

Walter Thompson Cox, 1918-2006

A Register of His Papers, 1909-2006

OVERVIEW

- Repository:** Special Collections, Clemson University Libraries Clemson, SC 29634-3001
- Creator:** Cox, Walter T. (Walter Thompson), 1918-2006
- Manuscript #:** 300
- Title:** Walter Thompson Cox Papers
- Abstract:** This manuscript collection contains material donated by Walter Thompson Cox, longtime Dean of Students (1955-1985) and tenth President of Clemson University (July 1986-March 1987). His tenure saw the enrollment of Clemson increase significantly; he presided over important milestones such as the transition from a military college into a major university, the admission of women, and the peaceful desegregation of the student body. In addition to documenting his ongoing efforts to promote Clemson University, the papers contain materials that highlight his participation in a number of corporate boards, along with several files that relate to various aspects of his personal life.
- Dates:** 1909-2006
- Quantity:** 11 cu. ft. consisting of 23 document boxes and one oversized folder

Scope and Content

This manuscript collection has been arranged into eleven series: athletics; buildings and land use (Clemson); clippings; correspondence; miscellaneous; organizations (Clemson and Corporate); personal; recommendations; reports/studies; and scholarships. The papers date from 1909-2006 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1969-2006.

The papers are arranged alphabetically by series and then folder title. Correspondence and news clippings have been arranged chronologically by date. Obituaries have been arranged by last name.

The bulk of the athletics series consists of football bowl game travel information that was provided to Dean Cox. In addition to this material there is a ticket from the 1986

Clemson-Georgia football game. Information regarding efforts to name the Athletic Training Center after longtime employee Herman McGee is also present.

Among the buildings and land use records are plans for street improvements in downtown Clemson (1994), early reports regarding the Clemson University Transit system (1993), and materials related to the establishment and construction of the Walker Golf Course.

Cox collected many news clippings during his lifetime; the bulk of which track the progress and evolution of events at Clemson University over the years. Obituaries of notable Clemson professors and alumni are present, along with those of prominent local figures whom Cox was acquainted with.

The correspondence dates from 1909-2006. The earliest correspondence is on postcards depicting Clemson College scenes which are addressed to Blanche and Anna Tribble of Georgia. Additionally, there are letters from 1918 written by Walter T. Cox's father during his service in World War I. The bulk of the correspondence is between 1986 and 2006. Several files devoted specifically to families or individuals have been preserved as they were originally filed. These are in alphabetical order by last name following the 2006 material.

There are miscellaneous items in this collection related directly to Clemson University. Of note are items from the Clemson carillon dedication in 1987, a list of Faculty Senate Presidents (1956-2002), Clemson graduates earning PhD's (1921-1961), Clemson's written position regarding the Confederate Flag (2000), and correspondence and plans regarding efforts to restore the R.W. Simpson Cemetery site.

These papers contain two series concerning organizations which have been designated *Clemson* and *Corporate*. The bulk of the organizational material which relates to Clemson includes: Class of 1939 reunions (1950s-2006), Clemson Corps (1998-2005), Clemson University Foundation (1986-2005), and Cotton Bowl (1940) reunions (1974-2004). The corporate records almost exclusively include materials which document Cox's participation as board member. Among these are: AABCO (1969-1971), Blue Cross/Blue Shield (1969-1978), Clemson Area Retirement Center (1976-1998), Citizens & Southern National Bank 1966-1985), Santee Cooper (1965-2003), and the South Carolina State Museum Commission (1996-1998).

Among items of personal interest regarding Walter Cox include a copy of his marriage certificate (1940) to his first wife Mary Johnson, hand-written reflections regarding his own "Clemson Experience", and items of congratulations upon his retirement in 1987.

A series entitled "recommendations" contains materials which highlight Dean Cox's ongoing efforts to help various individuals by serving as a reference.

Among notable reports and studies are audits from the late 1980s and an early report regarding efforts to establish the Clemson Motorsports Foundation.

The scholarships record group contains lists of Clemson students who have been awarded with the Cox Scholarship between the years 1989-2001.

Preferred Citation

Cite as: [description of item such as "Correspondence, 2003-2006"] box number, folder number, Mss 300, Walter Thompson Cox Papers, Special Collections, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, SC.

Biographical Note

Walter Thompson Cox was born on September 19, 1918 in Belton, South Carolina, the son of Walter T. and Grace Campbell Cox. He entered Clemson College in the fall of 1935, graduating with a degree in General Science in 1939. Returning in 1940 during a year of post graduate study, Cox anchored the offensive line while playing for the football team. The season was a success, as Clemson defeated Boston College 6-3 in the Cotton Bowl. It was the Tigers' first post-season appearance.

