

REGISTER OF THE GAGE PAPERS, 1932-1981

Gaston G. Gage, 1898-1983

Mss 66, 2 cu. ft.

INTRODUCTION

This collection consists mainly of Gaston G. Gage's correspondence relating to Clemson College, the School of Textiles, and his various personal interests. It includes several essays presented at the Clemson Forum Club. Gage's correspondence documents his career as a professor, and later dean at Clemson University, as well as his involvement in community and church affairs. There is some material related to his wife, Ruth Vardell Gage (1899-1981).

The collection was donated to Clemson University Library in January, 1984 by Gaston Gage, Jr. There are no restrictions on the use of this collection beyond those of Special Collections. This register was prepared by Curtis Morgan in 1984.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Gaston G. Gage was born September 16, 1898 at Chester, South Carolina. After graduating from Chester High School he entered the University of South Carolina. He left school to serve in the United States Army from September to December, 1918. In January, 1919 he entered Clemson College, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Textile Engineering in 1921. After graduation he worked for the Aragon-Baldwin Mills in Chester as Overseer of the Card Room, Overseer of the Spinning Room, Overseer of the Cloth Room, and as Paymaster.

Mr. Gage returned to Clemson in September, 1932 as an instructor in the Yarn Manufacturing Department of the Textile School. He attended the University of North Carolina in 1935-1936 and received a Master of Education degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1941. At Clemson he became Associate Professor in 1943, Professor in 1946, and Head of the Yarn Manufacturing Department in 1949. He was appointed Acting Dean of Textiles in 1957 and Dean of Textiles in 1958. In 1964 he retired from Clemson but continued to support Clemson Alumni activities.

In 1927 Gage married Ruth Vardell of Red Springs, North Carolina. The Gages had two sons, Gaston, Jr. and Charles Vardell, who both graduated from Clemson in Textile Engineering.

Gaston Gage distinguished himself as a member of the Kappa Alpha and Phi Psi fraternities, the American Society for Testing Materials, the International Organization for Standardization Technical Committee on Textiles, the American Society for Quality Control, National Council for Textile Education, the Textile Institute and the Southern Textile Association. Gage was a charter member of IPTAY, the athletic support organization at Clemson, and served on the Faculty Athletic and Class Schedule Committees.

Active in community and church affairs, Gage served as Chairman of the Board of Stewards, Sunday School Superintendant and Chairman of the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Clemson Methodist Church. He was also Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Calhoun-Clemson School.

Mr. Gage was an avid bird-watcher and fox-hunter, as well as devotee of Clemson football. He was active in the Clemson Fellowship Club and the Forum Club, a college discussion group.

Mrs. Ruth Gage died in 1982. Gaston Gage died September 25, 1983.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Gage Papers contain material recording his relationship with Clemson College and his personal activities. It includes correspondence and documents dealing with the founding and organization of IPTAY, the Clemson Athletic Council, the rise of Clemson as a collegiate sports power, and the subsequent radio coverage of the Clemson games. There is also information about the Clemson Alumni Corporation, the Forum Club, and the expansion of the Clemson College Library in the late 1940's.

The collection contains correspondence with prominent Clemson figures, such as Presidents Robert Franklin Poole and Enoch W. Sikes, Coach Frank Howard, Business Manager J. C. Littlejohn, and Dean Hugh M. Brown of the Textile Department.

Several folders contain papers relating to Mr. Gage's frequent pastimes of bird-watching and fox-hunting. There is extensive information on types of birds frequenting the Clemson area and their seasonal migration during the 1960's and 1970's. There is also material dealing with the establishment of the Clemson Area Retirement Community, better known as Clemson Downs. Also of interest is a speech Mr. Gage prepared for the Forum club dealing with the first presidents of Clemson College as well as Clemson's early history.

Mss 66 Gage Papers

Container List

Folder	Title
1	A correspondence 1935-1964
2	Alumni Corporation 1938-1948
	Athletic Council Records and Correspondence:
3	1937-1950
4	1951-1953
5	1954-1957
6	B correspondence 1936-1971, undated

7 Bills and Receipts 1960-1981
 Bird Watching:
 8 Carolina Bird Club Nominating Committee
 1967
 9 Carolina Bird Club Nominating Committee
 1968
 10 Correspondence 1950-1960
 11 Correspondence 1961-1966, undated
 12 Observations 1954-1964
 13 Observations 1967-1969
 14 Observations 1970-1973
 15 Book Reviews undated
 Brown, Dean Hugh M:
 16 1946-1954
 17 1954-1956
 18 C correspondence 1932-1964
 19 Calhoun-Clemson School 1941-1947
 20 D correspondence 1935-1945, 1958-1963,
 undated
 21 Disability Insurance Records 1943-1954
 22 E correspondence 1935-1963
 23 F correspondence 1935-1964
 24 Football Game Ticket Stubs 1939-1941,
 undated
 Forum Club:
 25 Constitution and Records 1941-1961
 Speeches:
 26 "Bird Watching," "Birds of Prey,"
 undated
 27 "Cotton Goes to Town," "Cotton -
 Where From and Where To," "Cotton
 Goes to Market," undated
 28 "Past Presidents of Clemson College,"
 1948, 1953
 29 "The Well," Miscellaneous notes,
 undated
 Fox Hunting:
 30 Correspondence 1946-1947
 31 Correspondence and Photographs,
 1948-1955, undated.
 32 G Correspondence 1939-1964
 33 Gage, Robert obituary 1981
 34 H correspondence 1935-1948, 1958-1963
 35 Health Insurance Records 1972-1973, 1980
 36 I correspondence, Life Insurance 1935-1967
 37 Income Tax Records 1976
 38 Insurance records 1981
 39 IPTAY correspondence and records 1935-1955
 40 J correspondence 1935, 1958, 1963
 41 K correspondence 1958-1961
 42 L correspondence, Clemson Library. "A
 Critical Analysis of the Wagner Labor

43	Disputes Bill," 1932-1963, undated
44	M correspondence 1938-1963, undated
45	Medical Benefit Records 1981
46	Medical Expense Records 1981
48	Methodist Conference 1956
49	National Council for Textile Education 1962
50	Northwestern Bank Records 1973-1975
51	O correspondence 1963
52	P correspondence 1938-1947, 1958-1963
53	Personal Finance Notes 1975, undated
	Personnel Office Payroll Records 1957-1963
	Property Tax Records:
54	1938-1971
55	1980-1981
56	R correspondence 1938-1949, 1958-1962, undated
57	Real Estate Records 1981
58	Retirement Papers 1954-1963
59	Retirement - Clemson Area Retirement Community (Clemson Downs) 1977-1981, undated
60	Reunions, Class of 1921 - correspondence and photographs 1961-1970
61	Reunion, Class of 1921 - correspondence and photographs 1971
62	S correspondence 1936-1963, undated
63	Savings and Loan Records 1975-1981
64	Stock Market Records 1960, 1980-1981
65	Algernon Sidney Sullivan Award 1971
66	T correspondence 1935, 1947, 1958-1964, undated
67	U-V correspondence 1935-1939, undated
68	W correspondence 1934-1947, 1958-1963
69	Y correspondence 1963

SEPARATION LIST

1. Twenty-four photographs related to class of 1921 reunions, fox hunting and the National Council for Textile Education were photocopied and the originals have been filed in the photograph collection in Special Collections.
2. Several Clemson Agricultural College publications were added to the University Archives files.