Salem Academy and College Archives
Dale H. Gramley Library

**Title Information**
Finding Aid for: The Hattie Marie Strong Collection
Accession Number: 2012-1
Date Range: 1860-1950
Bulk Dates: 1898-1940's
Finding Aid created by: Julia Jennings, class of 2019.
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**Summary Information**
Creator: Hattie Marie Corrin Strong
Extent: 10 linear feet (5 boxes and 3 oversized boxes)
Abstract: The records of the Hattie Marie Strong Collection include correspondences, diaries, writings, photographs, scrapbooks, and an autobiography.
Call Number: Salem Academy and College Archives, Basement, Vault
Language: The material is in English and some French.

**Access and Use**
Acquisition Information: A small percentage of these records were acquired by the Salem Academy and College Archives after the death of Hattie Marie Strong following her death and residence at Salem College in 1950. The majority of the records (accession no.: 2012-1) were donated by the Hattie M. Strong Foundation in Washington, D.C in 2012. Future additions to the collection are expected.
Access Restrictions: The record group is open to research.
Copyright: Copyright remains with Salem Academy and College.
Cite As: [item], Folder, Box, Hattie M. Strong Collection, Salem Academy and College Archives.

**Background Information**
History: Hattie Maria Corrin was born in South Coventry, Connecticut on October 23, 1864. She was educated in private schools and enjoyed a comfortable existence until the business recession of 1877 and the death of her father a few years later drastically affected the family’s fortunes. The family moved in with relatives and Hattie contributed to their support by giving piano lessons.

She was married in 1888 to Lester B. Lockwood and moved with him to Tacoma in what was then the Territory of Washington. Her only child, Lester Corrin, was born there in 1892. In 1897 the marriage failed and she found herself alone with very limited financial resources and a young son to support. The Alaska Gold Rush was in full swing and in casting about for some means of supporting herself and her son, she and a friend, a professional nurse, decided to establish a combination hospital-hotel in Skagway for sick and injured miners. The two women pooled their resources to purchase building materials and medical supplies. En route to Alaska they were shipwrecked in a blizzard outside Skagway, losing all their provisions and barely escaping with their lives. She supported herself for about three years in Skagway in a variety of jobs, including nurse, assistant to a physician and steamship ticket agent, until the rigors of the life in Skagway affected her health. She returned to Tacoma, where she found
employment as the supervisor of a mens’ club. Further decline in her health forced her to move to a milder climate and she used the small savings she had accumulated for her son’s education to move to southern California.

While convalescing in California, she met and in 1905 married Henry Alvah Strong, co-founder and first president of what is now the Eastman Kodak Company. Mr. Strong, a widower twenty-five years her senior, legally adopted her son and the marriage was an unusually happy one until Mr. Strong’s death in 1919.

Having made the transition from a life of struggle and hardship to one of considerable luxury, Mrs. Strong dedicated the remainder of her life to helping others less fortunate than herself. The list of her charitable activities and honors is lengthy but includes the establishment in 1927 of a retreat near Paris for face-wounded veterans of the French Army (for which she received the Legion of Honor), the establishment of the Hattie M. Strong Foundation in 1928, and gifts of various buildings to hospitals, educational institutions and social service agencies in the United States, Europe, Asia and Africa.

The consistent theme which ran through all her philanthropic activities was the desire to help people to help themselves. She disliked “charity” and constantly stressed the value of work, dedication and strength of character.

She died on June 6, 1950 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.


Scope and Content and Arrangement
Scope and Content: The records of the Hattie Marie Strong Collection include correspondences, diaries, writings, accolades including medals, photographs, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, some printed material, financial, legal, and personal records, and an autobiography. The highlights of the collection include the unpublished autobiography, many photographs (including autographs of prominent individuals), accolades, and scrapbooks.

Subject Terms
- Strong, Hattie M., Salem College alumnae.
- Salem college alumnae Scrapbooks.
- Salem College buildings Photographs.

Related Material
- Lester Corrin Strong Collection, Salem Academy & College Archives, Gramley Library.
- Hattie Strong Foundation – Correspondence, Date: 2012 (folder, file cabinet, basement, Gramley Library.)
Contents Listing

Box A: Folder 1 – Finding Aid & Biography.
Box A: Folder 2 – Correspondence – Salem College, Dates: 1940-1950.
Box A: Folder 5 – Correspondence – Rollins College, Dates: 1944-1949.
Box A: Folder 6 – Correspondence – Keuka College, Dates: 1947-1950.
Box A: Folder 7 – Correspondence – Mary Breckinridge, Dates: 1939-1949.
Box A: Folder 8 – Correspondence – E. G. Miner, Dates: 1933-1934.
Box A: Folder 11 – Correspondence – Girl Friday, Date: 1943.
Box A: Folder 12 – Correspondence – Face Wounded Hospital, Dates: 1950-1952.
Box A: Folder 15 – Correspondence – Miscellaneous, Dates: 1946-1950.
Box A: Folder 17 – Correspondence – Letters from Hattie M. Strong to U.S. Presidents.
Box A: Folder 21 – Correspondence – Skagway Letters, Dates: 1898-1900.
Box A: Folder 22 – Correspondence – White-Horse Letters, Date: 1900.
Box A: Folder 28 – Autobiography – Notes, Date: 1946.
Box B: Folder 32 – Photographs – Alaska, Dates: 1897-1898.
Box B: Folder 33 – Photographs – Unsorted, Dates: 1940s.
Box B: Folder 34 – Printed Material – Book – The Argonaut, Date: 1933.
Box B: Folder 35 – Correspondence – Publication of the Argonaut, Date: 1930-1937
Box B: Folder 36 – Clippings – The Argonaut, Date: 1933.
Box B: Folder 37 – Manuscript – The Argonaut (with notes), Date: 1932
Box B: Folder 38 – Clippings – Miscellaneous, Date: 1940.
Box B: Folder 39 – Clubs and Memberships, Date: 1936-1937
Box B: Folder 40 – Clippings on HMS death, Date: 1950.
Box B: Folder 41 – Appreciations after death, Dates: 1950-1951
Box B: Folder 42 – Writings – Famous People Series, Date: 1945
Box B: Folder 43 – Genealogy, Dates: 1929-1949
Box B: Folder 44 – Notebooks & Address Books – Foreign Addresses.
Box B: Folder 47 – Printed Material; Brochures, Dates: 1999-2012.
Box C: Folder 51 – Medical Record, Date: 1949.
Box C: Folder 52 – Life Insurance policy of Vaughn Morrill, Date: 1918.
Box C: Folder 53 – Passport, Date: 1931.
Box C: Folder 54 – Christmas Cards, Date: 1930.
Box C: Folder 59 – Diary – Bound, Date: 1950.
Box C: Folder 61 – Artifact -- Silver Trowel Dates: 1912.