

History of the Utah Association of the Deaf, 1909-Present

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My sincere appreciation goes to Duane Kinner, my husband and my children, Joshua and Danielle for their support and patience in while I completed this project.

Without their help, completion of the Utah Association of the Deaf history document would not be possible. Thanks once again!

Note

I have had the pleasure working on the history of the Utah Association of the Deaf (UAD).

Indeed, UAD is one of the oldest state associations in the United States. Since the founding of the UAD in 1909, this association advocated the civil rights movement in the areas of auto insurance, traffic safety, telecommunication, interpreters, education, early intervention, employment, rehabilitation and much more. In fact, Robert G. Sanderson Community Center, Jean Massieu School of the Deaf, the expansion of interpreting services, and the establishment of deaf education with an emphasis in ASL/English Bilingual (then Total Communication) at Utah State University are the result of Utah Association of the Deaf leading the way. Since not all of these historical details are mentioned in this document, I encourage you to also read the “Deaf Education History in Utah,” “History of the Sanderson Community Center,” and “History of Utah Interpreting Services,” and other documents to get the whole picture of what UAD has done for the local Deaf community.

Since its founding in 1909, UAD took action to protect and defend the rights and privileges of the local Deaf community as occasion demanded. After studying the history of UAD, I have learned to respect and appreciate the association for their hard work to seek improvement in the quality of the lives of the deaf as equal citizens in the State of Utah. It is a great privilege to have served the UAD as a board member and to pay respect to those UAD leaders.

In order to support the UAD and make a difference, it has been suggested that the Utah Deaf community:

1. Support UAD by becoming a member=
2. Vote for new UAD board members during the UAD conference every two years, and/or
3. Join the UAD board.

Ultimately, if the Utah Deaf community does nothing of those above, they shouldn't complain. In fact, the UAD has done so much for the local Deaf community that they now take for granted – auto insurance, traffic safety, telecommunication, interpreters, education, early intervention, employment, rehabilitation and much more.

Notably, a lot of deaf citizens are registered to vote, discuss non-deaf related political issues, keep updated on political issues, and support a particular political party. Yet, many of them fail to participate and support the deaf related political issues and/or causes. This is known as a “double standard.” The goal of this history is to spread awareness in the Deaf community of what the UAD has done for us. In addition, this history is aimed at promoting awareness of deaf related political issues and how the Utah

Deaf community can assist and support future causes.

Last, but not the least, I strongly encourage the Utah Deaf community to be a member of the Utah Association of the Deaf as well as the National Association of the Deaf to protect their civil rights.

After all, UAD is credited with carrying the torch by meeting the interests of the deaf. As of today, UAD continues to carry the torch by advocating, protecting and securing the civil rights of the Utah Deaf community.

Little does the Utah Deaf community, particularly the younger generation, realize everything UAD has done for them that they now take for granted. Now that we have access to available resources, it is my sincere hope that the "Carry the Torch" symbol will help us remember, appreciate and reflect on UAD's long history of civil rights protections.

Salutations to the UAD leaders!

Jodi B. Kinner

"To make democracy work, we must be a notion of participants, not simply observers. One who does not vote has no right to complain'" - Louis L'Amour

The Establishment of National Association of the Deaf

Since the founding of the first deaf school called the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb (later renamed American School for the Deaf) in Hartford, Connecticut in 1817, several state associations of the deaf were established (Gannon, 1981).

In August 1880, the National Association of the Deaf was established when deaf representatives from numerous states gathered at its First National Convention in



Henry C. White, principal and teacher of the Utah School for the Deaf in Salt Lake City, Utah
The Utah Eagle February 1922

Cincinnati, Ohio (Gannon, 1981; Van Cleve & Crouch, 1989). The Cincinnati attendees were products of an American Deaf school system for a little over 60 years. At the convention, these deaf attendees held various positions, such as teachers, school founders, principals, businessmen and leaders. They were determined to improve the quality of deaf people lives by opposing laws that would restrict their rights, determining to discourage imposters and deaf peddlers, creating a better understanding of deafness by the public at large, pushing for better vocational training in the schools, providing better educational methods, and lastly, fighting employment discrimination (Gannon, 1981).

