

REGISTER OF THE CROUCH PAPERS 1903 - 1969

Sydney James Leonhardt Crouch, 1889 - 1969
Mss 118, .90 cu. ft.

INTRODUCTION

This collection consists mainly of Crouch's papers relating to his long involvement with the religious life and activities of Clemson College. In addition, there is some historical background information about the college.

The collection was donated to the Clemson University Libraries in 1970 and 1971 by Katy Austin Crouch (Mrs. S. J. L. Crouch). This collection was formerly accession number 70-4. There are no restrictions on the use of this collection beyond those of Special Collections. This register was prepared by Laurie Varenhorst in 1990.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Sydney James Leonhardt Crouch was born on August 20, 1889, in Perth, Western Australia, to Scotch-English parents, Charles James and Mary Ann Naomi (Hall) Crouch. He graduated from Scotch College in Perth, Western Australia, in 1910. During the next three years, Crouch worked as a bank officer in Perth, Western Australia. In 1913 he came to the United States ; in 1930 he became a naturalized citizen. From 1913 to 1915 Crouch attended the Biblical Seminary in New York. In 1922, he received the Bachelor of Divinity degree from the Hartford Theological Seminary (Hartford, Connecticut), and in 1937 the Ph. D. in religion from the Union Theological Seminary (Richmond, Virginia). In addition, Crouch was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by Clemson University in 1959.

During World War I, Crouch served as Secretary in the Foreign Department of the International Committee of the Y.M.C.A. in Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt, from 1915 - 1918 for the areas of Egypt and Palestine. He build a Y.M.C.A. center in Alexandria -- the largest center on the Mediterranean -- which ministered to over 100,000 soldiers. Following the war, Crouch was in charge of the survey of Islamic North Africa for the InterChurch World Movement from 1919 - 1920. Crouch was ordained to the ministry of the Congressional Church on June 21, 1922. He served as a pastor to the Westminster Congressional Church in Vermont from 1922 - 1925. Crouch and his family moved to Clemson, South Carolina, in September, 1925, where he served as the fourth resident minister of the Fort Hill Presbyterian Church until his retirement in 1954.

During his first year of ministry at the Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, Crouch began church services on Wednesday nights for the college students which became known as "Church Night." In addition, he helped to build a new Presbyterian church in 1931. Unfortunately, in 1932, it burned to the ground shortly after being completed. Another church was built in 1933. The size of the congregation was greatly increased during Crouch's ministry.

The church was not Crouch's only involvement in Clemson. The minister had a long association with Clemson College. In 1926, shortly after coming to Clemson, he was instrumental in starting "Mother's Day" exercises at Clemson College. In June 1929, when the Division of Religious Education was formed in the Arts and Sciences Department, Crouch became its first head, with the title of Professor, and he continued in this position until June, 1957. Furthermore, the minister taught a course on international relations in the Department of Government from 1937 to 1957. In addition, he was the organizer of and faculty adviser to the International Relations Club at Clemson College, and served on the South Carolina Executive Committee of the International Relations Club. Also, Crouch was the chairman of the Committee on Ethics and Religion, the treasurer of the Religious Emphasis Week Committee, and was on the committee to name the buildings and streets at Clemson College. He helped design the student chapel at Clemson College. In 1938 Crouch organized the first State Presbyterian Student Association at Clemson College. Finally, he was one of the four founders of the Forum Club.

Besides his involvement with Clemson College and the Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, Crouch was a founder and charter member of the Clemson Fellowship Club, the community's first civic club. In addition, he served as Moderator for the Synod of the South Carolina Presbyterian Church in 1942. He was also member of the General Assembly's Advance Committee on Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church of the United States from 1936 - 1969. Crouch wrote *Factors in the Roman World Which Aided the Spread of the Gospel* (Edwards Brothers, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan) in 1934. He was a book reviewer for *Interpretation* (Richmond, Virginia) for a number of years.

In 1957 Sydney Crouch was awarded the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for outstanding services to the Clemson student body. He also held honorary memberships in the Clemson Chapter of Blue Key, Tiger Brotherhood and the Clemson Alumni Association.