After serving in the United States Army during the years 1942-1943, Cox returned to Clemson. During the 1940s he served in a variety of athletic positions including assistant football coach, ticket manager, baseball coach, and IPTAY promoter. In 1951, he assumed dual responsibilities as Director of Public Relations and Alumni Affairs as well as assistant to President Robert F. Poole. In 1955 Cox was named Dean of Students (later Vice President for Student Affairs), a position at which he served until 1985. At the request of the Board of Trustees, he left the student affairs post in July 1985 to become Clemson's tenth president. He was the third Clemson graduate to assume the school's presidency, serving until Max Lennon took the position in March 1986. Cox officially retired in 1987, though he continued to be involved in development activities on behalf of Clemson University until his death in 2006.

Cox married the former Mary Johnson in 1940. Together they had four children: Walter T. III, Frank, Grace, and William. After Mary Johnson Cox's death in 1985, Walter Cox was remarried to the former Jenelle Garrett Cox in November of 1986.

Related Material

Series 35 Walter T. Cox -- Presidential Records, 1970-1989

Series 37 Student Affairs, Office of (subject file)

Series 38 Walter Cox (biographical file)

Series 100 Clemson University Photographs (Walter Cox)

Series 105 Office of Student Affairs -- Vice President Walter Thompson Cox Records, 1929-1986

Index Terms

Subjects:

Clemson University—Administration

Clemson University—Athletics

Clemson University—Buildings
Clemson University. Class of 1939
Clemson University—Student Life
Cox, Walter T. (Walter Thompson), 1918-2006
Santee-Cooper Navigation and Hydroelectric Project
South Carolina Public Service Authority

Added Entries:

Hartzog, George B.
Spiro, Arthur

Provenance

The material was donated to Special Collections by Walter Thompson Cox.
Accession numbers: 89-195, 98-1, 98-112, 98-120, 99-95, 00-61, 03-134, 05-78, and 06-76.

Processing

This collection was processed by Carl Redd, Project Archivist with the aid of Student Assistant Deanna Panetta in the spring and summer of 2007.

Separation List

Box 1

Audio/Visual:

1. Carillon Bell Dedication DVD, 1987
2. Class of 1939 Reunion DVD, 2005
3. Class of 1943 50th Reunion DVD
4. Santee Cooper – Walter Cox Retirement DVD, 1992

Oversize Folder

Oversize:

1. Architectural drawings – Clemson Class of 1939 Tillman Bell Tower
2. Certificate – Establishment of *Army Advisory Board* at Clemson University, 1987
3. Photograph – 1940 Cotton Bowl Champion Football Team
4. Recognition – Naming of Walter T. Cox Education Building in Clarendon County, SC
5. Recognition – *We're Proud to Say Clemson* honor for Cox

Box 2

Photographs/Negatives:

Photographs – General

1. Baseball Reunion, 2003
 2. Bell Tower (1939 Tillman bell) Construction
 3. Bradley, General Mark E.
 4. Carillon Players, 2000
 5. Citizens & Southern National Bank Weathervane at Anderson, SC location, 1967
 6. Class of 1939 Reunion
 7. Clemson Letterman Association
 8. Clemson Presidents: Edwards through Prince (mid 1990s?)
 9. Cotton Bowl Reunion
 10. Cox Celebrates 35 Years at Clemson (contact sheets)
 11. Cox & Family
 12. Cox & Gantt, Harvey
 13. Cox Greeting Individuals
 14. Cox & Lovelace, Oscar
 15. Cox Office Scenes
 16. Cox, Walter T. Plaza – Sculpture
 17. Hawaii Trip, 1985
 18. Spiro, Arthur (contact sheets)
 19. Walker Golf Course Presentation
- ##### 1939 TAPS
20. Negatives – Misc. I
 21. Negatives – Misc. II
 22. Negatives – Misc. III

23. Negatives – Misc. IV
24. Negatives – Misc. V
25. Negatives – Misc. VI
26. Negatives – Misc. VII
27. Negatives – Misc. VII

