

REGISTER OF THE BENET PAPERS, 1909-1951

Christie Benet, 1879-1951

Mss 48, 3 boxes, 1.25 cu. ft.

Introduction

Christie Benet was a lawyer and an outstanding leader who served his city, his state and nation. Among the many places he served was as a Life Trustee of Clemson College. He was elected in 1929, and in 1949 he became Chairman of the Board. Despite his long service these papers are limited primarily to the period 1946-1951. These papers were probably sent to the Library from the Clemson University president's office. Register prepared by Berniece Holt in 1984.

Biographical Note

Christie Benet was born in Abbeville, South Carolina, December 1879, son of William Christie Benet, a native of Scotland, and Susan McGowan Benet, of Abbeville. He was educated in public schools, the University of South Carolina, and the College of Charleston, where he earned his Phi Beta Kappa key and A.B. degree in 1900. He attended the University of Virginia and received his LL. B. in 1902. In college Mr. Benet was an outstanding athlete and played tackle on the University of Virginia football team. He coached football teams at the University of South Carolina and at the University of Virginia. In the annals of sports history Mr. Benet is recorded as having played a leading part in quieting a confrontation among University of South Carolina and Clemson students following a 12-6 victory by the Carolina football team over the Clemson team. On October 17, 1906, he married Alice Haskell. They had two children, a son who died as a young man, and a daughter, Alice, who married Porcher P. Hopkins.

Mr. Benet was a former United States Senator and a leading Southern attorney. He performed distinguished services for his state and country: in 1908-09 he was Solicitor for the Fifth Circuit; from 1910-12 he was City Attorney for the municipality of Columbia, and for thirty-three years he served on the Board of Regents of the South Carolina State Hospital, twenty of those as Chairman of the Board. He never held public elective office after 1918 when he was appointed to fill a portion of Senator B. R. Tillman's term following Tillman's death. He lost his U. S. Senate seat to William P. Pollock in 1918. Despite this defeat he played active roles in the Democratic Party, twice as Secretary of the State Executive Committee.

Benet was elected a Life Trustee of Clemson in 1929 and served until his death in 1951. His legal knowledge and experience and his concern for higher education made him an invaluable member of Clemson's Board.

Scope and Content

These papers are limited primarily to the period 1946-1951. In 1949 Benet became Chairman of Clemson's Board. During this post-World War II period a number of major issues came before Clemson's administration and Board. These included athletics, the building program, veterans' affairs and housing, remediation in English and math, and competition and cooperation between the state colleges and universities. The papers are arranged chronologically except for a half dozen folders which contain specific subject matter.

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
	Clemson College Board of Trustees
	1946
1	October-January 1947
	1947
2	February-April
3	May- June
4	July-October
5	November-January 1948
	1948
6	February
7	March
8	April
9	May-June
10	July-September
11	October
12	November
	1949
13	January-February
14	March
15	April
16	May-July
17	August-September
18	October
19	November-December
	1950
20	January-February
21	March-April
22	May-July
23	August-October
24	November-December
	1951
25	January-April
	Clemson College Specific Information
26	"Clemson's origins as told by Clemson," 1909; 1925 Bulletin containing historical sketch, Clemson's will, court opinions, Act of Acceptance
27	Council of Higher Education [1947?]
28	Group Insurance 1941-1942
29	Group Insurance 1948-1949
30	Housing bonds, 1950
31	Langston, Thomas 1948-1949
32	Pate, Daniel D., Jr. 1950-1951
33	State Institutions of Higher Learning Meeting, Columbia, July 19, 1950
34	University of Georgia 1951
35	Undated