

Edgar A. Brown Papers Introduction

In a resolution in July of 1969, Clemson University Board of Trustees asked Senator Edgar A. Brown (a long standing member of the Board) to make available to the University his letters, papers and memorabilia to be placed in the University Library where a room would be named for him. In 1969 the initial shipment of papers was received by the Special Collections Unit of the Cooper Libraries and was inventoried and identified by numbering the folders 1 through 688.

The announcement of the Brown Foundation and of the plans for a room was made at a luncheon honoring Senator Brown on January 9, 1970. On May 6, 1971, the "Brown Room" ceremonies were held. During this period the Special Collections Unit worked under pressure to prepare a number of items for the grand opening of this room. One of these was an index to the papers, which was well under way and functional by May 6. In that index preassigned folder numbers were used to locate the desired paper, letter or other material.

In 1975, after Senator Brown's death, over twice as many papers and other materials were received as had been initially. With no deadline for making these papers available for use Special Collections has been able to more carefully arrange these papers alphabetically and then chronologically within series. These folders are numbered 1 through 1471, preceded by an "L" (later) to distinguish them from the earlier folders. This number has also been recorded on each paper within the folder in the upper right corner.

In 1989, Ms. Berniece Holt began revising the arrangement and reprocessing the original portion of the papers. Folders were placed in alphabetical order and conservation measures taken. After Ms. Holt's retirement early the following year, the collection was left as it was until 1996 when Ms. Adraine Jackson supervised further work on it. In 1998, Ms. Vicki Schmid completed this project. A new index was prepared with new folder numbers 1 through 632. The original folder numbers were retained in parentheses in the listing as a reference for the use of researchers who had used the original index of folder numbers.

MSS 91

Brown, Edgar Allan 1888-1975

Edgar A. Brown Papers 1911-1975

147 cu. ft. includes 117 cu. ft. papers; 31 scrapbooks of photographs and newspaper clippings, 1920-1975; 4.5 cu. ft. photographs; 11 5" and 7" tape recordings; 3 cassette recordings; 4 3/4" videotapes; and 2 reels 15mm television film.

Edgar A. Brown was born July 11, 1888, to Augustus Abraham Brown and Rebecca Elizabeth Howard, near Shiloh Springs in Aiken County. He attended the common schools and Graniteville Academy. During 1906-1907 Brown worked as a law clerk and secretary. After a competitive examination he was appointed official Court Stenographer of the Second Judicial Circuit, a position he held until 1918. Before he was twenty-two years old he passed the South Carolina bar exam and was admitted to practice law June 3, 1910. December 30, 1913, Annie Love Sitgreaves and Brown married. They had one child, Emily.

Brown was active in the Democratic party serving as Chairman of the state party and on the Executive Committees at the county, state, and national levels. He was a state representative from 1921-1926. In 1925 he became Speaker of the House. In 1926 he resigned the speakership to run for the United States Senate. He opposed N. B. Dial and Ed Smith and lost to Smith in the second primary. In 1928, he was elected to the South Carolina Senate where he served until his retirement, July 28, 1972. Brown was a candidate for the United States Senate in 1938 but withdrew, and Ed Smith defeated Governor Olin D. Johnston. Again in 1954, upon the death of Senator Burnet Maybank, Senator Brown aspired to become a U.S. Senator. The Democratic Executive Committee chose him to be the Democratic candidate. Strom Thurmond opposed him in a write-in campaign and defeated Brown.

Senator Brown was elected by the Legislature in 1934 to the Board of Trustees of Clemson Agricultural College. Following a temporary absence in 1947, when dual office holding was a question, he was elected a Life Trustee in 1948. From Clemson he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1955. He continued his strong support during the periods when Clemson was transformed from a small, all-white military college into a coeducational, integrated university. He actively participated in implementing Clemson's reorganization plan recommended by management consultants, Cresap, McCormick, and Paget. He was vitally involved in the Hartwell Dam controversy, Harvey Gantt's peaceful integration of Clemson, and the university building program.

