



2021

## Cynthia Harriet Plair Roddey Papers - Accession 937

Cynthia Plair Roddey

Winthrop University

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**WINTHROP UNIVERSITY  
LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION**

**ACCESSION 937**

**CYNTHIA HARRIET PLAIR RODDEY PAPERS**

1940-2020

8 Boxes, 22 Folders, 4 Artifacts

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY  
LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

ACC. NO.: 937

ADDITIONS: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

PROCESSED BY: Alyssa Jones and Drew Russell

DATE: August 25, 2015

NO. OF SECTIONS: 3

CYNTHIA HARRIET PLAIR RODDEY PAPERS

I

The papers of Cynthia Harriet Plair Roddey, first African American to enter Winthrop University, and educator, and doctor of ministry, were received May 8, 1997, October 17, 2012, and September 4, 2020.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 2.00

Approximate number of pieces: 3500

Restrictions: The collection is open to researchers under the rules and regulations of the Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections at Winthrop University.

Literary Rights: For information concerning literary rights please contact the Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections at Winthrop University.

Scope and Content Note: **The collection consists of a scrapbook of Cynthia Plair Roddey beginning in 1967, the year she began her studies at Winthrop University. There are also three diplomas included in the collection; one from Johnson C. Smith University, where Roddey received her Bachelor of Arts degree, one from then Winthrop College, where she received her Master of Arts in Teaching, and one from the Mid-Atlantic Seminary, where she received her degree of Doctor of Ministry. The scrapbook contains Roddey's life history up to 1997. Within the scrapbook are copies of her high school diploma, college and university degrees, a copy of her birth certificate, awards and certificates, report cards, church programs, and newspaper articles.**

## II

### BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### CYNTHIA HARRIET PLAIR RODDEY

- 1940 Born, Rock Hill, South Carolina
- 1956 Church Confirmation
- 1957 Graduated, Immanuel Lutheran High School
- 1960 B.A. English, Religious Education, Psychology;  
Johnson C. Smith University
- 1961 Married James Roddey
- 1967 M.A.T. Library Science, English; Winthrop  
University
- 1986-1987 Joined Southeastern Library Association's Media Utilization Committee
- 1990 Doctor of Ministry; Mid-Atlantic Theology Seminary
- 1990-1992 Joined Southeastern Library Association's Media Utilization Committee
- 1994 Student receives first Cynthia P. Roddey Scholarship
- 1997 Received recognition for being first African American to attend Winthrop University



### III

#### DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

| <u>Box(es)</u> | <u>Folder(s)</u> | <u>Series</u>   | <u>Year(s)</u>  |
|----------------|------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1              | 1                | ALPHA KAPPA MU<br>This collection contains two handbooks for the Alpha Kappa Mu sorority along with two programs for the Honors Banquet at Johnson C. Smith University.   | 1958, 1960-1961 |
| 1              | 2                | JOHNSON C. SMITH TRANSCRIPT<br>This collection contains copies of Cynthia Roddey's undergraduate transcripts for the 1958-1959 school year from Johnson C. Smith University.  | 1959            |
| 1              | 3                | NCCAT PROJECT<br>This collection contains the project that Cynthia Roddey completed for the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching. The project entitled "Collaborations (Teaching the Dewey System Through Poetry)" was accepted on April 3, 1989.  | 1989            |
| 1              | 4                | STUDENT ESSAYS ON DR. RODDEY<br>This collection contains essays that Winthrop College students wrote for their Mass Communications class on Dr. Cynthia Roddey. The professor for the class photocopied the essays and sent them to Dr. Roddey for her records.   | ca. 1989        |
| 1              | 5                | RODDEY-MCMILLAN RECORD CONTROVERSY<br>This collection contains newspaper articles, correspondence, and copies of The Roddey-McMillan Record from 1993, in which Dr. Roddey had a complaint about the editor of the Winthrop publication and the editor's response, both in the school publication and in the Rock Hill Herald.  | 1993-1994       |
| 1              | 6                | DR. RODDEY ORAL HISTORY<br>This collection contains the transcript of an interview Dr. Cynthia Roddey gave with Paul H. Finkelstein in September of 1995.   | 1995            |
| 1              | 7                | DR. RODDEY PETTUS ARCHIVES INTERVIEW<br>This collection contains the transcript of an oral history interview that Dr. Cynthia Roddey gave to Robert Ryles on September 12, 2012. The interview was transcribed from audio by Steve Blankenship, Staff Assistant at the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections. The transcript was sent to Dr. Roddey and has her handwritten corrections. | 2014            |
| 1              | 8                | 50 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF INTEGRATION CELEBRATION<br>This collection contains correspondence between Winthrop University Alumni Relations, Winthrop University President, and Dr. Cynthia Roddey concerning the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of integration at Winthrop College. Cynthia Roddey was the first African American student admitted entry at Winthrop College in 1964.          | 2014            |

