

REGISTER OF THE POOLE PAPERS,
1898-1965

Robert Franklin Poole,
1893-1958

Mss 73, 1.3 cu. ft.

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1 oversize folder, 1 box of photographs, 2 reels of microfilm

INTRODUCTION

This collection consists of material related to Robert Franklin Poole's career as a plant pathologist and educator including his tenure as President of Clemson College, 1940-1958. There are some personal papers and photographs related to the Poole and Bradley families.

The bulk of this collection was transferred to the Cooper Library at Clemson in 1975 after the death of Mrs. Poole who had lived in what was then known as the Old President's House. At that time, the material was divided into three groups: personal and family material, material relating mainly to Poole's career, and a book collection. In 1977, the Library agreed to transfer this material to the custody of Dr. Robert F. Poole, Jr. during a period of Library renovation. Dr. Poole donated the material in the second of the above-mentioned groups to the Clemson University Libraries in 1984 after storing it in his basement for several years. Additional material, particularly some family photographs, was acquired from President Poole's daughter, Mrs. Margaret Cuttino in 1984. This collection consists of the following accessions: 84-58, 84-86, and 84-91.

There are no restrictions upon the use of this collection beyond those of Special Collections. This register was prepared by Michael Kohl in 1986.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Robert Franklin Poole was born on December 2, 1893 at Gray Court in Laurens County, South Carolina, the son of Ula Barto and Lila Yeargin Poole. He attended public schools in the county and received a BS degree from Clemson College in 1916. In 1917, Poole attended Rutgers University and received a MS in plant pathology. During World War I, he enrolled in the United States War School at Hampton, Virginia and studied aerial photography. As a sergeant first-class, he served thirteen months in France as an instructor in the use of cameras and was with the Army of Occupation in Germany for four months.

Returning to Rutgers in 1919, Poole continued his studies in plant pathology and received his PhD in 1921. The following year, he was appointed associate plant pathologist for the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. In this position, he began his research on diseases of sweet potatoes and other crops.

In 1926, Poole accepted a position at North Carolina State College as associate professor and plant pathologist. In this position, Poole continued his research on plant diseases and concentrated particularly upon crops such as tobacco and peaches during the 1930's.

The Clemson Board of Trustees appointed Poole to succeed Dr. Enoch Sikes in March of 1940. As President of Clemson during the years of World War II and the post-War years, he oversaw major changes in the physical plant of the campus. These included the building of new classrooms and research facilities, a new barracks complex, and the creation of Lake Hartwell through the damming of the Seneca River. During the mid 1950s, the college was de-militarized and a handful of women began to enroll at Clemson.

Poole was active in a large number of professional organizations including: the Southern Phytopathological Society (President 1928), the American Mycology Society, the American Association of University Professors, the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities (President 1950-1951), the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers (President 1948), South Carolina Association of Colleges (President 1947-1948), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (President 1947-1948).

Poole received a number of honors including a Doctor of Science from Clemson in 1937, a LL.D from the University of South Carolina in 1942, a Litt.D. from Furman in 1950, and a D.Sc. from the Citadel in 1958. He was a deacon at the Clemson Presbyterian Church and a member of a number of civic clubs such as Rotary, Patrons of Husbandry and the American Legion.

On February 22, 1921, Poole married Sara Margaret Bradley, the daughter of James Foster Bradley of Abbeville and granddaughter of John E. Bradley, one of Clemson College's first life trustees and niece of W.W. Bradley, chairman of the Clemson Board of Trustees during the 1930s. They had five children: Robert Franklin, Jr., Thomas, Margaret, Marsha, and William.

Dr. Poole died on June 6, 1958 of a heart attack. Mrs. Poole died on January 22, 1975.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Poole collection consists of several different types of records: manuscripts, photographs, and microfilm. The manuscripts include correspondence 1925-1926, 1938-1958 and research notes concerning Poole's efforts to find methods of halting various plant diseases, 1920-1940. These research notes include some raw data, summaries of data, and various reports and articles written by Poole on diseases of cotton, peach trees, peanuts, sweet potatoes, tobacco, and other crops.

The early correspondence pertains to Poole's work as plant pathologist with the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. The correspondence from the late 1930's involves an exchange of letters between Poole and Frank Graham, President of the University of North Carolina about the Experiment Station Farms

and the Basic Division at NC State. There is some correspondence related to Poole's efforts in 1940 to have Jess Neely retained as Clemson's football coach and a considerable number of letters of congratulation from trustees, alumni, and friends regarding his appointment as President. There is little correspondence and only a few documents related to Clemson operations during Poole's administration.

Two scrapbooks, 1940-1958, were compiled by college staff and document Poole's activities as recorded in newspapers and various other publications. These scrapbooks suffered mildew damage and were microfilmed on two reels of microfilm. The scrapbooks also contained photographs, programs, and certificates which have been removed after being filmed. In the case of the photographs, photocopies have been filmed on the microfilm with numbers which identify them. The photograph collection also contains a number of positive prints and negatives of tobacco fields and peach orchards in North Carolina during the 1930's. There are also a few plates of peach leaves. There is one folder of family photographs of the Poole and Bradley families.

Mss ⁷³76 Poole Papers

Container List

FOLDER	TITLE
1	Apple scab, 1931
2	Cantaloupe research, 1939
3	Certificates, 1928-1956
	Correspondence
4	1925-1926
5	1938-1939
	1940
6	January-March
7	April
8	May
9	June-December
10	1941-1943
11	1945-1948
12	1950-1958
13	Cotton research, 1930's
14	Cowpea research, 1933-1937
15	Crop rotation research, 1930's
16	Dewberry diseases, 1930
17	Director of Public Relations, 1955
18	Experiment Station research, article drafts, 1937-1938
19	Fiscal Survey Commission of South Carolina, 1955
20	List of names, (1940)
	McBee Experimental Grape Vineyard
21	1927-1931
22	Reports, 1929-1931
23	Newcomen Society South Carolina Dinner, 1957
	Newspaper clippings and magazine articles
24	1920-1936
25	1940-1957
26	Nitrogen Fertilization and the Control of <u>Bacterium Pruni</u> , undated
27	Obituaries, 1958
	Peach tree research
28	1929-1932
29	1933-1936, no date
30	Florida-Carolina Orchard, 1934-1939
31	Reports, 1930-1940
32	Peach spray study, 1937
33	Peanut research, 1937-1940

34	Programs
35	1942-1950
36	1951-1954
37	1955-1958
38	Reports and notes, no date
39	Sweet potato research, 1922-1940
40	Tobacco root rot, 1930-1939
41	Tomato research, 1922
42	Wedding, 1941
	"Your Agricultural Experiment Station" by R. F. Poole - drafts, 1930's

SEPARATION LIST

1 box of photographs related to Dr. Poole's career at Clemson, the Poole and Bradley families, and research on peach and tobacco diseases. Transferred to Special Collections photograph collections.

1 map. "Lands of the Bible Today with Historical Notes" Washington, D.C.: Cartographic Section of the National Geographic Section of the National Geographic Magazine, 1956. Transferred to Public Documents.

2 photocopies of pamphlets. Proceedings of the State Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry of South Carolina. Charleston, SC: Walker, Evans, & Cogswell, 1874, 1876. Transferred to Mss 38, Patrons of Husbandry, folder 3, Minutes of the State Grange.