Henry C. White, a principal and teacher of the Utah School for the Deaf, was one of the convention attendees (Gannon, 1981).

A Brief History of the Utah Association of the Deaf

The groundwork of the Utah Association of the Deaf (UAD) began with the founders, Frank M. Driggs, president, Elsie Christiansen, Melville Matheis, Elizabeth DeLong, and Paul Mark. At a reunion at the Utah School for the Deaf (USD) in Ogden in June 1909, the alumni took time from socializing to the serious business of electing officers.

Its first president was a deaf woman, Elizabeth DeLong – this was before women were granted the right to vote in 1920 and first allowed to vote in the National Association of the Deaf elections in 1964. She was also the first woman state association president in the nation (UAD Bulletin, October 1999, p. 1 & 3).

The UAD convention has been either triennially or biennially since 1909. From 1909 to 1934, the Main Building at Utah School for the Deaf hosted UAD conventions. In 1936, the convention was held off the campus in Salt Lake City for the first time since 1909 and did not go back to USD until 1995. The election for officers was held in every convention and conference (The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 6; UAD Bulletin, October 1999, p. 1 & 3).



Elizabeth DeLong, 1st UAD President
Photo Courtesy of the
DeLong Family Saga by Gladys W.
Banks

With the exceptions of 1944, 1965, and 1995 in Ogden and 1987 and 1999 in Provo, the UAD conventions have been held in the Salt Lake area. There were no conventions during the war years of 1918 and 1942 (UAD Bulletin, October 1999, p. 1 & 3).

This history covers the events of conventions/conferences from 1909 to 2009.

Historical Perspective of Changes With The Utah Association of the Deaf

The Utah Association of the Deaf, a non-profit organization, is one of the oldest continuous organizations working in behalf of deaf people in Utah. It traces its beginning to 1909 (Sanderson, UAD Bulletin, September 1996, p. 1-3).



Robert G. Sanderson
The UAD Bulletin, Winter 1965

Dr. Robert G. Sanderson, class of 1936, observed “intricately interwoven with history of the Utah Association for the Deaf with the history of the Utah School for the Deaf.” Both the association and the school shared many values as well as commonalities. By 1963, all UAD presidents and most of its members were products of the USD (The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 6). According to the Summer 1963 issue of the UAD Bulletin, “To the USD, the association looks for future leaders to guide the destiny of the UAD in years to come, watch after the interests of the deaf and assure that they will continue to find an active, satisfying place in the community” (6).

The first nine conventions were held on the USD campus and were described as reunions. UAD members were leisurely affairs, lasting three or four days, with the accent on entertainment (The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 6).

In 1936, the first convention was held off the campus in Salt Lake City for the first time since 1909. After that, the conventions and conferences of UAD were held as listed later in this document. The election for officers was held at every convention and conference (The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 6).

In 1956, the UAD became incorporated with its own legal identification under the laws of the State of Utah (Sanderson, *UAD Bulletin*, June 1956, p. 1).

The UAD served as a cohesive organization, one on which deaf people through decades were able to depend upon to protect and voice their rights. Its early activities were in the area of securing the civil rights of deaf people, such as the right to drive automobiles in Utah, and the right to be able to purchase auto insurance (Sanderson, *UAD Bulletin*, September 1996, p. 1-3).

Over the years, the scope of the UAD eventually broadened to cover the extent of a lifetime and impacting future generations in the areas of advocacy, including auto insurance, traffic safety, anti-peddlers, education, early intervention, employment, rehabilitation, interpreting service, health care, technology, telecommunications, youth leadership, and much more.



W. David Mortensen

UAD Serves As a “Watchdog”

W. David Mortensen, known as Dave Mortensen or DM, a long-time UAD president, demonstrated how the UAD has been a “watchdog” for the deaf and hard of hearing in the state of Utah. For years, UAD put in an effort and worked towards achieving equality in all aspects of a deaf person’s life, i.e., enabling the deaf and hard of hearing to function and have an equal chance to really live in this world as easily as a hearing person (D. Mortensen, *UAD Bulletin*, February 1995, p. 1).

On this side, Dave affirmed that the UAD believes in standing up for the rights of deaf and hard of hearing people and that they serve as a “watchdog” to make sure that none of the rights of a deaf or hard of hearing person is pushed aside or trampled into the cold, cold ground (D. Mortensen, *UAD Bulletin*, February 1995, p. 1).