As a result of injuries received in an automobile accident, Brown died on June 26, 1975. Mrs. Brown had died earlier on May 26, 1973, as had his daughter, Emily Jefferies, on April 11, 1975.

Scope and Content

The papers consist of over two thousand folders numbered in two sequences reflecting the order in which they were accessioned and processed. Over seven hundred folders, scrapbooks, memorabilia,

photographs, certificates, and resolutions were received in 1969. Using key words in the folder titles, an index was created for the papers. The remainder of the materials was numbered, described, and indexed or placed on loose-leaf inventories. The scrapbooks were numbered chronologically. In 1975 following Senator Brown's death, over fourteen hundred additional folders were added to the collection. To differentiate this acquisition from the earlier one, an "L" before the folder number designates the later accession. Complete processing was not a major consideration when the university acquired the Brown papers; however, inventories, descriptions, labels, superficial organization, and simple indices to the papers and photographs were completed in order to have control of the papers.

The papers document much of Senator Brown's political life in the Democratic Party at the county, state, and national levels. He served at the national level as executive committeeman, as a delegate to conventions, and as a long time representative on the Council of State Governments. The papers illuminate his prominence as President Pro Tempore and chairman of the Senate Finance Committee from 1942-1972. Among his major interests were education, educational television, mental health, industry, highways and ports development, and state government reorganization. Many of the papers document his service to his constituents and Barnwell County. As a Life trustee of Clemson University, he collected official and personal papers, 1948-1975. These range from minutes of trustees' meetings to Clemson-Carolina football games to Harvey Gantt's integration of Clemson.

A large segment of the papers project Brown's personal and political life. These are illustrated by scrapbooks, 1911-1972, and boxes of newspaper clippings, 1920-1975; correspondence, programs, and greeting cards. Photographs include members of the various legislative committees, personal friends, and family members. Major events were captured in photographs, film, and videotapes. The collection is a valuable primary source for state political and economic history.

There are loose-leaf inventories of folder titles and memorabilia, a key word index to folder titles, incomplete card indices of subjects, personal names, photographs and memorabilia. Berniece Holt prepared the finding aids and identified the photographs.

There are no restrictions on the use of the collection.

The papers and memorabilia were a gift to Clemson University from Edgar A. Brown. This gift and the announcement of the establishment of the Brown Foundation followed Clemson Board of Trustee resolutions of July 11 and 17, 1969. The first honored Brown on his 81st birthday, and the second invited and urged him to give his papers and memorabilia to the University.

MSS 91 Edgar A. Brown Papers

not folder nos.

	<i>Subjects</i>
1	Allendale county SC--history
2	Atomic weapons--history
3	Bamberg county SC--history
4	Barnwell county SC--history
5	<u>The Bishop from Barnwell</u>
6	The Edgar A. Brown Foundation January 9, 1970
7	Clark's Hill Authority of South Carolina
8	Clemson University--Athletics
9	Clemson University--Buildings
10	Clemson University--Cresap, McCormick, Paget
11	Clemson University--History
12	Clemson University--Housing
13	Clemson University--Integration
14	Clemson University--Presidents
15	Clemson University--Trustees
16	<u>The Columbia Letter</u>
17	Council of State Governments 1945-1965
18	Democratic National Committee
19	Democratic National Convention
20	Democratic party--South Carolina
21	Educational television--South Carolina
22	Hartwell Dam
23	Kennedy, John F.--Kennedy Library Committee
24	Public television--South Carolina
25	Savannah River Plant E. I. DuPont De Nemours Company
26	Segregation--South Carolina
27	South Carolina--Economic conditions
28	South Carolina--Governors
29	South Carolina--Law and legislation
30	South Carolina--Race relations
31	South Carolina General Assembly
32	South Carolina Medical University
33	South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee-Cooper)

