



2021

Myra Potter Bregger Papers - Accession 763

Myra Potter Bregger

UNICEF

American Association of University Women

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

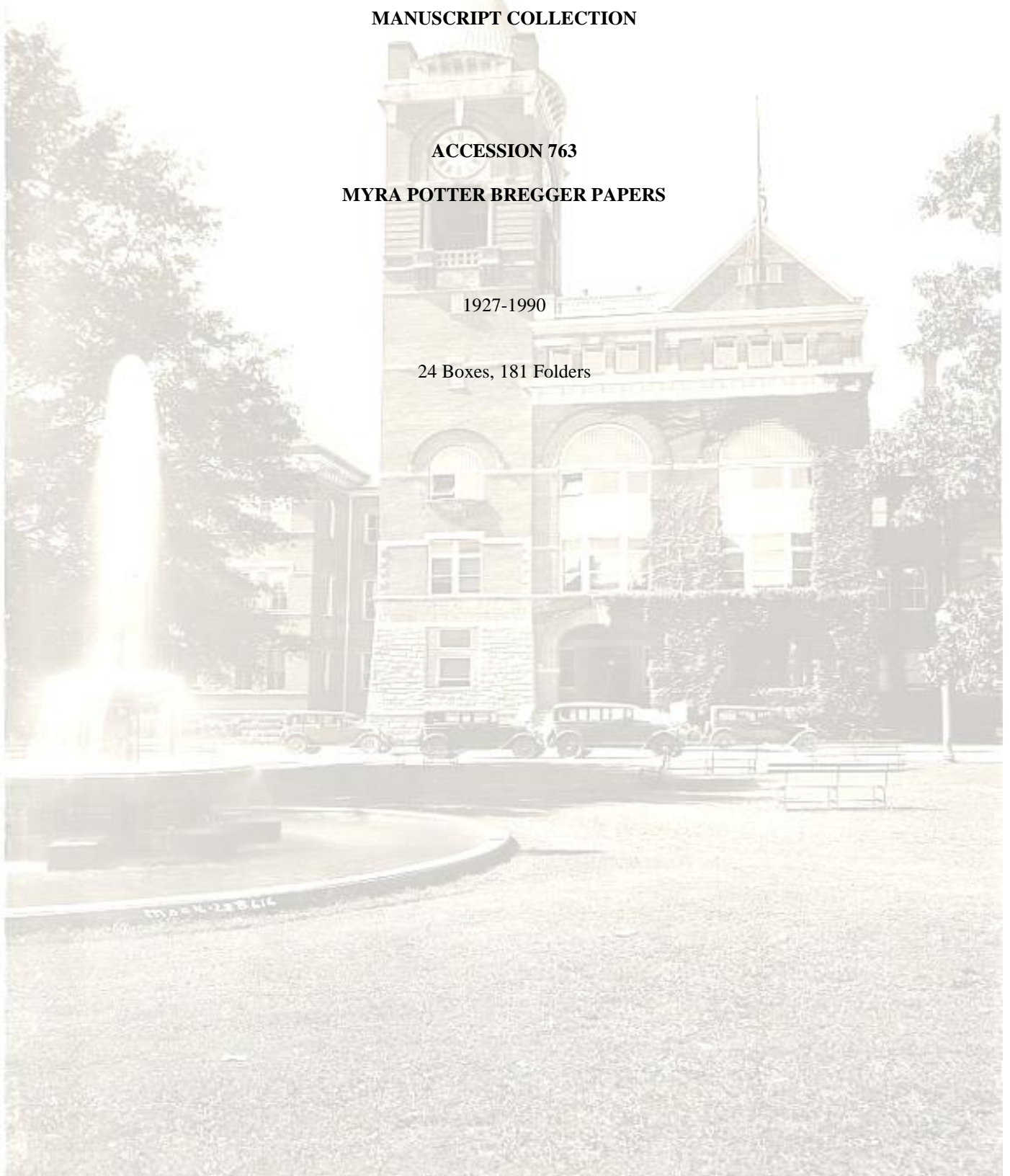
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

ACCESSION 763

MYRA POTTER BREGGER PAPERS

1927-1990

24 Boxes, 181 Folders



WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

ACC. NO.: 763
ADDITIONS: 782, _____, _____

PROCESSED BY: Marsha Therrell
DATE: March 7, 1991
NO. OF SECTIONS: 3

MYRA POTTER BREGGER PAPERS

1

The papers of Myra P. Bregger were deposited with the Archives on November 7, 1991 by Myra P. Bregger.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 6.00
Approximate number of pieces: 12,000

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.

Notices were released to the following journals and catalogs: NUCMC, March 11, 1991.