Alongside, Dr. Robert G. Sanderson, a former president of the UAD and NAD, also observed that the UAD was a “watchdog,” continually monitoring the educational system and constantly demanding better education for deaf children – not always successfully, to be sure, in what deaf people felt was the best “system” or communication method that should be used in the classroom. Nevertheless, the educational authorities were always aware of the UAD and its unflagging interest in better education for deaf children (Sanderson, *UAD Bulletin*, September 1996, p. 1-3).

The Utah Association of the Deaf Is Many Things

Further, Dr. Robert G. Sanderson acknowledged that everyone knows the “UAD” is the Utah Association of the Deaf” Inc., but he wished to clarify that the UAD is NOT one person, not the president, nor the chairman of the board, nonmembers of the board, nor all of the above. He explained that UAD is deaf and hard of hearing people of the general membership who meet in conventions every two years to elect board members, and the board members in turn chose officers. The convention directs the board to carry out certain programs or projects, maintain others, or change directions. When mandates from the board are accomplished, the board may, within its board powers to conduct business of the association, initiate other programs or projects in the interest of and to the benefit of both its membership and deaf people in general.

As shown above, Dr. Sanderson pointed out that those members of the UAD span the community. There was a great deal of cross membership – that is, UAD members also belonged to other organizations as well as other organization members belong to the UAD (Sanderson, *UAD Bulletin*, September 1996, p. 1-3).

Here are some of the many things that the UAD members and their officers have had been doing on behalf of the deaf and hard of hearing population.

**The Establishment of Utah Association of the Deaf
The First Triennial Convention
June 10-12, 1909
Utah School for the Deaf, Ogden**

While more associations of the deaf continued to establish in various states, Elizabeth DeLong, an alumna and deaf faculty member of the Utah School for the Deaf (USD), suggested the formation of the Utah Association of the Deaf (UAD) for social purposes and welfare needs among USD alumni. USDB Superintendent Frank M. Driggs approved this idea (Evans, 1999).

In summer 1909, the state of Utah established its first Utah Association of the Deaf under the guidance of Superintendent Driggs and the association emerged from this first alumni reunion (UAD Bulletin, *Summer 1963*, p. 1; Evans, 1999).



**Frank M. Driggs, USDB Superintendent
The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963**

According to the Summer 1963 issue of the UAD Bulletin, “Frank M. Driggs will always hold a special niche in the hearts of all those fortunate enough to have studied under his hand. Stern but just, he molded citizens as well as scholars; friends as well as graduates. Renowned for his graceful mastery of sign language, he never forgot his former pupils, and as president pro tem of the first assembly, he guided formation of the Utah Association of the Deaf in 1909” (p.1).

The first triennial convention commenced at the USD in the city of Ogden presided by Superintendent Driggs on Thursday, June 10, 1909 at 2:30 PM. Utah graduates and former pupils were in attendance and forty-nine of them served as delegates (1909 First Convention Minutes; *The UAD Bulletin*, Summer 1963, p. 1).

At the convention, Superintendent Driggs opened with a prayer, followed later with an address of welcome. The following key people had the opportunity to speak to the audience as quoted from the 1909 minutes written by Melville J. Matheis, secretary, with an addition of identification of the key people listed below.



UAD 1909 Convention

“Rev. P. A. Simpkin of Salt Lake and a member of the Board of Trustees of the School addressed the audience upon the advancement of the deaf and did his best to co-operate with every deaf in the audience and received a hearty ovation.

Miss Elizabeth DeLong read the letters of the absent and many regretted not being able to be in attendance.

Mr. Max W. Woodbury addressed the audience, “What Other Associations Have Done for Their Respective States?”

“America,” the beloved hymn of the people of America, was recited by the Misses E. DeLong, I. Griggs, C. Egginton, and M. Woolslayer and Mrs. M. Larson.”

Supt. F. M. Driggs congratulated the 49 delegates for being earnest workers and taking a good deal of interest in the convention and turned over the key to the gates of welcome to the audience.

