

Register of the James P. Whitlock Papers (1965-1968)

James P. Whitlock, 1924-
Mss 250, 1 cu. ft.
1 oversize folder
2 folders containing photographs

Introduction

This collection consists mainly of James P. Whitlock's papers relating to his tenure as Chairman of the Stone Church Annexation Committee. The committee worked toward the annexation of the Old Stone Church community from Oconee County to Pickens County, S.C. These events occurred between the years 1965-1968.

Found within Mr. Whitlock's files are brief correspondence and memos relating to a school district boundary dispute that took place in the early 1980's near the city of Clemson. This file, labeled Dellwood Subdivision, chronicles Dr. W. David Maxwell's concern on this issue.

This collection was donated to Clemson University Special Collections in 1988 by Mr. Whitlock, accession number 88-64. There are no restrictions on the use of this collection beyond those of Special Collections. This register was prepared by Carl Redd in 2003.

Biographical Note

James P. Whitlock was born to Dr. Luther Chapman Whitlock and Vonnie Rodgers Whitlock on October 19, 1924, in Lake City, South Carolina. From 1937 to 1941 Whitlock attended Lake City High School in South Carolina. He attended Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina between 1941 and 1945. On July 7, 1946, he married Ruth Tysinger, a native of Salisbury, North Carolina, in Greenville, South Carolina. They had two girls: Elizabeth Anne Whitlock, and Lindy Whitlock Smith.

During World War II, Whitlock served as a bombardier in the Eighth Air Force-England. After the war, Whitlock served his local community by holding a variety of positions. Numerous offices held include: 1957-1970 Secretary/Treasurer of the Fort Hill Savings & Loan Association; 1957-1980 Director of Fort Hill Bank & Trust Company; 1957-1981 Director of Fort Hill Federal Savings & Loan Association; 1966-1968 Chairman of the Stone Church Annexation Committee; 1966-1967 Treasurer of Clemson PTO; 1968-1969 Chairman of the Clemson United Fund; 1969-1970 Chairman of the Clemson Chamber of Commerce; 1969-1970 President .of the Clemson Rotary Club; 1969-1976 Member of Pickens County Selective Service Commission; 1970-1981 President of Fort Hill Savings & Loan Association; 1971-1972 Member of the Pickens County Board of Education; 1972-1977 Member of Clemson City Council; 1974-1975 President of the Clemson Fellowship Club; 1974-1976 Chairman of the Pickens County Planning &

Development Commission; 1977-1986 Member of Pickens City Council; 1980-1981 Chairman of the S.C. Appalachian Council of Governments; 1981-1983 Senior Vice President of First Federal Savings & Loan Association; 1983-1984 Chairman of S.C. Association of Counties; 1984-1985 Member of the Governor's Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

Scope and Content

The material within the collection details Mr. Whitlock's activities as Chairman of the Stone Church Annexation Committee in the mid 1960's. The area around the historical Old Stone Church and surrounding community was located in Oconee County prior to the annexation. The collection chronicles what in essence was a small community's effort to choose where their children attended school.

The Old Stone Church children had traditionally attended Pickens County schools, despite the fact that these residents lived in Oconee County. A temporary agreement had been in place, where by Old Stone Church residents would pay Pickens County school taxes, while paying county land taxes to Oconee. Many parents were never fully comfortable with this solution, since continuation in Pickens county schools was never truly certain. National events in the form of the Federal Civil Rights and desegregation laws in effect voided this agreement. African Americans who were bused to Easley schools would now attend Daniel High School, which would force Old Stone Church children to abruptly move to Oconee County schools. A solution could not be reached with either school district in terms of where these Stone Church residents should attend, so annexation was seen as means for permanent solution.

Not only was a small community's question of location at stake, but that of the Excelsior Finishing plant and Clemson University as well. The option of annexation was voted upon, and was granted by the people's positive consent. However, legal action was sought by Oconee County in order to stop the move. Though the vote to annex was taken in 1966, the final approval of the move did not take place until 1968, having been held up by legal issues. The information reveals how local political issues can impact communities in both positive and negative ways. Also highlighted is the media's role in such circumstances. Speeches, memos and correspondence, newspaper clippings, press releases, and photographs are collected here in order to document the event.

Besides material on the Stone Church Annexation, some information pertains to a similar situation that occurred in 1982 regarding school district lines in the Dellwood subdivision near the city of Clemson. Though Dellwood resident Dr. W. David Maxwell provided this information, the correspondence reveals that James P. Whitlock's expert advice was sought in this situation. The folders are arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically within each folder.

In addition to this collection, researchers should be directed to the Stone Church Annexation Committee Records (MSS 251) in order to get a thorough chronicle of the events.

MSS 250
JAMES P. WHITLOCK PAPERS

BOX	FOLDER	TITLE
1	1	Annexation; June 2-September, 1967
	2	Attorney General-Governor; June 25-October 25, 1966
	3	Books of Registration; 1958
	4	Census-Registered Voters; 1966
	5	Constitution-Laws-Court Cases; 1966
	6	Dellwood Subdivision; April-July, 1982
	7	General; October 1965-November 1966
	8	Getting the Bill Through; November 1966-November 1967
	9	Information for Poll Workers; 1966
	10	Laws-Registration-Voting; (nd)
2	1	Newspaper Clippings; 1965-1966
	2	Newspaper Clippings; 1967
	3	Newspaper Clippings; 1968
	4	Oconee vs. Pickens; February 2-March 22, 1967
	5	Petition # 1 (Stone Church Area); 1966
	6	Publicity Releases-Speeches; 1966
	7	Report of Commission: "To Change County Lines Between Oconee and Pickens Counties"; September 26, 1966