Scope and Content: **This collection consists of the papers of Myra Potter Bregger (1905-2001), community leader and social activist, and includes personal correspondence and papers spanning over sixty years. Also included are records from various organizations with which Mrs. Bregger worked, such as UNICEF, American Association of University Women, and the South Carolina Citizens Committee on Children and Youth. Especially interesting in this collection are letters written during the Great Depression and during World War II, as well as records kept by Mrs. Bregger on her Children and Nutrition Tour in 1965.**

Disposition of Items: "The Mulvane News" removed March 6, 1991 to oversize.

Related Collections:

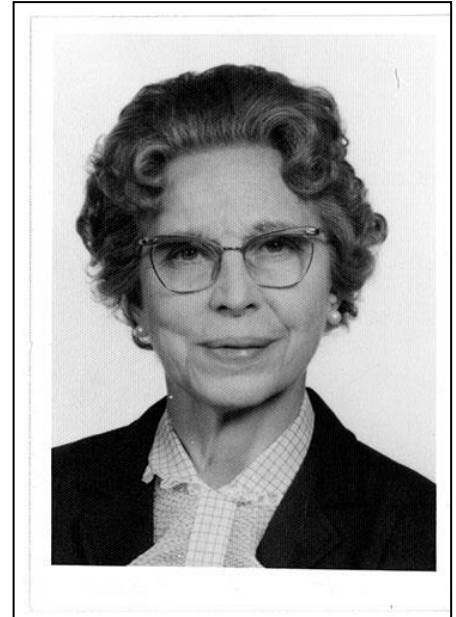
- Myra Potter Bregger Papers - Accession 782
- [John Taylor Bregger Papers](#), UA-10.3.74 are housed at the Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections. (Myra Bregger donated the collection of her husband)
- [Louis A. Bregger Papers](#), UA-10.3.93 are housed at the Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections. (Myra Bregger donated the collection of her father-in-law)

II

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

MYRA POTTER BREGGER

- 1905 Born in Mulvane, Kansas
- 1912-1918 Attended Mt. Pleasant Rural School in Sumner County, KS
- 1923 Graduated from Mulvane High School
- 1923-1924 Attended Kansas Teacher's College, Emporia
- 1924-1926 Attended Washburn, University, Topeka, Kansas
- 1926-1930 Attended Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science.
- Aug. 1, 1928 Graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics from Kansas State College.
- July 31, 1930 Graduated with a Master of Science from Kansas State College.
- 1930 Accepted position at Washington State College, Pullman, Washington, to do research on Washington fruits and instruct in foods and nutrition.
- Nov. 3, 1930 Met John Taylor Bregger at a banquet at Washington State College.
- June 21, 1932 Married John Taylor Bregger in Spokane, Washington.
- 1932-1933 Lived in Ithaca, New York where John T. Bregger had a visiting professorship.
- 1936 Son, John E. (Jack) Bregger was born.
- 1939 Daughter, Margaret B. Bregger was born and moved to Clemson, South Carolina.
- 1945 Son, Louis Bregger born.
- 1951-1953 Chairman, Clemson branch of AAUW.
- 1953 Founded Clemson Center for Continuing Education.
- 1953-1980 Chairman and/or director of Clemson Center for Continuing Education.
- 1954 Chairman of South Carolina Citizens Committee on Children and Youth.
- 1957-1959 President of South Carolina Division of AAUW.
- 1965 Children and Nutrition Tour around the World.
- 1966-1977 South Carolina State Representative for UNICEF.
- 1970 Visit to Ecuador.
- 1981 Husband, John Taylor Bregger died.



II

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

MYRA POTTER BREGGER (cont.)

2001, Nov. 7 Myra Potter Bregger died

Obituary: The Greenville News, November 9, 2001

CLEMSON - An Upstate champion of children's causes for seven decades, Myra Potter Bregger died at home Wednesday at the age of 96.

Mrs. Bregger was South Carolina's UNICEF chairwoman for 11 years, established the school lunch program in Clemson, helped found the library, Girl Scouts and youth theater in Clemson, and served as state and Pickens County chairman of the Committee on Children and Youth. In 1960, she chaired and edited a White House Conference report on the future of children in Pickens County and South Carolina.

"More than anything she cared about children," said Louis Bregger, the youngest of her three children. "That was her deepest concern."

She also cared about education, women's issues, her church and her community.

Mrs. Bregger was founder and director of the Clemson Area Continuing Education Center, the first adult education center in the Upstate, from 1954-1980.