Supt. F. M. Driggs was given authority by the delegates to select a committee on by-laws and rules for the next session of the convention scheduled for June 11th at 10:30 am. Messers. M. J. Matheis and Paul Mark and Miss E. DeLong were selected to act.”

A reception and ball were presented in honor of the delegates in the evening and the program was well arranged and carried out amid the enjoyment of all that attended.

Founders of Utah Association of the Deaf

Frank M. Driggs	President pro tem
Elsie M. Christiansen	Secretary pro tem
Melville J. Matheis	Bylaws Committee
Elizabeth DeLong	Bylaws Committee
Paul Mark	Bylaws Committee

Utah Association of the Deaf Officer Election

The following day on June 11th, the convention was again in session at 10:30 A.M. Fifty-three delegates came. As quoted from the 1909 minutes also written by Melville J. Matheis, secretary, explained how the UAD was formed, as follows:

“Superintendent Driggs was chosen President (protem) and Miss E. Christensen secretary (protem) until the Association elected its recognized officers.

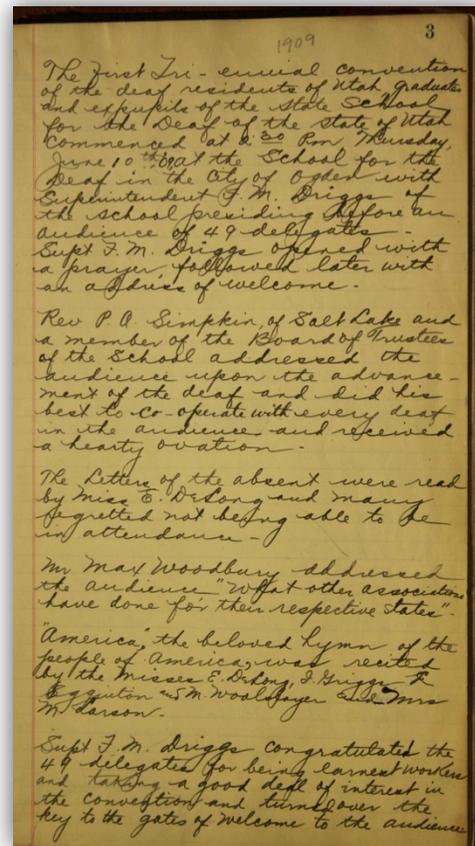
The committee on by-laws presented its rules and by-laws to Superintendent Driggs who in turn read them to the delegates.

The bylaws were passed by acclamation and so were the rules as soon as Superintendent Driggs asked, if any delegate found any dissatisfaction concerning the by-laws and rules.

Superintendent Driggs announced the election of the officers of the association next on the program.

The nominations of Messers. Paul Mark, M. J. Matheis and Miss E. DeLong were announced for the office of president. Miss E. DeLong was proclaimed as elected president of the Association with a majority of 39 votes over Messers P. Mark and M. J. Matheis combined.

39 votes were cast for Miss E. DeLong
2 votes were cast for Mr. P. Mark
2 votes were cast for M. J. Matheis



UAD's Original 1909 Minutes

The newly elected president Miss E. DeLong was escorted to the chair and president (protem) Supt. F. M. Driggs, in turn, handed over the chair and rules.

President DeLong at once announced for the nominations of first vice president. Messers J. Beck, P. Mark and Miss I. Griggs were nominated. Upon first ballot Mr. J. Beck received 18 votes, Mr. P. Mark 9, Miss I. Griggs 10.

The president called the attention of the convention that a ½ vote or more was necessary before a candidate could be declared elected. Mr. J. Beck failed to get the ½ vote required and the president then ordered a second ballot. In the meantime Mr. P. Mark succeeded in having his name scratched from the nomination list, thus leaving Mr. J. Beck and Miss I. Griggs as the candidates for the office. Mr. J. Beck finally won out carrying the second ballot with 29 votes to Miss I. Griggs' 16. The president then declared Mr. J. Beck elected first vice president of the association.

The nominations of Miss I. Griggs, Mrs. P. Mark, Messers E. Jacobs and E. Moore for second vice-president were announced by the president. Upon the first ballot, the standing of the votes were – Miss I. Griggs 16, Mr. E. Jacobson 12, Mrs. P. Mark 7, Mr. E. Moore 6.