34	South Carolina Senate
35	South Carolina State Highway Department
36	South Carolina State Hospital
37	South Carolina Textile Manufacturers' Association
38	Winthrop College
39	Workmen's compensation--South Carolina
<i>not followed</i> I	<i>personal added</i> Agnew, Anne A.
II	Anderson, Jesse T. State Superintendent of Education SC
III	Baker, Bobby
IV	Bates, Jeff B.
V	Belser, Irvine F.
VI	Blatt, Solomon
VII	Breedin, James K.
VIII	Brown, Annie Sitgreaves
IX	Byrnes, James F.
X	Cauthen, John K.
XI	Cooper, Robert M.
XII	Daniel, Charles E.
XIII	Dorn, William J. Bryan
XIV	Edwards, Robert Cook
XV	Farley, James
XVI	Gantt, Harvey
XVII	Gardner, O. Max
XVIII	Gressette, Marion
XIX	Hollings, Ernest F.
XX	Jefferies, R. M., Jr.
XXI	Jefferies, R. M., Sr.
XXII	Johnson, Lyndon B.
XXIII	Johnston, Olin D.
XXIV	Kennedy, John F.
XXV	Kennedy, Minnie B.
XXVI	Kennedy, Robert F.
XXVII	Maybank, Burnet R.
XXVIII	Perry, Jim
XXIX	Russell, Donald
XXX	Sawyer, Ben

Vol. 2
XXXI
XXXII
XXXIII

Timmerman, George Bell
Waring, J. Waties
Workman, William D., Jr.

THE EDGAR A. BROWN PAPERS

Below is a summary of information for orientation of persons interested in using the Edgar A. Brown Papers. In preparing this outline the Special Collections Department has used a number of sources, all of them available in the Clemson University Library.

Priscilla H. Sutcliffe
 (Mrs.) Priscilla H. Sutcliffe
 Special Collections Librarian
 February 25, 1971

- 1888 Born, July 11, to Augustus Abraham Brown and Rebecca Elizabeth Howard, near Shiloh Springs in Aiken County
- Attended common schools and Graniteville Academy*
- 1906-1907 Law clerk and secretary
- 1908 After competitive examination, appointed official Court stenographer of 2nd Judicial Circuit, a position he held until 1918
- 1910 Passed South Carolina bar examination - admitted, June 3, to the practice of law
- 1913 Married, December 30, Annie Love Sitgreaves
- 1914 Chairman, Democratic Executive Committee of Barnwell County
- Member, State Democratic Executive Committee (26 years old)
- 1920 Elected to S. C. House of Representatives where he served 1921-26
- 1924 Chairman of S. C. Democratic Party
- Delegate to Democratic National Convention, Madison Square Garden
- 1925 Speaker of the House (36 years old)
- Founding member, Council of State Governments
- 1926 Chairman of State Democratic Executive Committee (1922-26)
- Candidate for U. S. Senate, resigning Speakership to run - Opposed by N. B. Dial and Ed Smith - Lost to Ed Smith, in second primary, by 5,000 votes

*1970 Legislative Manual (51st ed.; Columbia, S. C.: 98th General Assembly of South Carolina, 1970), p. 18.

