Author:

Finding aid prepared by Patricia Barrett, February 2, 2013

Provenance

Waights G. Henry, Jr., John Lawrence, Judy Greer, Geiger

Identity:

Reference code RG1500.10.11.10
Location: Range 1, Section 2, Shelf 2

Name and location of repository

LaGrange College, Suber Archives at The Frank and Laura Lewis Library, 601 Broad Street, LaGrange, Georgia 30240 (706) 880-8995.

Collection title

Lafayette Collections

Dates

1927-1991

Extent

2 boxes documents, photographs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, books
Approximately 2.5 linear feet. Includes assorted artifacts currently on display at Lewis Library, LaGrange College. (6 display cases, each 45" wide, containing 2 shelves.)
Approximately 50 books available displayed in the LaGrange College Library Catalogue in Special Collections

Content

Includes administrative history and biographical notes. Assorted documents, books, photographs, pamphlets, news clippings, and artifacts related to Lafayette and, in particular to the 1976 Bicentennial celebration in LaGrange, Georgia. Photographs of statue of Lafayette being cast and assembled in Italy.

Biography: Waights G. Henry/History (Copied from Troup County Archives, LaGrange, Georgia)


“Waights G. Henry, Jr., was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on February 13, 1910, to Dr. Waights and Mary Henry. He later married Mamie Lark Brown and together they had three children, two sons, George and Waights III, and a daughter, Mary Ann Kirven. Waights Henry, Jr., was a United Methodist minister in the Atlanta area before coming to LaGrange in 1948 to serve as president of LaGrange College. He held this position until 1978. During his tenure as president, enrollment of the college grew from 250 to 1000. The campus also underwent significant growth including the building of Banks Library, the chapel, and the Cason Callaway Science Building. He took on an active role in higher education in Georgia. He served as president of the Georgia Association of Colleges, the Georgia Foundation for...
Independent Colleges, and the Association of Private Colleges and Universities in Georgia. Henry was also an active civic leader. He served as president of the LaGrange Rotary Club and district governor; chairman of the LaGrange United Fund, Troup County Red Cross, and the LaGrange Bicentennial Celebration Commission. He was a Sunday columnist for the Columbus Ledger Enquirer; director of the Chattahoochee Valley Art Association and the Troup County Cancer Society; and was a charter member of the Troup County Historical Society. He died on May 29, 1989.”

John Lawrence

John D. Lawrence, Callaway Professor of Art and Design, is Callaway Professor of Art and Design and the Director of the Lamar Dodd Art Center of LaGrange College. Mr. Lawrence studied at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Atlanta College of Art and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Tulane University. He joined the faculty at LaGrange College in 1970. Since that time he has been active in the cultural life of LaGrange, as well as Georgia and the Southeast area in general. He is a frequent lecturer at civic clubs, colleges and art related meetings and has served as juror of many exhibitions throughout the Southeast. As the Director of the Lamar Dodd Art Center, he has established one of the largest college museum collections of twentieth century photography in the Southeast.

In 1982, Mr. Lawrence served as Visual Arts Director of the Atlanta Arts Festival in Piedmont Park. He was also the Curator of the 1981 "Artists in Georgia" exhibition, the first time that this annual exhibit was held outside the High Museum of Atlanta. He has served as President and board member of the Chattahoochee Valley Art Museum and has been co-chairman of the LaGrange National Art Competition for twenty-one years. He has served on committees for the Georgia Council of the Arts, as a board member of the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries, and as a juror for the 1987 Southeastern Photography Grants awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts. In 1995, in advance of the 1996 Olympic Games, Mr. Lawrence served on the advisory panel to select sculpture for the Centennial Olympic park in Atlanta. He also served on the grants panel for institutions and artist's projects for the Bureau of Cultural Affairs for the city of Atlanta. He was a participant at the Maine Photographic Workshop with George Tice and studied at the Ansel Adams Workshop in Carmel, California. In the summer of 1984 he was an artist-in-residence with the University of Georgia's Studies Abroad Program in Cortona, Italy. A two person exhibition of his photographs from Cortona and the watercolors by Lamar Dodd was presented in several galleries throughout the Southeast during the 1995-96 period including Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi and at the D.D.Patty Museum in Columbus, Mississippi. He returned to Cortona to teach photography for the University of Georgia during the spring session of 1994 and again for the Maymester in 1999. An exhibit of his photographs of Italy opened in 1995 at the Atlanta Financial Center, curated by Barkin-Leeds, Ltd. In the spring of 1998, his work was shown at the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Georgia in a traveling exhibition, Artists in the Liberal Arts Tradition. In the fall
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of 1998, an exhibition of recent photographs from Greece and Italy was held at the Piedmont College Art Gallery and at the Cabaniss Fine Arts Center in Birmingham, Alabama. In collaboration with the painter, Basilios Poulos, he exhibited photographs in an exhibition, From Karies, a Greek Village, of three summers of photographic work in Greece. In the summer of 2000, he was a guest professor of photography with the State University of West Georgia's Studies Abroad program in Normandy, France. In 2001, he exhibited photographs of the Chateaux's of the Marquis de Lafayette and landscapes of Normandy during a festival celebration of the French Connection in LaGrange, Georgia. In the fall of 2004, he returned to Cortona, Italy to conduct a photographic workshop for the Studies Abroad Program of the University of Georgia.