III

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES (cont.)

| <u>Box(es)</u> | <u>Folder(s)</u> | <u>Series</u>  | <u>Year(s)</u> |
|----------------|------------------|--|----------------|
| 1              | 9                | MINI-TATLER 50 <sup>TH</sup> CLASS REUNION OF 1967<br>This collection contains a "Mini-Tatler," a copy of the graduating class of 1967's Tatler photographs. This Mini-Tatler held updates on what the graduates had been doing in the fifty years since their graduation.   | 2017           |
| 1-2            | 10-13            | SPEECHES GIVEN BY DR. RODDEY<br>This collection contains speeches that Dr. Roddey gave to various churches, classes, schools, and organizations after her graduation from Winthrop College.  | 1975-2017      |
| 3              | 14-15            | LITERARY WORKS BY DR. RODDEY<br>This collection contains writings of poems, journal articles, and other literary pieces written by Dr. Roddey.   | n.d.           |
| 3              | 16               | CORRESPONDENCE<br>This collection contains correspondence between Dr. Cynthia Roddey and other organizations concerning appearances for speaking engagements.  | 1984-2017      |
| 3              | 17               | NEWSPAPER ARTICLES<br>This collection contains newspaper articles and letters to the editor that appeared in the Rock Hill Herald, the Charlotte Observer, and The Johnsonian – Winthrop's student newspaper about Cynthia Roddey and the integration of Winthrop College.   | 1979-2004      |
| 3              | 18               | NEWS ARTICLES<br>This collection contains articles in various newsletters and printouts from news websites about Dr. Cynthia Roddey and the integration of Winthrop.   | 1983-2020      |
| 4              | 19-20            | AWARD CERTIFICATES AND BANQUET PROGRAMS<br>This collection contains awards presented to Dr. Roddey from various organizations, as well as programs for the presentation banquets.  | 1973-2020      |
| 4              | 21               | PHOTOGRAPHS OF DR. CYNTHIA RODDEY<br>This collection contains photographs of Dr. Roddey throughout her life, her Winthrop College days, her Winthrop class reunions, and at various award celebrations.  | 1959-2019      |
| 4              | 22               | MR. ANDERSON'S AUTOMOBILE<br>This collection contains a photocopy of a journal article written by Dr. Eddie Lee and Ron Chepesiuk entitled "Mr. Anderson's Automobile." This article was written for the Carologue: A Publication of the South Carolina Historical Society. There is a post-it note with comments from Dr. Roddey to the Louise Pettus Archives attached to the cover page of the article. | 1996           |

III

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES (cont.)