1972

- 1928 Elected to S. C. Senate where he served 1929 to ~~the present~~
- 1934 Elected by the legislature, January 17, to Board of Trustees, Clemson Agricultural College
- 1938 As candidate for U. S. Senate, opposed by Governor Olin D. Johnston and Ed Smith - Brown withdrew - Smith won
- 1940 Vice-President and Chairman, Board of Managers, Council of State Governments
- 1942 Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
President Pro Tempore, S. C. Senate
- 1947 President, South Carolina Bar Association
Senator Brown temporarily absent from Clemson Board meetings because of the state law forbidding "dual office-holding"
- 1948 Public announcement, March 20, that late in 1947 Senator Brown had been elected "Life Trustee" of Clemson
- 1949-1959 Hartwell Dam project threatened Clemson's agricultural research lands - Senator Brown headed negotiations with United States Army Corps of Engineers which ended with a 1961 settlement favorable to Clemson College
- 1952-1968 Democratic National Executive Committeeman
- 1954 Candidate for U. S. Senate - Defeated by Strom Thurmond
In May the U. S. Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional the practice of barring black students from public schools on account of race
- 1955 Honorary degree, Doctor of Laws, conferred by Clemson College, August 17 - Dedication of new Agricultural Center on same occasion
- 1958 February 11, ceremonies in hall of S. C. Senate on the occasion of the hanging of the portrait of Senator Brown
"Mr. Sound Government--Senator Edgar A. Brown," article in the February issue of South Carolina Magazine
June, death of Dr. Robert F. Poole, President of Clemson College
- 1959 Robert C. Edwards, in April, became President of Clemson
- 1960 Elected Chairman of the Executive Committee, Clemson College Board of Trustees - Received, June 6, a formal "Resolution of Gratitude" from his fellow trustees

- 1961 The U. S. Government, in January, settled with Clemson by building a diversionary dam and paying \$1,150,000. to the College
- Harvey Gantt, a black student, unsuccessfully applied to enter Clemson College
- 1962 Harvey Gantt entered suit for admission to Clemson - Court hearings at Anderson in November - Senator Brown testified - Federal District Judge C. C. Wyche dismissed Gantt's case - NAACP immediately appealed - Judge Wyche reversed by Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals - Further appeals by Clemson failed
- 1963 Judge Wyche, January 22, ordered that Gantt be admitted to Clemson
- 1964 June 4, Honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, conferred by Medical College of South Carolina
- July 1, Clemson Agricultural College became Clemson University
- 1965 U. S. Senator Olin D. Johnston died - Governor Donald Russell resigned and became Senator - Lt. Governor Robert E. McNair became Governor, April 22
- 1966 President, Clemson University Board of Trustees
- 1968 Appreciation Dinner for Earle Morris, Anne Agnew, and Senator Brown, December 11 - Reception at Governor's Mansion
- 1969 July 11 - Board of Trustees, Clemson University, presented to Senator Brown a resolution honoring him on his 81st birthday
- July 17 - Board of Trustees, Clemson, passed a resolution inviting and respectfully urging Senator Brown "to make available to Clemson University the letters, papers and memorabilia of his remarkable life to be preserved and protected for posterity in an appropriate room, to be named after him, in the Robert Muldrow Cooper Library."
- 1970 Announcement by President Edwards, at a luncheon at the Clemson House, January 9, of the establishment of the Edgar A. Brown Foundation and of plans for the Edgar A. Brown Room in the Robert Muldrow Cooper Library
- Permanent President Emeritus of the State Democratic Convention, March 25
- Birthday celebrations: July 11, "Edgar A. Brown Day," climaxing Barnwell County's Tricentennial celebration - Special programs on South Carolina ETV, July 11 and 12, honoring Senator Brown
- 1972 *May 13, Honorary Dr. of Laws, University of South Carolina*
- 1972 May 25, announced his retirement from the Senate of the South Carolina General Assembly
- 1972 *RETIRED July 28*
- 1973 *MRS. BROWN DIED MAY 26, 1973*
- 1975 *EMILY DIED APRIL 11, 1975*
- 1975 *SENATOR BROWN DIED JUNE 26 after auto accident.*

*Dick Jeffries
remarried DEC. 1975*

Senator Brown's associations include membership in the Elks, Knights of Pythias, Masons (Shriner), Methodist Church, Board of Stewards of Methodist Church (30 years), and Woodmen of the World.

Senator Brown attended as a Delegate the following National Democratic Conventions:**

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1924 | 1952 |
| 1932 | 1956 |
| 1940 | 1960 |
| 1944 | 1964 |
| 1948 | |

*Biographical Directory of the Senate of the State of South Carolina, 1776-1964, compiled under the direction of the Senatorial Research Committee. (Columbia, S. C.: South Carolina Archives Department, 1964), p. 187.

