

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.

Copyright Salem Academy and College Archives.

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.

Source for this biography: "About Hattie M. Strong", The Hattie Strong Foundation website, <http://www.hattie.org/about-2/hattie/>, 2017.

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 3 – Correspondence – Salem College, Dates: 1949-2002.
- Box A: Folder 4 – Correspondence – Rollins College, Dates: 1931-1950.
- 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 9 – Correspondence – Hans Kindler, Dates: 1938-1949.
- Box A: Folder 10 – Correspondence – The Comptons, Dates: 1938-1949.
- Box A: Folder 11 – Correspondence – Girl Friday, Date: 1943.
- Box A: Folder 12 – Correspondence – Face Wounded Hospital, Dates: 1950-1952.
- Box A: Folder 13 – Correspondence – J. Edgar Hoover, Dates: 1948-1950.
- Box A: Folder 14 – Correspondence – Col. Joseph Byron, Dates: 1939-1949.
- Box A: Folder 15 – Correspondence – Miscellaneous, Dates: 1946-1950.
- Box A: Folder 16 – Correspondence – Business, Dates: 1948-1950.
- Box A: Folder 17 – Correspondence – Letters from Hattie M. Strong to U.S. Presidents.
- Box A: Folder 18 – Correspondence – Personal, Very Personal. Dates: 1926-1939.
- Box A: Folder 19 – Correspondence – Jane Byron, Dates: 1931-1938.
- Box A: Folder 20 – Correspondence – Alaska Letters. pp. 1-46, Dates: 1898-1899.
- Box A: Folder 21 – Correspondence – Skagway Letters, Dates: 1898-1900.
- Box A: Folder 22 – Correspondence – White-Horse Letters, Date: 1900.
- Box A: Folder 23 – Autobiography, Dates: 1898-1909.
- Box A: Folder 24 – Autobiography, Dates: 1910-1921.
- Box A: Folder 25 – Autobiography, Dates: 1922-1927.
- Box A: Folder 26 – Autobiography, Dates: 1928-1943.
- Box A: Folder 27 – Autobiography – Rough Draft, Date: 1937.
- Box A: Folder 28 – Autobiography – Notes, Date: 1946.
- Box A: Folder 29 – Autobiography – Photocopied Chapters.
- Box B: Folder 30 – Photographs, Dates: 1890-1949.
- Box B: Folder 31 – Photographs, Dates: 1860 & 1917. Includes Daguerreotype.
- 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 45 – Awards & Recognitions – Rollins College, Dates: 1927-1950.
Box B: Folder 46 – Transcripts – “Aunt Hattie Stories”, Date: 1949.
Box B: Folder 47 – Printed Material; Brochures, Dates: 1999-2012.
Box B: Folder 48 – Reports: Baker’s Dozen, Dates: 1946-1950.
Box B: Folder 49 – Legal Documents – Power of Attorney & Will, Dates: 1926-1949.
Box C: Folder 50 – Financial Records, Dates: 1929-1946.
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 55 – Printed Material – Books, Dates: 1924-1981.
Box C: Folder 56 – Diary – Bound, Dates: 1920-1929.
Box C: Folder 57 – Diary – Bound, Dates: 1930-1939.
Box C: Folder 58 – Diary – Bound, Dates: 1940-1949.
Box C: Folder 59 – Diary – Bound, Date: 1950.
Box C: Folder 60 – Diary – Loose-leaf, Dates: 1923-1943.
Box C: Folder 61 – Artifact -- Silver Trowel Dates: 1912.
Box C: Folder 62 – Oversized Material -- Includes Medals. Dates: 1927-1950.
Box D: Folder 63 – Scrapbook: Hawaii –Dates: 1893.
Box D: Folder 64 – Scrapbook: Strong Foundation. Dates: 1936-1948.
Box D: Folder 65 – Scrapbook: Salem – Dates: 1939-1947.
Box D: Folder 66 – Scrapbook: Hattie Marie Strong – Dates: 1938-1946.
Box D: Folder 67 – Scrapbook: The Argonaut – Dates: 1933-1940.
Box D: Folder 68 – Scrapbook: Anthology of H.M.S. (Her Poems) – Dates: 1942-1943.
Box E: Folder 69 – Scrapbook: South Coventry Connecticut – Dates: 1874-1935.
Box E: Folder 70 – Scrapbook: Buildings Built – Dates: 1950.
Box E: Folder 71 – Scrapbook: Flag Association -- Dates: 1930-1931.
Box E: Folder 72 – Scrapbook: Alaska -- Dates: 1898-1899.
Box E: Folder 73 – Scrapbook: YWCA – Dates: 1936-1942.