| <u>Box(es)</u> | <u>Artifact #</u> | <u>Artifact Description</u>  | <u>Year(s)</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|--|----------------|
| 5              | 1                 | MASTER'S DEGREE HOOD<br>This is a piece of Dr. Roddey's commencement regalia that she received with her Master of Arts in Teaching.  | 1967           |
| 5              | 2                 | CYNTHIA RODDEY PIN<br>This is a metal pin with Dr. Cynthia Roddey's photograph from her Winthrop College years.  | n.d.           |
| 5              | 3                 | GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY<br>This is an enamel pin from the Grassroots Leadership Academy, awarded to Dr. Roddey upon her completion of the Grassroots Activist Certification. | 2018           |
| 5              | 4                 | CYNTHIA RODDEY NAMETAG<br>This is Dr. Cynthia Roddey's nametag from Clinton College where she held the title of Head of the Liberal Arts Department.                               | n.d.           |

III

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES (cont.)

| <u>Box(es)</u> | <u>Folder(s)</u> | <u>Series</u>  | <u>Year(s)</u>      |
|----------------|------------------|--|---------------------|
| 6              | --               | <p>DIPLOMAS</p> <p>(1) Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Religious Education, and Psychology from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Graduated Cum Laude.</p> <p>(2) Master of Arts in Teaching in Library Science and English from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina</p> <p>(3) Doctor of Ministry from Mid-Atlantic Seminary</p>   | 1961, 1967, 1990    |
| 7              | --               | <p>SCRAPBOOK</p> <p>Includes birth certificate, curriculum vitae, copies of photographs, report cards, certificates and awards, correspondence with members of educational and library committees, sorority and honor society programs, church programs, high school diploma a marriage certificate, and newspaper articles.</p>   | 1940-1997           |
| 7              | --               | <p>NEWSPAPERS</p> <p>This series consists of copies of Winthrop student newspapers, <i>The Johnsonian</i> and <i>The Roddey-McMillan Record</i>. The newspaper editions included are the February 19, 1992 edition of <i>The Johnsonian</i> and February 1995, April 1995, September 1995, and October 1995 editions of <i>The Roddey-McMillan Record</i>.<br/>(Items are in Manuscript Oversize)</p>  | Feb. 19, 1992, 1995 |
| 8              | --               | <p>NEWSPAPERS</p> <p>This collection contains full newspapers that contain articles on Dr. Cynthia Roddey. The names and dates of the publications are listed below. These papers are in the same order that Dr. Roddey had them in when she donated them to the Archives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Herald – July 11, 2004</li><li>- The Charlotte Observer – February 27, 2011</li><li>- The Herald – September 23, 2002</li><li>- The York Observer – February 15, 1985</li><li>- The Roddey-McMillan Record – September 1993</li><li>- The Roddey-McMillan Record – April 2004</li><li>- The Roddey-McMillan Record – January 1994</li><li>- The Roddey-McMillan Record – August 2013</li><li>- The Roddey-McMillan Record – April 2014</li><li>- The Roddey-McMillan Record – March 2014</li><li>- The Roddey-McMillan Record – September 2013</li><li>- The Roddey-McMillan Record – October 2013</li><li>- The Roddey-McMillan Record – November 2014</li></ul> <p>The Roddey-McMillan Record – February 2014</p> | 1985-2019           |



III

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES (cont.)

| <u>Box(es)</u> | <u>Folder(s)</u> | <u>Series</u>   | <u>Year(s)</u> |
|----------------|------------------|---|----------------|
| 8              | --               | NEWSPAPERS (cont.)<br>This collection contains full newspapers that contain articles on Dr. Cynthia Roddey. The names and dates of the publications are listed below. These papers are in the same order that Dr. Roddey had them in when she donated them to the Archives. | 1985-2019      |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – January 2014   |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – February 2006  |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – February 2019  |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – January 2011   |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – April 2009   |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – September 2014   |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – October 2003   |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – January 2004   |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – March 2004   |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – December 2003  |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – August 2013  |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – September 2013   |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – October 2013   |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – November 2014  |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – February 2006  |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – September 1994   |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – September 2000   |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – April 2009   |                |
|                |                  | – The Roddey-McMillan Record – April 2003   |                |