2015

Jessie Huey Laurence Papers - Accession 5

Jessie Huey Laurence

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WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
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MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

ACCESSION 5

JESSIE HUEY LAURENCE PAPERS

1894-1967 (mainly 1929-1967)

4 Boxes, 31 Folders, &
5 Bound Volumes
The papers of Jessie H. Laurence, educator, writer, business woman, and club woman, were received by the University Archives on July 15 1974.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1.00
Approximate number of pieces included: 1200

Restrictions: 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.

Notice was released to NUCMC on November 20, 1974.

Scope and Content Note: **Jessie Huey Laurence (1886-1971) was a club woman, civic leader, native of Union County, South Carolina and 1907 Winthrop graduate. The collection consists mainly of correspondence but also included are speeches, program notes, minutes, financial records, photographs, clippings, and scrapbooks relating to her role in the South Carolina Federation of Women’s Clubs (1928-1937); her promotion of a compulsory school attendance bill for South Carolina (1934-1936); the formation of the South Carolina Council for the Common Good (1935); Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Public Works Administration (PWA) projects in South Carolina; and her interest in the Catawba Indians of York County, as chairman of Indian Affairs Committee for the Catawba Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Subjects include literacy, Santee-Cooper Dam, Winthrop College, World War II, York County Historical Society, York, Chester, and Lancaster Counties and family history material including: Adams, Craig, Jackson, Lesslie, Lessly, Mull, Muehl, Robinson, Taylor, Weidner, Witherspoon, and Wylie families. The collection is a valuable source on women’s club activities and social history in the twentieth century. While the papers range from 1894 to 1967, the greatest part of the collection extends from the late 1920s to 1957.**
JESSIE HUEY LAURENCE PAPERS (cont.)

Jessie Laurence served in various capacities in women’s clubs including President of the South Carolina Federation of Women’s Clubs (1934-1937), President of the Women’s Council for the Common Good (1935-1938), and South Carolina D.A.R. Chairman of Indian Affairs. Her efforts were largely aimed at South Carolina social improvements in such areas as education, historical and wildlife preservation, health care, and planned parenthood. The related papers for the “General Correspondence and Related Papers” series include: speeches, minutes, programs, financial records, memoranda, photographs, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, etc.

Transfer of Items: A 1939 W.P.A. sponsored educational survey entitled, *A Partial History of Some of the Early Schools and Educational Movements of York County* by Palmer Grier Sherer; W.A. Bradford, *The Catawba Indians of South Carolina* (1946), and a 1935 *Papuan Junior Reader* were transferred to the TS department of the Dacus Library for review.
II

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

JESSIE HUEY LAURENCE

1886 Born, Union County, South Carolina

1907 B.A., Winthrop College

1928-1936 Publicity Chairman of South Carolina Federation of Women’s Clubs

1931-1934 First Vice President of South Carolina Federation of Women’s Clubs

1933-1935 President of Winthrop College Alumnae Association

1933-1934 Regent, Catawba Chapter of D.A.R.

1934-1937 President of South Carolina Federation of Women’s Clubs

1934-1937 D.A.R. Chairman of Indian Affairs (South Carolina Chapter)

1935-1938 Co-founder and first President of Women’s Council for the Common Good

1941-1943 Organizer and first President of Women’s Economic Council

1971 Death

(For further list of organizations of which Jessie Laurence was a member, see the 1934-1935 edition of Who’s Who in South Carolina and the 1966-1967 edition of Who’s Who of American Women.)
III

DESCRIPTION OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED PAPERS

The related papers include: the South Carolina Federation Bulletin (1926-ca1945); addresses and speeches of the South Carolina Federation of Women’s Clubs, Women’s Council for the Common Good, and Daughters of the American Revolution; programs; memoranda; minutes from organizational meetings such as Planned Parenthood Federation of America; photographs; newspaper clippings; scrapbooks and other papers. In chronological order.

1 1-3 Much of the correspondence relates to her activity as publicity chairman of the South Carolina Federation of Women’s Clubs (1928-1930) and as the organization's first vice-president (1931-1934). There is also correspondence with Wil Lou Gray, supervisor of adult school, and other agents concerning her efforts to raise the educational and business standards of South Carolina through her position as Chairman of the Steering Committee, York County Literacy Committee; her involvement in the “Write Your Name” campaign to eradicate illiteracy; and her work as District Organizer for the “Live-At-Home” movement, an attempt to promote South Carolina products.

1-2 4-9 Most of the correspondence concerns her term as president of the South Carolina Federation of Women’s Clubs (1934-1937) during which time she was active in promoting a compulsory school attendance bill; co-founding the Women’s Council for the Common Good; and became involved in the P.W.A. Santee-Cooper Dam controversy. Correspondents relating to this phase of her career include R.M. Jeffries, Governor Olin Johnston, Strom Thurmond, Wil Lou Gray, and Charles Cobb. There is other correspondence pertaining to her presidency and her activity as Regent of the Catawba Chapter of the D.A.R.

2-3 10-16 This correspondence deals with a variety of subjects including the Winthrop College Trustee Bill (1942); establishment of the South Carolina Federation of America's board and business meetings; and W.P.A. projects in South Carolina (Laurence was a member of the Advisory Committee for the Professional and Service Division of the W.P.A.). There is also personal correspondence with a WW II soldier who contributed money to her activities.
DESCRIPTION OF GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED PAPERS (cont.)

3  17-20 Most of the correspondence relates to her activities in the D.A.R. She served as Chairman of the American Indian’s Committee and directed a genealogical campaign for the Catawba Chapter. There is also correspondence concerning the establishment of the York County Historical Society. Also includes a list of the members of the Catawba Indian Tribe, Rock Hill, SC (ca1955). Chronologically arranged.
### CONTAINER LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box(es)</th>
<th>Folder(s)</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED PAPERS</td>
<td>1907-Sept. 8, 1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8-14</td>
<td>GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED PAPERS</td>
<td>Sept. 15, 1936- Mar. 1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>PHOTOGRAPH FILE</td>
<td>1937, 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Photographs of Laurence and a D.A.R. sponsored Andrew Jackson State Park (Lancaster County) monument. In chronological order.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>21-27</td>
<td>NEWSPAPER CLIPPING FILE</td>
<td>1894-ca1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Subjects include the South Carolina Federation of Women’s Clubs and the Women's Council for the Common Good, Winthrop College affairs (1942 Trustee Bill and 1964 closing of the Winthrop Training School), and historical article as part of the D.A.R. interest. Arranged topically. See Folder 22 for a list of topics.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>A HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</td>
<td>1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Written by Jessie Laurence.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>29-30</td>
<td>SOUTH CAROLINA BIBLE RECORDS</td>
<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This series consists of typescript copies of Volume 1 and Volume 2 (but not Vol. 3) of genealogical listings compiled by the Ann Pamela Cunningham Chapter of the D.A.R. from family bibles in York, Chester, and Lancaster Counties.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCRAPBOOKS</td>
<td>ca1924-ca1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Contains newspaper articles related to the South Carolina Federation of Women’s Clubs, the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, and the Women’s Council for the Common Good.</td>
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