Box 3

1. Negatives – Misc. VIII
2. Negatives – Misc. IX
3. Photographs – Administration (Clemson College)
4. Photographs – Athletics
5. Photographs – Cadet Band
6. Photographs – Cadet Clubs
7. Photographs – Cadet Club Meetings
8. Photographs – Cadet Corps Commanders
9. Photographs – Cadet Drills
10. Photographs – Cadet Platoon Numbers I & II
11. Photographs – Cadet Portrait Shots
12. Photographs – Drilling Maneuvers at Fort McClellan, Alabama
13. Photographs – Entertainment
14. Photographs – Group Photos
15. Photographs – Misc. Scenes
16. Photographs – Presenting the Colors

Detailed Description

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Athletics
	2	Clemson vs. South Carolina Football Program (freshman squads), 1935
	3	Florida Citrus Bowl, 1988
	4	Florida Citrus Bowl, 1991
	5	Gator Bowl, 2000
	6	McGee, Herman Training Center Fund, 2004
	7	Ticket – Clemson vs. Georgia, 1986
	8	Buildings and Land Use (Clemson University)
	9	Godfrey Hall Graphic Communications Center Dedication, 1988
	10	Madren Center, 1997
	11	Pearman, Silas N. Boulevard, 1987-1991
	12	Street Improvements (Clemson downtown), 1994
	13	Strom Thurmond Institute, 1987-1989
	14	Transit Plan (Clemson University), 1993
	15	Walker Golf Course Advisory Board, 1993
	16	Walker Golf Course – General, 1992-1995
	17	Walter T. Cox Plaza, 1998-1999 no date
	18	YMCA Study, 1990
	2	17
18		News Clippings, 1938-1997
19		News Clippings, 1998-2003 no date
		Obituaries (arranged by last name)
		Correspondence – Cox, Walter Thompson
1		1909-1942
3	2	1986
	3	January-August, 1987
	4	September-December, 1987
	5	January-April, 1988
	6	May-December, 1988
3	1	1989
	2	1990
	3	1991
	4	1992
	5	1993

4	1	1994
	2	1995
	3	1996
	4	1997
	5	1998
	6	1999
	7	2000
	8	2001
	9	2002
	10	2003-2006
5	1	Abney Family, 2000-2001
	2	Barker, James F., 2000-2003
	3	Boulware Family, 2000-2001
	4	Collins, Joel (re: Judge Matthew Perry), 2001
	5	Commission on Judicial Reform, 1996-2000
	6	Cox, Frank, 1988, 1994-2005
	7	Curriss, Deno, 1996-1998
	8	Fickling Family, 2004-2006
	9	Hair, Jay, 1991-1994
	10	Hartzog Family, 1993-2005
6	1	Hodges, Governor Jim (re: <i>Call Me Mister Program</i>), 1999
	2	Horton Family, 1991-2000 no date
	3	Landrum Family, 1996
	4	Lewis, Jr., W. K., 2001
	5	McKeown, Harry, 2002-2004
	6	Montgomery, Dot, 1997-2002
	7	Moore, Eugene, 2002-2003
	8	Neely, William J., 1989-1990 no date
	9	Prince, Phil, 1994-1995
	10	Ransdell, Gary, 1994-2003
	11	Rogers, Steffan, 2000
	12	Spiro, Arthur, 1993-2004
	13	Wilkins, David H., 1991 no date
7		Miscellaneous
	1	Calhoun Lecture Series, 2000-2003
	2	Clemson Alma Mater (history of), 2000-2001
	3	Clemson Carillon Dedication, 1987
	4	Clemson Centennial Movie Script, 1987
	5	Clemson Centennial Speech, 1989
6	Clemson Communications Department (history of), no date	

7	Clemson Distinguished Service Award Recipients, 1961-2000
8	Clemson Faculty Senate Presidents, 1956-2002
9	Clemson Graduates Earning PhD's, 1921-1961
10	Clemson Presidential Search, 1999
11	Confederate Flag (Clemson's position regarding), 2000
12	Desegregation at Clemson Task Force, 2003
13	Metz, Gus (Clemson Alumni Research), 1988-1991
14	Simpson, R. W. Cemetery, 1987-1988

Organizations – Clemson

Class of 1939 Reunion

8	1	Biographical Files, no date
	2	Heritage Garden Architectural Plans
	3	Heritage Garden (general), 2000-2001
	4	<i>Heritage Gardens of Clemson University</i>
	5	Individuals – Horton, Jr. Lewis, 1944
	6	Individuals – McKeown, Harry
	7	Individuals – Sloan, Raymond
	8	Obituaries (arranged by last name)
	9	1950-1960s
	10	1975-1982
	11	1983-1984
	12	1985-1986
	13	1987
	14	1988
9	1	1989
	2	1990
	3	1991
	4	1992
	5	1993
	6	1994
	7	1995
	8	1996
	9	1997
10	1	1998
	2	1999
	3	2000
	4	2001
	5	2002
	6	2003
	7	2004
	8	2005
	9	2006