She helped found Clemson's Meals on Wheels, Clemson's League of Women's Voters, and was an officer and founding member of Clemson Community Council. She was a member of Clemson Theater Guild, past president of Clemson PTA, state president of the American Association of University Women, a member of the Federal Legislation Committee of the state Interagency Council on Aging and county chairman of the state Women's Council for the Common Good

She was a founding member of the Greenville Unitarian Fellowship in 1950 and of the Clemson Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in 1953.

"She was my mentor for many years," said Berniece Holt, a leader in the Clemson community, who recalls dinners at the Bregger home.

"She used dishes she'd gathered from around the world to entertain guests," Holt said. "She took great pride in making people sit next to someone besides their husbands and keep a lot of good conversations going. She stimulated lots of conversations in this community, too. She was way ahead of her time."

Mrs. Bregger was a teacher to those around her, speaking her mind bluntly but with love, and fully expecting others to work to make a difference in the world, Holt said.

Born on a Mulvane, Kan., farm, Mrs. Bregger earned a masters' degree in nutrition and chemistry from Kansas State University, and was doing research at Washington State University on the vitamin value of fruits when she met her husband, horticultural engineer John Taylor Bregger.

She moved to Clemson in 1939, when her husband took a job with USDA Soil Conservation Service to help start the peach industry in South Carolina, her son said.

"Mom came here and there was no school lunch program and she couldn't imagine how that could be and she changed that," Bregger said.

II

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

MYRA POTTER BREGGER (cont.)

The library, Girl Scouts, theater and UNICEF involvement all followed, he said.

"She was very much involved with children's issues," Bregger said.

The state American Association of University Women's Research and Projects Foundation was named in her honor in 1979. She received the state organization's Women of Distinction Award and the local International Relations Award. She is a recipient of the Clemson Rotary Award for Community Service, the Sydney Sullivan Award for Clemson University and the Unitarian Universalist Unsung Hero Award. Survivors: Son, John E. Bregger, of Tacoma, Wash.; daughter, Margaret B. Coston, of Windsor, Calif.; son, Louis D. Bregger, of Clemson; nine nieces and nephews; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

III

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
A) PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE			
1-10	1-68	PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE Consists of the personal correspondence to and from Myra P. Bregger in chronological order. Series includes love letters to and from her husband, John T. Bregger prior to their marriage in 1932. Series also includes letters from her mother-in-law, Anna H. Bregger, during World War II, and letters and cards from her mother and sisters as well as other family members and friends. Series also includes several memos from Myra P. Bregger concerning letters and correspondents.	1931-1990
B) ORGANIZATIONAL PAPERS Consists of papers of various organizations in which Myra P. Bregger was involved. Papers are arranged in alphabetical order by organization and chronologically within each organization.			
10-12	69-92	AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN PAPERS	1936-1990
13	93-95	BROWNIE SCOUT LEADER PAPERS	1946-1954
13-14	96-106	CHILDREN AND NUTRITION TOUR	1965
15	107	CENSUS	1960
15	108	CLEMSON AREA ARTS COUNCIL	1989
15	109	CLEMSON AREA INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP	1964-1990
15	110	CLEMSON AREA YOUTH THEATER	1968-1979
15-16	111-123	CLEMSON CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION	1953-1980
16	124	CLEMSON UNIVERSITY INAUGURATION	1980-1982
16	125	CONGRESSIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS INTERN PROGRAM	1982
16	126	DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION	1947
17	127	HEALTH FAIR	1982
17	128	FRIENDS OF CLEMSON COMMUNITY LIBRARY	1936-1989
17	129	LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS	1965
17	130	MEALS ON WHEELS	1973-1988
17	131	PICKENS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION	1962-1964
17	132	RED CROSS	1941-1943
17	133-134	ROTARY CLUB	1942-1980

III

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES (cont.)

<u>Box(es)</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
19-19	135-151	SOUTH CAROLINA CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH	1950-1963
19	152-153	UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP	1979-1986
20-21	154-166	UNICEF	1965-1990
C) PERSONAL PAPERS			
21-23	167-176	PERSONAL PAPERS Consists of various personal papers including college records and transcripts, biographical information and vitas, and several bulletins and programs. In chronological order.	1927-1986
23	178	ANNUAL FAMILY NEWSLETTERS Consists of newsletters written every Christmas to update family and friends about events during the year. In chronological order.	1943-1990
23	179	PHOTOGRAPHS	1953-1988
23	180-181	NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS	1929-1989
24	--	VARIOUS ITEMS Consists of doll clothes formed in a chest purchased by John T. Bregger in 1935 or 1936, Includes three bonnets, a straw hat, a pair of pants and a pair of red leather shoes. Also included is Myra P. Bregger's name tag from her 50 th reunion at Kansas State University.	1978, nd