am sure that it would do no good if we did ask and furthermore it might do some harm."

Nov. 4, 1935: HFP's response to the Farr letter (see Oct. 29); says that he will reply to Farr's letter, but wonders if she forgot her promise to continue giving \$1000 a year for every year after July 1st; speaks of the importance of eugenics research, and indirectly asks if Bailey would like to meet at another time to talk about eugenics; finishes by asking Bailey whether Farr should be reminded of her promise to continue donating

Box 120, Folder 6 (Perkins, Harry F.)

Oct. 19, 1936: Newsletter for the Advisory Board; an announcement of the closing of the Eugenics Survey office; HFP blames need for closure on diminishing contributions from “our benefactress”; says that files will be stored at the Museum and that equipment will be sold to defray costs; wants the Committee to continue, even without its office; mentions that Anderson will publish a book based on the Survey’s research very soon.
HFP to Bailey (about Anderson’s book): “You are going to be very proud of this book when you see it.”

Box 145, Folder 11 (Special Folders: Eugenics Survey of Vermont: Dec. 11, 1925 – Jan. 20, 1931)

Dec. 11, 1925: HFP mentions the most recent Survey report (which was enclosed with the letter); discusses Abbott’s work in Vergennes and Brandon

Dec. 15, 1925: HFP wishes for Abbott to be listed as a member of the Department of Zoology in the UVM catalog and the Survey to be understood as “having been organized and as being conducted as a sideline of the Department”; wishes for a brief blurb on the Survey to appear within the Zoology Department’s section of the catalog; in the margins, Bailey indicates that Abbott is not faculty, so she must remain on the Administration list

Jan. 16, 1926: HFP gives a summary of the present status of the Survey; Abbott has been collecting data on inmates of the Vermont Industrial School and the School for Feeble-Minded (and their families) and wishes to do research in Waterbury next; HFP mentions a recent donation (from Eggleston) and offers a suggestion of how to use the money; Abbott would like a stenographer and a car

Feb. 8, 1926: Newsletter from Advisory Committee; HFP quotes Dr. H.H. Laughlin, who praises the Survey and mentions similar work (of relatively limited scope) happening in other states; mentions that the Survey headquarters have moved (temporarily) into the Vermont Experiment Station and that a new stenographer has been hired

May 28, 1926: HFP discusses the latest work of the Survey (provides outline of work done, future plans, and eugenics questions they would like to answer through their research)

Oct. 12, 1926: HFP announces that an anonymous donor has promised to put \$5000 towards the Survey; discusses plans for the Survey for the coming year (and how the money will be put towards carrying out these plans); hopes that “outside agencies” will take interest in the Survey; asks for Bailey’s comments on all of these developments and invites Bailey to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee

HFP to Bailey: “I know that you will rejoice with me in the good fortune that has come to us in securing the necessary sinews of war for another year’s work.”

Oct. 23, 1926: HFP asks for Committee meeting to be rescheduled; wishes to discuss at the meeting the Eugenic Sterilization Bill and Laughlin’s “Eugenic Sterilizations to 1926”; wishes

to know what the members think about having experts from the National Committee for Mental Hygiene send over experts to assess the Survey's methods and facilities and potentially create special classes for mild cases of feeble-mindedness

Nov. 2, 1926: HFP is sorry that Bailey could not attend the Oct. 28th meeting (see Oct. 23); the National ["Executive"?] Committee for Mental Hygiene has agreed to send over experts; HFP and the other members think that the Survey has collected valuable data and made excellent progress; the Committee has decided to go ahead and promote the Sterilization Bill; HFP asks specifically for Bailey's opinion on the creation of and site for an industrial center; discusses plans to move feeble-minded students from institutions in Waterbury and Vergennes to the School in Brandon

Aug. 29, 1928: Newsletter to Committee members; Conklin set to go to Philadelphia after working a year on the Survey; HFP wishes to hire a well-trained and experienced replacement for Conklin; a donor has promised to donate \$6000 a year for three years to the Survey; the Committee is considering participating in the Comprehensive Survey of Rural Vermont

Oct. 18, 1928: Report from 3rd Annual Meeting of the Committee

Dec. 10, 1929: Newsletter to Committee members; Wadman has resigned and has been replaced by Elin Anderson; HFP discusses the "Brandon Waiting List" and its implications for the town

Jan. 13, 1930: Newsletter to Committee members; HFP asks for the Committee's opinion and suggestions re: a schedule of questions drawn up by Anderson (questions and sample answers included with newsletter)

June 23, 1930: Newsletter to Committee members; HFP hopes to undertake a comprehensive eugenics study of the citizens of one Vermont town ("Town Families Study"); reports that Anderson is on leave and that she, her temp replacement (Choate), and their secretary (Rome) have all been doing fieldwork in Cornwall; asks members to look at last report and be ready to speak about it at the next meeting; asks for the members' opinion on the Town Families Study idea

Jan. 20, 1931: Newsletter to Committee members; HFP wants the members' opinion on "an educational campaign for the Eugenics Survey"; reports that there is an even split between the high and "low grade" families in the Survey (in terms of data collected); wants to determine what the attitude of local leaders is towards eugenics and heredity; wishes to do more in terms of educating the public on eugenics; discusses the Survey and the issue of confidentiality