Overview of Collection

Creator: Luther Nicholas Byrd

Title: Luther Byrd Genealogical Collection

Dates: 1930-1982

Quantity: 6 cubic feet

Abstract: These materials are a partial collection of the personal files of Luther Nicholas Byrd. This collection contains genealogy files, personal research papers, newspaper clippings, and correspondence. This collection was donated to the Surry Community College Archives and Genealogy Room by the Mt. Airy Regional Museum. It is believed that the Museum kept some, if not the majority of the records, including photographs, from the Luther N. Byrd collection. The majority of this collection is the extensive genealogy research performed by Byrd.

Language: English

Repository: Surry Community College Library Archives
Surry Community College
630 S. Main Street
Dobson, NC 27017

Biography: Luther Nicholas Byrd was born in Ellerbe, North Carolina, moved to Mt. Airy at the age of ten. Graduating from Mt. Airy schools he attended UNC-Chapel Hill majoring in English and History. At Carolina he became a sports journalist and served on the yearbook staff. By the beginning of his junior year he was “in charge of publicity for all sports teams.” In 1929 he returned to Surry County, becoming a teacher at Westfield School and the editor for the Mount Airy Times. He also directed the Surry County baseball and softball leagues and during the 1930s. “His 19-year tenure at the school included 14 conference championships in track.” In 1932 he persuaded Frank Spencer to include girls’ basketball teams in the Northwest Basketball Tournament and became known as the “godfather” of girls’ basketball. He married June Stone in 1932. During the war years he served on the Selective Service Board, was a scoutmaster of a boy scout troop, and Sunday School superintendent. From 1945 to 1948 he was principal of Westfield School. He then returned to Chapel Hill to earn his masters and doctorate in History. In 1949 he became a history and journalism professor at Elon. “It has been said that he taught more than 40 percent of all graduates between 1953 and 1975.” He retired from Elon College in 1975 and passed away in 1982 at the age of 77. (Taken from The Mount Airy News, Sunday March 28, 1993.)
Mr. Byrd was a widely known genealogist, conducting research for over 150 families in Surry County. The Mount Airy Museum and the North Carolina State Archives are the repositories for other parts of his collection.

**Scope and Contents of the Collection:**

This collection is made up of genealogy records, coat of arms files, personal research papers, newspaper clippings, and correspondence. Due to federal laws the class records will not be included for research. The collection was donated by the Mt. Airy Regional Museum. This collection is divided into two series available for research: Series I. Genealogy Research and II. Personal papers and General Files. Each series is arranged alphabetically or chronologically. The coat of arms collection is renderings of a family’s coat of arms based on Byrd’s interpretation of their last name. These coat of arms renderings appear to have been produced for profit rather than historical accuracy. They are not available for research.

**Arrangement of the Collection:** The collection is arranged in two series. Series one includes the genealogy family research and is arranged by file alphabetically. The second series includes personal papers, commentary on specific families, and materials generated by his wife.

**Restrictions:** Research for this collection is limited to the genealogy collection. The papers are in very poor condition. Requests must be made to Sebrina Mabe.

**Inventory:**

**Box 1:**
Series I. Genealogy Research

- Adams
- Arney, Arnold Arnett
- Armstrong
- Anthony
- Anderson
- Ashburn
- Arrington
- Arrendall
- Atwater
- Ballard
- Banner
- Barber
- Beard
- Beasley
- Bingman
- Blackwood
- Boone-Bryan
- Brassfield
- Brewer
- Bradwell
- Brooks
- Browder
Cain
Campbell
Carson
Chilton
Cockerham
Clark
Christian
Cobb
Collins
Corder
Covington
Cook-Cooke
Cox
Cromwell
Crook
Crouse
Darnell
Davis
Dearmin
Deatherage
Dennu
Dickson
Dudley
East
Epperson

Box 2:

Farris
Fleming
Flippin
Forsythe
Frances-Frans-Francis
Freeland
Freeman
Fray-Fry
Fulk
Gates
Gentry
George
Goin
Goodman
Gordan
Grubbs
Hall
Hamm
Harkey
Harris
Hartgrove
Haymore
Hiatt
Hill
Hollingsworth
Hopkins
Hubbard
Hudspeth-Hutchens
Humphries
Hunter
Inman
Jackson
James
Jessup
Johnson-Johnston
Joyce

Box 3:

Kerner
Key
King
Krause-Krouse
Ladd
Lamb
Leake
Lee
Linville
Longino
Looney-Murphy Looney History
Love
Lowder
Lowe
Lynch
McCraw
Mckinney
McRae
Marshall
Matthews
Mills
Miscellaneous I
Miscellaneous II
Miscellaneous III
Neal
Nicholson
Nixon
Nunn
Oldham
Owen
Patterson
Payne
Peacock
Pearce

**Box 4:**

Pell
Phillips
Pledge
Pruitt
Poindexter
Poynter
Raford-Redford
Redding
Riddle
Rothrock
Roberts
Scaife
Scales
Scott
Shelor
Shelton
Sheppard-Shepherd
Slate
Smith
Simmons
Snody
Sparger
Stanley
Steele
Stevens
Stevenson
Stone (June Byrd)
Stone
Tilley

**Box 5:**

Taylor
Taylor
Templeton
Thomas
Thompson
Thornton
Turrentine
Tuttle
Waggoner
Walker
Wall
Westmoreland
Weaver
Wichner
Wilburn
Williams
Wilson
Winstead
Wright
Westfield Miscellaneous
Sons of American Revolution
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Surry, Stokes, and Wilkes Families

Box 6:

Series II: Personal Papers and General Files

Byrd
June Byrd
Family Trees A-I
Family Trees J-N
Family Trees O-Z
Miscellaneous A-E
Miscellaneous F-J
Miscellaneous K-O
Miscellaneous U-Y
Byrd Papers written in School:
  - Epitaph of Colonel William Byrd II
  - Second Administration of Sir William Berkeley 1660-1677
  - Presidential Election of 1800 written in 1949 by Luther Byrd
  - Education in Iraq Written in 1946.