**1970 Legislative Manual, p. 18.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
(Fireproof Files)
Film, Cassettes, Videocassettes, Tapes, Microfilm
Accession Record 85-94

EDGAR A. BROWN PAPER, MSS 91

Film

- I 35 Movie Film. Part 1: Announcement by President Robert C. Edwards, January 9, 1970, of the Brown Foundation and the Brown Room at Robert Muldrow Cooper Library.
Part 2: ceremonies on the day of the opening of the Edgar A. Brown Room, May 6, 1971. This film was received via inter-office mail on July 14, 1971. Labeled #1 the film was made and processed by the Clemson University Communications Center.
There is a second reel of film labeled Senator Edgar A. Brown, #3. The nature of this film is unknown. It may be a duplicate of of #1.

Cassettes

- I 36 1972. Senator Edgar A. Brown Day, July 28, 1972, in the Senate on the occasion of Senator Brown's retirement after fifty years service in the SC House and Senate.
- I 52 (one cassette, one tape)
1971. Vice President Spiro Agnew before the SC General Assembly: his remarks about Senator Brown (who was not present due to illness) during the first week of June, 1971.
- I 59 1975. Senator Brown's funeral service in the Senate Chamber in Columbia, June 29, 1975.

Videocassettes (Sony)

- I 48 Edgar A. Brown Retired; Portrait of Edgar Brown. Received from ETV via Harry Durham of Clemson Communications Center. SCETV reel # PD-1.
- I 49 Senator Brown's last day in the Senate. SCETV reel # AB-332.
- I 50 Senator Brown: Brown Building. SCETV reel # AB-329.
- I 51 Great South Carolina Men: Edgar A. Brown Funeral. SCETV reel # AB-333.

Tapes

- I 52 1971. Vice President Spiro Agnew's remarks before the SC General Assembly about Senator Brown (who was not present due to illness) during the first week of June, 1971. 5" tape, one minute. (Also see I 52 for cassette copy)
- I 53 1963. "Edgar A. Brown" as broadcast on Herb Kaplow's, "Emphasis" program, coast to coast, NBC Radio Network, 9:30am., July 10, 1963. Compliments of WIS Radio. Broadcast in Barnwell July 3 and 12 1963. 5" tape, 7 minutes.
- I 54 1963. Interview with Senator Brown during the autograph party of Bishop from Barnwell, 1963. Senator Brown discusses the Democratic party, Clemson University, Barnwell and Bishop from Barnwell. 7" tape, thirty minutes.
- I 55 1954. US Senate Race. WJBF's "Viewpoint" program, Channel 6, Augusta, GA. Three editors, sentiment against Senator Brown and Democratic Committee. Brown and Thurmond were to have been on the program but when Brown canceled, Thurmond canceled as well. Tom O'Connor, moderator, Allendale Citizen; O. F. Armfield, Newberry Sun; and J.L. Aull, Ridge Citizen. 7" tape, thirty minutes.
- I 56 1954. US Senate Race. Brown in the Piedmont speaking on farm policy. 7" tape, 15 minutes.
- I 57 (1) (2) (3) (4)
1958. Portrait Ceremonies, February 11, 1958. Lieutenant Governor Hollings presiding; USC quartet; J. C. Long, L.D. Parker presenting portrait of Senator Brown and Rembert Dennis presenting portrait of Senator Jefferies; Hollings introduces "unveiling experts"; the grandchildren, including grandson Richard M. Ungar; Governor Timmerman; Senator Gressette; Senator Jefferies; Representative Blatt; Senator Brown (Senator Brown concluded his speech on tape four). Tapes (1)-(3) are 7". Tape (4) is 5", 15 minutes.
- I 58 Undated. Interview with Senator Brown. The questions and answers cover: integration; Eisenhower; Little Rock; Orval Faubus; 1954 Court decision; Gressette Committee; SC's plan to close all schools rather than integrate; Third Party, Democratic Party and his reasons for staying in Party. 5" tape, 15 minutes.