WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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: 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 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

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. 1928-1933

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. 1934-1937

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. 1938-1945
III

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.
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<td>SCRAPBOOKS</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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