On November 13, 1916, Sydney Crouch married Katy Austin, a native of Cross Hill, South Carolina, in Alexandria, Egypt. They had two sons, Alexander Charles and Douglas Sydney. Sydney Crouch died on August 13, 1969, and Katy Austin Crouch died on January 4, 1979.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The material in the Crouch Papers covers Crouch's long association with Clemson College. Most of the papers concern the college's religious life and activities. There is information on the religious activities at Clemson College such as Religious Emphasis Week, the World War II memorial services for the dead, the Jewish religious observances, the Billy Graham meeting at the Clemson College Field House, prayers before football games, and the Wednesday Night "Church Night." A couple of speeches and an address by Crouch on religion at Clemson College can also be found in the collection. In addition, there are Crouch's chapel talks and sermons. Furthermore, there are plans and correspondence concerning the Student Chapel at Clemson College. Finally, there is correspondence and other papers concerning the Committee on Ethics and Religion.

Other information on Clemson College can be found in this collection. There is some historical background information on the college such as a newspaper article in which Thomas G. Clemson's housekeeper, Mrs. Jane Prince, recalls his last days (also mentions Mrs. Prince's daughter Hester who later became Mrs. Boggs). Also, there is a photograph of the signatures of the seven original Board of Trustees of Clemson College. There is information on the college's service flag and some of its clubs such as the Forum Club and the Fellowship Club. In addition, there are papers concerning the ad hoc committee to recommend names for buildings and streets at the college. Finally, there is some material on musical groups at Clemson and about some of the special days observed by the college (Armistice Day, Mother's Day, V-E Day and V-J Day).

Besides material on Clemson College, there is some information on memorial and funeral services for President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dr. Robert F. Poole, Dr. David W. Daniel, and James F. Byrnes. In addition, there is a folder on a testimonial dinner for J. C. Littlejohn. Finally, some biographical information on Sydney Crouch can be found in this collection. The folders are arranged alphabetically by subject, and chronologically within each folder.

Other information on Sydney Crouch can be found in the C. U. Archives Series 28, News Bureau Faculty Files.

SEPARATION LIST

Blueprints

13" x 10" Blueprint of the Barracks Chapel (Level 9, Block "E"), June, 1954.

15" x 20" Blueprint of the Barracks Chapel (Level 9, Block "E"), June, 1954.

13" x 24" Hand Drawn Plan of the Barracks Chapel (Level 9, Block "E"), c. 1954.

15" x 20" Blueprint of the Clemson College Student Chapel, c. 1954.

Photographs

One 8" x 10" black-and-white photograph of Memorial Day Service on December 7, 1943, Clemson College.

One 8" x 10" black-and-white photograph of Memorial Day Service on December 7, 1944, at the Field House, Clemson College.

One 8" x 10" black-and-white photograph of Memorial Day Service on December 7, 1945, in the College Auditorium, Clemson College.

Six 8" x 10" black-and-white photographs concerning the memorial service for Dr. Robert Franklin Poole on the grounds of the Calhoun Mansion on November 10, 1958.

One 8" x 10" black-and-white photograph of the Clemson College Orchestra (Dr. Sydney Crouch, Second Violin), c. 1926.

One 4.5" x 6.5" black-and-white photograph of Clemson's first Daily Vacation Bible School, 1926.

One 2" x 3" black-and-white photograph of the Merry Go Around of Missions, a week day church school held in St. Paul's Cathedral, 1926.

One 4" x 5" black-and-white photograph of the signatures of the Seven Original Trustees of Clemson College, no date.

SEPARATION LIST (continued)

Photographs

Two 8" x 10" black-and-white photographs of Dr. Sydney Crouch delivering the address at the dedication service of the Clemson College Student Chapel on February 9, 1955.

One 4.5" x 4" black-and-white photograph of Dr. Sydney Crouch, no date.

