

**G. H. (GEORGE HUBERT) AULL, 1899 – 1988**

**A Register of His Papers, 1915 – 1977**

**Overview of Collection**

Creator: Aull, G. H. (George Hubert) 1899 – 1988

Collection Number: Mss 255

Title: G. H. Aull Papers, 1915 – 1986

**Abstract:** G. H. Aull, Clemson professor of Agricultural Economics and Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, had a distinguished career as nationally recognized expert in matters of public finance, rural development and agricultural economics. An influential researcher and prolific author, Aull was instrumental in the acquisition of land for the Clemson Forest that expanded the University. Beginning with material from his days as a student at Clemson, 1915 – 1919, the papers document his long career at Clemson and his participation in a variety of academic, civic, and professional activities. Upon retirement in 1963, he served as a consultant and continued to voice his opinion regarding a variety of issues. The papers have copies of a wide variety of publications authored by Aull including reports, articles in scholarly professional journals and the popular press, newsletters, opinion pieces in newspapers, and letters to the editor. There is considerable correspondence often related to Aull's writings about economic issues.

**Quantity:** 7.2 cubic feet consisting of 17 document boxes, including approximately 150 photographs and a scrapbook in 2 boxes; 1 scrapbook of photographs in 1 box; 1 box with 2 audio tapes, 3 cassette tapes, 2 CDs and 1 reel of microfilm; and 1 box with 3 cassette tapes and 1 reel of microfilm; 1 oversize folder with 3 maps and approximately 80 reports; 1 oversize volume and 11 reels of 16 mm motion picture film.

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers include articles, audio tapes, correspondence, maps, microfilm, motion picture film, newsletters, photographs, reports, scrapbooks and speeches.

The papers date from 1915 – 1986 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1932 – 1969. There are two albums of photographs documenting Aull's years as a Clemson cadet, 1915-1919 as well as photographs related to his career, 1930-1969. There is one oversize volume documenting the Clemson Land Use Project, 1934-1954.

G.H. Aull arranged most of his papers prior to their donation to the Libraries and bound them soft cover binders. These have been unbound in order to more effectively photocopy the large number of sheets of decaying paper. There is correspondence to and from Aull that he partially organized by subject. He organized compilations of correspondence, letters

to the editor and articles concerning issues that he expressed a public opinion about under the title "Here I Stand". On occasion, he would annotate items. Aull's scrapbooks document his student years at Clemson College, some aspects of his professional career as well his church and personal life.

The papers document Aull's career at Clemson College as a Clemson cadet and then member of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology and researcher for the South Carolina Experiment Station. Aull spent much of his career examining issues of taxation, land use, land tenure and economic development. He participated in many government and academic committees and boards including the South Carolina Tax Study Commission. There are reports co-authored by Aull, research studies and articles.

Upon retirement from Clemson in 1963, he worked as a consultant for the South Carolina National Bank and edited a newsletter "The Carolina Economist" for the bank. There is an incomplete run of the newsletter as well as correspondence related to it.

Aull received and kept a wide variety of correspondence including many Clemson administrators and faculty, South Carolina political and business leaders including T.S. Buie, Robert C. Edwards, Milton Dyer Farrer, Wil Lou Gray, W. H. Mills, Robert F. Poole, Enoch M. Sikes, J.C. Littlejohn, Preston B. Holtzendorff, Joe Sherman, Burnett Maybank, J. Strom Thurmond, Edgar Brown, Earle Morris, Ernest Hollings, William Jennings Bryan Dorn and William W. McEachern,

The speeches are arranged according to general topic and thereafter by date and concern ethics, public finance, religion, rural life, taxation, tariffs and trade.

There are three maps documenting land acquisition for the Clemson Forest; school tax delinquency in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens County, 1932; and a proposed resettlement community.

There are two recordings of two oral interviews with G.H. Aull; one with Susan Duffy in 1986 and another with Bryan McKown in 1985 with a tape abstract of the Duffy interview and a transcript of the McKown interview.