His work has been published in journals including Brown's Guide to Georgia, The Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Interior Design, and Reader's Digest. His photographs were used to illustrate a book by the writer Michael Pearson on literary America, Imagined Places. A book of his photographs of William Faulkner's home, Faulkner's Rowan Oak, with a text by Jackson, Mississippi Attorney Daniel Hise was published in 1994 by the University of Mississippi Press. An exhibition of these photographs was first presented at the Southside Gallery of Oxford, Mississippi during the 1995 Faulkner Literary Festival, then traveling to Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee in 1995 and to Austin College, Sherman, Texas in 1998. A book of his photographs of the architecture of Troup County, Travels in Troup County, was published by the Troup County Archives and an exhibition of these photographs opened in 1996. In 1999, he produced photographs for a book of the murals and paintings of the Mississippi artist Walter Anderson, Walls of Light, published by the University of Mississippi Press. Also in 1999, his photographs of Northern Ireland were exhibited and used to illustrate a book devoted to the Sister City relationship of LaGrange, Georgia and Craigavon, Northern Ireland. In June of 2001, to coincide with his fortieth high school reunion, an exhibition of his photographs of Italy, Greece and Mississippi were displayed at the Wetherby House Gallery in Greenville, Mississippi, sponsored by the Greenville Arts Council. In the fall of 2002 he organized an exhibit of thirty years of American photographers who have taught with the University of Georgia's Studies Abroad Program in Italy. This exhibit, In Italy, traveled to venues in Athens, Statesboro and to the Atlanta Financial Center.

In 2002 Mr. Lawrence was inducted into the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters from which he received the 2002 Award in Photography. He is currently working towards a forty year retrospective of his photographs to open in an exhibition in the spring of 2005 and producing photographs for a book to be published celebrating the 175th anniversary of LaGrange College.


Dr. Judy Greer
Dr. Judy Greer, a LaGrange alumna, will receive the Doctor of Education degree. Originally from Detroit, Dr. Greer at a young age moved to Cusseta, Ga., where she grew up excelling in athletics, once scoring 73 points in a high school basketball game. When she enrolled at LaGrange, the College offered only intramural sports for women. Convinced there should be more women’s sports opportunities, she played an integral role in starting the intercollegiate basketball program at the College during her freshman year. After graduating from LaGrange in 1957, Dr. Greer went on to earn a master’s from Auburn University, a second master’s from Springfield College and her doctorate from the University of Georgia. For more than 35 years, Dr. Greer dedicated her life to teaching physical education at Oxford College of Emory University, becoming the first woman at that institution to be named a full professor. In 1986, she received the first Fleming Award for Excellence at Oxford and in 2004 was presented the R. Carl Chandler Award for a Lifetime of Service to Oxford College. An active LaGrange alumna, Greer currently serves as a member of the College’s Leadership Council. Her past service includes chairing the Leadership Council’s Priority Committee on Student Life and Retention Strategies, serving as a member of the Alumni Council Executive Committee and as a class coordinator for the class of 1957. Over the years, she has earned LaGrange College’s Distinguished Service Alumni Award and has been named to both the College’s Wall of Outstanding Alumni and its Athletic Hall of Fame. FYI, Dr. Judy Greer.  

http://www.lagrange.edu/fyi/archives/may_04_07.shtml


Scope and Content

This collection contains correspondence, documents, and artifacts related to Lafayette that Waights G. Henry, Jr. and others collected during his tenure as President of Lagrange College and extensive information related to the 1976 Bicentennial celebration in LaGrange, Georgia. Documents, newspaper clippings, brochures, and photographs and includes correspondence from Count Louis de Listeryie and the Count Rene de Chambrun and Count Chambrun, both direct descendants of the Marquis de Lafayette as well as the correspondence of Dr. Leland Case, a historian and editor with the New York Daily Herald, Paris branch who became friends of Chambrun and Dr. Henry. These contacts eventually led to the events for the 1976 Bicentennial celebration which included the erection of a statue of General Lafayette on the LaGrange, Georgia square. The collection documents these events and how they were implemented with photographs, correspondence, and newspaper clippings as well as information on the casting of the statue and its dedication in 1976.