President DeLong again announced that either of the 4 candidates failed to receive a ½ vote or more and ordered a second ballot. Mrs. P. Mark's request to be scratched was granted, leaving 3 candidates. Miss Ivy Griggs received 39 votes, Mr. Elgin Jacobson received 10 votes, Mr. Earl Moore received 4 votes. The president declared Miss Ivy Griggs elected second vice president of the association.

Mr. M. J. Matheis was elected secretary of the association by acclamation.

A motion was moved to elect Mr. P. Mark, treasurer, by acclamation, but it



UAD Convention attendees are off to the Ogden Canyon

was defeated. The nomination of Mr. E. Jacobson and Mr. P. Mark were recognized by the president. Mr. P. Mark carried 39 and Mr. E. Jacobson 4 votes. The president declared Mr. P. Mark elected treasurer of the association.

The unfinished program of the morning session was adjourned at 12 noon until 7 pm in the evening by order of the president.

Everyone present at the convention gathered into a group a few minutes after 1 o'clock in front of the school on the lawn among the beautiful trees and flowers of assorted specimens and the "Kodak man" was there to take a couple of good snaps of the crowd, then all in a hurry jumped upon the carriages and with the words, "Gid-dap" from the drivers, they all were off to the beautiful Ogden Canyon and up as far to the Idlewild Inn and back within 3 ½ hours. During the trip, Supt. F. M. Driggs delightfully explained the natures of the canyon and described and illustrated the

“cartoons” of the mountains all along the trip. Everybody was in a jolly mood when the headquarters were reached and said the trip was grand.

President DeLong called the convention to order at 7:25 pm in the evening and announced the unfinished program from the morning session.

Mr. J. Beck explained, “How the Deaf Can Best Earn a Living.”

Mrs. M. Larson recited “Eating Fruits.”

Mr. E. Moore explained, “How a Union May Help a Deaf Man.”



UAD 1909 Officers

Debate, “Resolved that (the) wisdom has more influence upon people than money.”

Affirmative: Paul Mark and Mary Woolslayer; negative, M. J. Matheis and Ivy Griggs.

The audience was given the privilege of rendering a verdict, and rendered it in favor of the affirmative – 26 to 14.

Miss E. DeLong recited, “As You Like It.”

Mr. A. Madsen recited, “Charge of the Light Brigade.”

Motions were moved, seconded and passed to send words of thanks to Rev. P. A. Simpkin, Mr. M. Woodbury, Mrs. M. Wright and the musicians for rendering their services at the convention.

Mr. Max Woodbury spoke briefly upon the future of the Utah Association of the Deaf.

Mr. P. Mark congratulated the Association upon the excellent efforts of the delegates to make the convention a success.

President E. DeLong, upon the behalf of the Ass’n, extended her best thanks to Supt. F. M. Driggs for his untiring efforts in lending the convention his “glad hand.”

Supt. F. M. Driggs responded and spoke the closing address.

Upon the motion of Supt. F. M. Driggs, the Association adjourned at 10:10 pm until further notice.

Saturday June 12th was spent at Salt Air and all had the time of their lives and in the evening, left for their respective homes, promising to meet again in 1912.”

Melville J. Matheis
Secretary

1909 – 1912

President	Elizabeth DeLong
First Vice President	Jacob Beck
Second Vice President	Ivy L. Griggs
Secretary	Melville J. Matheis
Treasurer	Paul Mark

Second Triennial Convention June 5-8, 1912 Utah School for the Deaf, Ogden

The second triennial convention was held during June 5-8, 1912 at the Utah School for the Deaf. The Utah Association of the Deaf officers and members met again and never in the history there was a grand reunion (The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 4).

In the afternoon of June 5th, deaf people slowly arrived at the convention until the crowd thronged in the evening. The registration showed that about eighty-one names had been enrolled. The crowd was full of enthusiasm and happy people mingling with old and new friends. They remained there until late hour in the evening (The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 4).

Likewise in 1909, the following key people were given the opportunity to speak to the audience as quoted from the Summer 1963 issue of the UAD Bulletin with an addition of identification of the key people listed below.