MSS 118
CROUCH PAPERS

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE
1	1	Ad Hoc Committee to Make Recommendations for Names for Buildings and Streets ; April, 1939 - May, 1962
	2	Armistice Day at Clemson College ; 1925 - 1926
	3	The Athletic Department of Clemson College : Prayers Before Football Games ; December, 1938 - September, 1964
	4	Baccalaureate Speakers at Clemson College ; 1947 - December, 1956
	5	Chapel Talks by Sydney J. L. Crouch ; 1928 - 1970
	6	Clemson Area Citizens Education Center ; November, 1955
	7	[Clemson College : Background Information] ; January, 1925
	8	Clemson College Students Adopt Near East Orphan ; April, 1926 - June, 1927
	9	Clemson College's Service Flag ; February - March, 1967
	10	Clemson Fellowship Club ; September, 1936 - October, 1963
	11	Clemson Forum Club ; January, 1929 - January, 1954
	12	Commencement Sermon at Clemson College ; February 9, 1947
	13	Committee on Ethics and Religion (S. J. L. Crouch, Chairman) ; April, 1929 - November, 1956
	14	[Crouch, Kathy Austin (Mrs. Sydney Crouch) : Obituary] ; January, 1979
	15	[Housekeeper (Mrs. Jane Prince) Remembers Thomas G. Clemson] ; [c. 1938] "Mr. Invocation" : Original Programs and Prayers,
	16	Folder I ; 1928 - October, 1953
	17	Folder II ; January, 1954 - May, 1967
	18	[Lists of Ministers Visiting Clemson College] ; 1903 - 1913
	19	J. L. Littlejohn Testimonial Dinner ; June, 1954
	20	Memorial Day Services ; December, 1942 - May, 1955

CROUCH PAPERS (continued)

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE
2	21	[Memorial Marker to the First Meeting of the Original Life Trustees of Clemson College (Ceremony)] ; October, 1953
	22	Memorials and Funerals (U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dr. Robert F. Poole, Dr. David W. Daniel and James F. Byrnes) ; April, 1945 - November, 1966
	23	Methods of Bible Study Used by Sydney J. L. Crouch ; [No Dates]
	24	Mother's Day ; April, 1926 - May, 1930
	25	Music at Clemson College : Clemson College Concert Orchestra and Clemson Community Choir ; May, 1926 - April, 1952
		Religious Activities at Clemson College :
	26	Billy Graham Meeting at Clemson College Field House ; March, 1950
	27	"The Churches : In Life . . . at Clemson College" Article by S. J. L. Crouch ; November, 1951
	28	"The Church's Ministry to Students and the Support and Cooperation of the Clemson College Administration" ; June, 1939 - July, 1945
	29	Daily Vacation Bible School ; 1926
	30	Gideons at Clemson ; March, 1952 - February, 1953
	31	Jewish Religious Observances ; October, 1943 - January, 1967
	32	"Religious Life at Clemson College" Article by S. J. L. Crouch
	33	Wednesday Night "Church Night" ; September, 1927
	34	Religion at Clemson in the Early Days : Miscellaneous Information ; July, 1941 - August, 1953
	35	"Religious Education at Clemson College" by S. J. L. Crouch ; March, 1937
	36	Religious Emphasis Week ; February, 1939 - January, 1966
	37	Religious Emphasis Week Committee ; February, 1944 - January, 1961
	38	Sermons by Sydney J. L. Crouch ; 1927 - 1959
	39	[Signatures of the Seven Original <u>Trustees of Clemson College</u>] ; [No Dates]

CROUCH PAPERS (continued)

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE
2	40	Student Chapel at Clemson College ; January, 1954 - December, 1955
	41	Sydney J. L. Crouch and Clemson Agricultural College ; 1925 - 1959
	42	Sydney J. L. Crouch, "Mr. Invocation," Clemson College, South Carolina ; 1929 - 1967
	43	Sydney James Leonhardt Crouch in Who's Who ; 1941 - 1969
	44	V-E Day and V-J Day at Clemson College ; September, 1939 - August, 1945