Administrative information

LaGrange College, Lewis Library, Suber Archives and Special Collections

Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject then alphabetically by subseries.

Series Outline

The records are arranged in four series, all of which have been further arranged in subseries.
The contents of each series are arranged alphabetically. The series and subseries arrangement of the records is as follows:

**Series 1, Waights G. Henry, 1927-1991**
- Subseries 1, Artifacts
- Subseries 2, Correspondence, 1927-1991
- Subseries 3, Pamphlets/Brochures/News Clippings
- Subseries 4, Rotary
- Subseries 5, Books (Added 7 July, 2015)

**Series 2, John Lawrence Lafayette Collection**
- Subseries 1 Articles/Media
- Subseries 2 Charles Hargen
- Subseries 3 John Lawrence
- Subseries 4 Newspaper Clippings
- Subseries 5 Photographs

**Series 3, Judy Greer Lafayette Stamp Collection**
- Subseries 1, Stamps/Correspondence

**Series 4, Geiger Lafayette Collection**
- Subseries 1: Paintings, etchings, prints

**Final Arrangement**

The Lafayette Collection is arranged in four series, all of which have been further arranged in subseries. Box 1 contains the Waights G. Henry, Jr. Collection and the subseries are arranged alphabetically although the contents of the individual files are not. The series in Box 2 is arranged alphabetically, although the contents of the individual files are not.

**Box 1**

**Series I: Waights G. Henry, Jr. Collection**
- Subseries 1: Artifacts
  - File 1: Inventories/Appraisals
    *Scope Notes:* Includes ceramics, books, microfilm, photo album of Lafayette’s estate LaGrange in France. LC catalogue lists 32 books in the collection all located in Special Collections with other artifacts located in display cases and Special Collections shelves. The appraisal of the collection was completed in 2013.
  - File 2: Microfilm
    *Scope Notes:* Papers related to attempt of Lafayette to escape from prison at Olmutz, Czechoslovakia, 1794. From National Archives at Brno. Located in back of box 1 with Pierre Laval Book
  - File 3: Postcards with inventory
    *Scope Notes:* Includes complete inventory with color photographs and research on history of postcards compiled by Patricia Barrett
Subseries 2: Correspondence
  File 4: Count Louis de Lasteryie
    Scope Notes: Includes correspondence between Leland Case and Count Louis de Lasteryie beginning in 1927.
  File 5: Count Rene de Chambrun
    Scope Notes: Correspondence to Dr. Henry and Leland Case
  File 6: Dr. Henry Correspondence
  File 7: Leland Case
    Scope Notes: Assorted correspondence between Leland Case and Count de Chambrun
  File 8: Miscellaneous Correspondence related to Bicentennial Project

Subseries 3: Newspaper clippings, pamphlets, brochures
  File 9: Statue of Lafayette

  File 10: Bicentennial Activities

  File 11: Newspaper Clippings

Subseries 4: Rotary (Original Title)
  File 14: Assorted documents, press releases, clippings

(Added July 27, 2015)
Subseries 5: Books
  Report to the President, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Comte Rene de Chambrun, 1940
  Comte Rene de Chambrun, Autobiography, 1970's
  Comte Rene de Chambrun, “Notes and remembrances about my mission in the United States, June-Aug., 1940
  The Flag that Never Came Down: The Unknown Lafayette Story. This Week Magazine, June 30 1957.

Box 2
Series 2: John Lawrence Lafayette Collection
  Subseries 1: Articles/Clippings
    Scope Notes: Assorted newspaper articles related to Lafayette
  Subseries 2: Charles Hargen
    File 6: Information re Charles Hargen
    File 7: Copies of drawings for 9 Lafayette

Paintings
  Subseries 3: Correspondence
    File 8: Houdon, Harry Jackson, and Charles Hargens

Library
  File 9: Dr. Henry to Cherokee Regional
  File 10: Assorted Letters

1970's
File 11: Assorted Letters 1980's

Subseries 4: Photographs
File 12: Statue of Lafayette being cast in Italy

Scope Notes:
File 13: Bicentennial Dedication in LaGrange, Georgia

Scope Notes:
File 14: Photos by John Lawrence of Houdon bust of Lafayette
File 15: Photographs of Bicentennial dedication of Lafayette Statue

Series 3: Judy Greer Lafayette Stamp Collection
Subseries 1: Lafayette Stamps
File 16: Stamps/Inventory/Assorted Correspondence

Series 4: Geiger Lafayette Collection
Subseries 1: Paintings, Etchings, Prints
File 17: Inventory and Appraisal