

Charl Ormond Williams Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78013722>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012028>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012
Revised 2023 September

Collection Summary

Title: Charl Ormond Williams Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1924-1959

Bulk Dates: 1935-1945

ID No.: MSS13722

Creator: Williams, Charl Ormond, 1885-1969

Extent: 3,200 items

Extent: 9 containers

Extent: 4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78013722>

Summary: Educator. Correspondence, memoranda, telegrams, reports, newspaper clippings, and printed material relating to Williams's association with the National Education Association of the United States and her work in the field of education and educational reform, including her participation in the 1944 White House Conference on Rural Education.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Barkley, Alben William, 1877-1956--Correspondence.
Beard, Mary Ritter, 1876-1958--Correspondence.
Bethune, Mary McLeod, 1875-1955--Correspondence.
Black, Hugo LaFayette, 1886-1971--Correspondence.
Byrnes, James F. (James Francis), 1882-1972--Correspondence.
Connally, Tom, 1877-1963--Correspondence.
Forrestal, James, 1892-1949--Correspondence.
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence.
Kahn, Herman, 1907-1975--Correspondence.
Luce, Clare Boothe, 1903-1987--Correspondence.
Morgenthau, Henry, 1891-1967--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Smith, Henry Lester, 1876- --Correspondence.
Smith, Margaret Chase, 1897-1995--Correspondence.
Stevenson, Adlai E. (Adlai Ewing), 1900-1965--Correspondence.
Truman, Bess Wallace--Correspondence.
Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence.
Wallace, Henry A. (Henry Agard), 1888-1965--Correspondence.
Williams, Charl Ormond, 1885-1969.
Woodruff, Caroline Salome, 1866- --Correspondence.

Organizations

Democratic Party (U.S.)
National Education Association of the United States.
United States. Supreme Court.
White House Conference on How Women May Share in Post-War Policy-Making (1944 : Washington, D.C.)
White House Conference on Rural Education (1944 : Washington, D.C.)

Subjects

Church and state--United States.
Depressions--1929--United States.

Education and state--United States.
Education, Rural--United States.
Education--United States.
Educational change--United States.
Indians of North America.
People with disabilities--Employment--United States.
Public welfare--Law and legislation--United States.
Segregation in education--United States.
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees.

Occupations

Educators.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Charl Ormond Williams, educator, were given to the Library of Congress by her estate in 1970.

Processing History

The papers of Charl Ormond Williams were arranged and described in 1978. The finding aid was revised in 2011 by Clifford Muse. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charl Ormond Williams is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Charl Ormond Williams are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Charl Ormond Williams Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1885, Jan. 24	Born, Arlington, Tenn.
1903	Graduate, Arlington Secondary School, Arlington, Tenn.
1915-1922	Superintendent of schools, Shelby County, Tenn. First woman from Tennessee to serve on the Democratic National Committee First female vice-chair, Democratic National Committee
1921	Chair, ratification committee, when Tennessee ratified 19th amendment President, National Education Association of the United States
1923-1930	National chair, School Education, National Congress of Parents and Teachers

1930-1934	Director, Department of Education, and 5th vice-president, National Congress of Parents and Teachers
1933-1935	First vice-president, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs
1934	Published <i>Our Public Schools</i> . Washington, D.C.: National Congress of Parents and Teachers
1934-1942	National chair, School Education, National Congress of Parents and Teachers
1935-1937	President, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs
1939	Published with Frank W. Hubbard <i>Schools for Democracy</i> . Chicago: National Congress of Parents and Teachers
1969, Jan. 14	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charl Ormond Williams (1885-1969) span the years 1924 to 1959, with the bulk of the materials concentrated in the period 1935-1945. The collection consists of letters sent and received, memoranda, lists, telegrams, pamphlets, newspaper items, magazine articles, notes, charts, reports, and printed material. The papers are organized into eight series: [Democratic Souvenir File](#), [Eleanor Roosevelt](#), [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#), [Franklin Roosevelt Memorial Library](#), [Harry S. Truman](#), [White House Conference on Rural Education \(1944\)](#), [White Conference on How Women May Share in Post-War Policy-Making \(1944\)](#), and [Miscellany](#).

Williams sought to strengthen public education and increase opportunities for women, and these subjects constitute the principal themes in her papers. There are materials on welfare legislation, rural education, proposals for a federal department of education, school segregation, effects of the Depression on education, and related issues. Additional subjects include the separation of church and state, employment of people with disabilities, Native Americans, the 1937 Supreme Court packing plan controversy, and the plight of displaced persons resulting from World War II.

Correspondence with Eleanor Roosevelt constitutes a major portion of the collection. Other prominent correspondents include Alben William Barkley, Mary Ritter Beard, Mary McLeod Bethune, Hugo LaFayette Black, James F. Byrnes, Tom Connally, James Forrestal, William A. Hastings, Cordell Hull, Herman Kahn, Virginia Kletzer, Clare Boothe Luce, Henry Morgenthau (1891-1967), Henry Lester Smith, Margaret Chase Smith, Adlai Stevenson (1900-1965), Bess Wallace Truman, Henry A. Wallace, Caroline S. Woodruff, and other members of the Roosevelt family.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- [Democratic Souvenir File, 1936](#)
- [Eleanor Roosevelt, 1924-1959](#)
- [Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1935-1949](#)
- [Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Library, 1947](#)
- [Harry S. Truman, 1945-1954](#)
- [White House Conference on Rural Education \(1944\), 1944-1954](#)
- [White House Conference on How Women May Share in Post-War Policy Making \(1944\), 1944-1948](#)
- [Miscellany, 1937-1955](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>Democratic Souvenir File, 1936</u> Letters, telegrams, lists, and charts. Arranged by topic or type of material.</p>
BOX 1-3	<p><u>Eleanor Roosevelt, 1924-1959</u> Magazine articles, letters, newspaper items, telegrams, pamphlets, reports, printed materials, and cards. Arranged by topic or type of material.</p>
BOX 4-5	<p><u>Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1935-1949</u> Newspaper items, telegrams, printed materials, letters, and pamphlets. Arranged by topic or type of material.</p>
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BOX 6	<p><u>Harry S. Truman, 1945-1954</u> Letters, notes, reports, and newspaper items. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 6-7	<p><u>White House Conference on Rural Education (1944), 1944-1954</u> Letters, magazine articles, telegrams, pamphlets, printed materials, and reports. Arranged by topic or type of material.</p>
BOX 7-8	<p><u>White House Conference on How Women May Share in Post-War Policy-Making (1944), 1944-1948</u> Letters, telegrams, reports, newspaper items, printed materials, and lists. Arranged by topic or type of material.</p>
BOX 9	<p><u>Miscellany, 1937-1955</u> Pamphlets, printed materials, and newspaper items. Arranged by topic or type of material.</p>

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Eleanor Roosevelt, 1924-1959

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Miscellany, 1937-1955

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Arranged by topic or type of material.

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