		Clemson Corps
11	1	1998
	2	1999
	3	2000-2005 no date
		Clemson University Foundation
	4	Berley Scholarship, 1999
	5	Bradley, General Mark E. Gift, 1999
	6	Board of Directors, March 27, 1999
	7	Board of Directors, June 16, 1999
	8	Board of Directors, March 18, 2000
	9	Board of Directors, October 27, 2000
12	1	Board of Directors, March 27, 2001
	2	Board of Directors, June 22, 2002
	3	Board of Directors, June 18, 2005
	4	General, 1986-2004
		Cotton Bowl Reunion
	5	Football Rosters
	6	Menu (Texas/Pacific Railway), January 2, 1940
	7	News Clippings, 1995 no date
	8	Obituaries (arranged by last name)
	9	1974-1979
	10	1980-1981
	11	1982
	12	1983
	13	1984-1985
	14	1986-1988
13	1	1989
	2	1990-1991
	3	1992
	4	1993
	5	1994
	6	1995
	7	1996
	8	1997
	9	1998
	10	1999
	11	2000
	12	2001-2004
	13	Clemson Fellowship Club, 1987-2002
	14	Clemson Institutional Advancement, 1991-1999

	15	Clemson Letterman's Association, 1991-2003
	16	Clemson President's Cabinet, 1999-2001
	17	Clemson Volunteer Leadership, 1986
		Organizations – Corporate
14	1	AABCO Board of Directors, 1969-1971
		Blue Cross/Blue Shield
	2	Board of Directors, 1969-1970
	3	Board of Directors, January-April 1971
	4	Board of Directors, June-December 1971
	5	Board of Directors, 1972-1975
	6	Board of Directors, 1977-1978
		Clemson Area Retirement Center (CARC)
15	1	CARC, 1976-1980
	2	CARC, 1990-1993
	3	CARC, 1994-1998
		Citizens & Southern National Bank (C&S)
	4	1966-1967
	5	1968-1985
	6	Board of Directors, 1991
	7	Photographs (photocopies) re: placement of Tiger/Gamecock weathervane at Anderson, SC location, 1967
	8	Pendleton Little Theatre Fundraising Campaign, 1991-2005
		Santee Cooper
16	1	Brochures
	2	Walter T. Cox Building, 1996
	3	1965-1973
	4	1976-1977
	5	1980-1982
	6	1983
	7	1984
	8	1987
	9	1988
	10	1989
	11	1990
	12	1991-1992
	13	1995-2003

		South Carolina State Museum Commission
17	1	Nomination of Walter T. Cox, 1997
	2	Board of Trustees, November 1996- May 1997
	3	Board of Trustees, June-December 1997
	4	Board of Trustees, January-May 1998
	5	Board of Trustees, June-September 1998
		Personal – Cox, Walter Thompson
18	1	Belton High School Class of 1935 Reunion
	2	Birthday (80 th)
	3	Collected Thoughts
	4	First Baptist Church of Clemson, 1974-1985
	5	Genoa Italy Trip, 1992
	6	Income Tax Figures, 1988-1989
	7	Marriage Certificate (Walter Cox & Mary Johnson), 1940
	8	PhD (honorary), 1986
	9	Real Estate Agreements, 1995
	10	Reflections on Clemson Experience
	11	Retirement, 1987
		Recommendations – Cox, Walter Thompson
19	1	Recommendations, 1986-2005
		Reports/Studies
	2	Audit – Clemson Alumni Association, 1987
	3	Audit – Clemson Institutional Advancement, 1986
	4	Audit – Clemson Institutional Advancement, 1987
	5	Audit – Clemson Research Authority, 1986-1987
	6	Audit – Clemson Strom Thurmond Institute, 1987
	7	Audit – Clemson University Foundation, 1986
	8	Audit – Clemson University Foundation, 1987
	9	Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan (Clemson University), 1995
	10	Clemson, Campaign for, 1987
	11	Clemson Feasibility, 1996
	12	Clemson – <i>In Brief</i> (facts), 1984
20	1	Clemson Motorsports Foundation, no date
	2	Clemson Office of Business and Finance Objectives, 1987
	3	Clemson Student Center, 1996
	4	Clemson Top Twenty Findings, 2001
		Scholarships – Cox, Walter Thompson
	5	Scholarships, 1989-2001