“..... on the platform the Board of Trustees of Utah School for the Deaf were seated with Superintendent Frank M. Driggs and President Elizabeth DeLong of Utah Association of the Deaf. The following members of the board, President Maud Babcock, S. Clark and P. Simpkin were present.

President DeLong announced that Governor William Spry would be unable to arrive in time for the morning session as his automobile had broken down, and that he would try to reach Ogden in time for the afternoon session.



1912 UAD Convention at the Utah School for the Deaf

President M. Babcock was introduced and gave a touching address

Peter Simpkin was next introduced and gave a fine and long address which was interrupted time and again by applause.

Miss L. Egginson recited that national hymn “America” gracefully.

Secretary M.J. Matheis reported upon the letter of the National Association of the Deaf concerning the World Congress of the Deaf at Colorado Springs and asking Congress for \$5,000.00. He wrote Senators Smoot and Sutherland to vote for appropriation and was assured by both senators that they would do all they could to favor the bill. That was the

last report he ever heard concerning the matter” (The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 4).

In the evening, a grand ball and reception took place with lemon punch as the refreshment. Everybody had a very pleasant time until midnight (The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 4).



The association attendees spent all day on Saturday at Wandamere Resort in Salt Lake City. In the evening, the Utah Commercial Club of the Deaf entertained the association at a banquet at the Waldorf Cafeteria from 8:30 PM to midnight. Addresses were given by Superintendent Frank M. Driggs of the Utah School for the Deaf, President DeLong of the Utah Association of the Deaf, and President M.J. Matheis of the Utah Commercial Club of the Deaf (The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 4).

The next day on Sunday, the attendees were all scattered. Some of them remained in Salt Lake and toured the sights. Some of them hurried and packed their “grips and rush back to their homes in time to don overalls and milk the cow, feed the pig and chickens.” Others took it easy and bid farewell to Salt Lake when they got sick of the town (The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 4).

1912 – 1915

President	Elizabeth DeLong
First Vice President	Paul Mark
Second Vice President	L. Elgin Jacobson
Secretary	Melville J. Matheis
Treasurer	S. Anna Moore

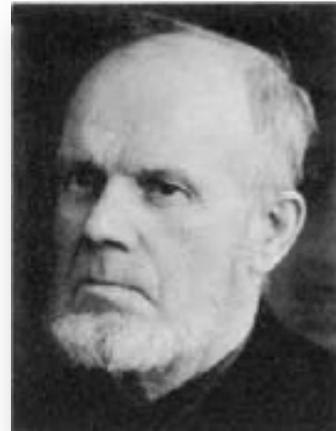
**Third Triennial Convention
June 9-12, 1915
Utah School for the Deaf, Ogden**

During June 9-12, 1915, the third triennial convention of the Utah Association of the Deaf was held at the Utah School for the Deaf where Superintendent Frank M. Driggs gave the address of welcome. President Paul Mark of the Utah Association of the Deaf responded on behalf of the association. His daughter, Pauline, assisted with interpreting his response for the benefit of those who do not understand the sign language.

Maud May Babcock, Board of Trustee of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, gave an address about her visits to schools for the deaf in France and Germany.



Maud May Babcock. She was a member of the USDB Board of Trustee for 22 years National Communication Association



Paul Mark, UAD president The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963

The treasurer's report showed from June 7, 1912 to June 11, 1915, the UAD had receipts of \$70.83 and expenditures of \$7.10.

Otto P. Farley moved that there be appointed a committee to meet and entertain the members of the National Association of the Deaf who were to pass through Ogden July 16th on their way to California.

Friday evening an entertainment was given in the gym – the program being:

- Song, America.....All
- Pantomime.....Jack Waterhouse

Dialogue.....Mary Woolslayer, Willie Cole
 Suffrage Talk.....E. DeLong
 Dialogue.....K. Olsen, Otto Farley
 Classic Dancing.....Mary Woolslayer
 Home Sweet Home.....All
 (UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 4).

1915-1918

President	Paul Mark
First Vice President	Mary Woolslayer
Second Vice President	Cecil J. Hertell
Secretary	Emma M. Emmertson
Treasurer	L. Elgin Jacobson

1918 Convention Postponed - World War I

The fourth Convention, which was to take place in 1918, was postponed until World War I was over. Terms were extended to 1920 due to World War I (UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 4).