The photographs document Aull's career as well as the Clemson Land Use Project. The two scrapbooks cover the period when Aull attended Clemson as a cadet as well as his teaching at what became Georgia Southern University.

### **Additional Collection Information**

Cite as: [description of item such as "Letter from John Smith, Clemson, SC to Michael Jones, Columbia, SC"], box number, folder number, Mss 255, G.H. Aull Papers, Special Collections, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, SC.

### **Biographical Note**

George Hubert Aull was born in Newberry County, South Carolina on October 16, 1899 to John Calvin Aull and Eugenia Long Aull. After taking a scholarship test in the eighth grade, Aull entered Clemson College at the age of fifteen in 1915. While attending Clemson, Aull was the Editor-in-Chief of *The Tiger* 1918--1919. Graduating in 1919 with a degree in Agricultural Chemistry, Aull taught agriculture at the First District A & M School in Statesboro, Georgia 1919 – 1920, and then agriculture, mathematics and science at the Marion High School, Marion, South Carolina 1920 -- 1921.

Returning to Clemson in 1921, Aull accepted a position as Assistant Director for Research for the South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station. As a cadet Aull had worked for the Director of the Experiment Station, Dr. Henry W. Barre, who invited him to apply for this position. Dr. Barre served as mentor to Aull and encouraged him to attend the University of Virginia where in 1928 he received a MS in Economics. Continuing his graduate training, Aull received a Rockefeller Fellowship in 1929 to attend the University of Wisconsin. Returning to Clemson in 1930, he resumed his position with the Agricultural Experiment Station until 1934. Eventually in 1937 Aull received his PhD in Economics from Wisconsin.

In 1934, Aull served as the Senior Administrative Officer in South Carolina for the Land Policy Section of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Aull and Barre were largely responsible for the Clemson College Community Conservation Project that eventually added 29,000 acres of land to Clemson. Although largely responsible for the successful acquisition and implementation of the project, Aull resigned from this position. His successor was less sympathetic to Clemson and the project did not meet all its early expectations. During the 1950s seven thousand acres of this land were sold back to the Corps of Engineers for the creation of Lake Hartwell.

In the fall of 1936 Aull was appointed Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Clemson and remained head until his retirement in 1963. Under his leadership, this department achieved national prominence in part because of Aull's own research and teaching skills. He conducted important work related to tax equalization, rural industrialization and community development as well as writing on a large variety of topics from an economic perspective.

G. H. Aull served on numerous boards, committees and commissions during his life. He was the Governor's appointee to the South Carolina Tax Survey Committee from 1938 -- 1939 as well as to the Tax Study Commission from 1958 -- 1962. He was a public member of the fourth region of the National War Labor Board during World War II. Aull also became known internationally during his career that included being a Guest of His Majesty's Government in 1946 with the Agricultural Mission to the United Kingdom. Aull's publications included numerous articles in journals and bulletins as well as *A Brief History of the South Carolina Experiment Station* and *Taxation and the Ability to Pay*. Following his retirement from Clemson College in 1963, Aull became Consulting Economist with the South Carolina National Bank. This included a monthly publication of a newsletter entitled *The Carolina Economist* that Aull wrote for five years.

While teaching in Marion, George Aull met his wife, Cleo Dobson. They married in 1922 and had two children, George Jr. and Anne.

Aull was awarded "Man of the Year" by *Progressive Farmer* in 1945 for service to Agriculture. He was also honored by his church and awarded Honorary Life Deacon in January of 1979. On April 8, 1988, G. H. Aull was awarded the Clemson Medallion, Clemson's highest honor. He died of natural causes later that same year on December 16.

## **Related Material**

Series 38 contains two folders of newspaper clippings and other material relating the life of G. H. Aull.

G.H. Aull donated some of his bound papers to the Libraries and these have been cataloged in Special Collections:

*Bulletins and Circulars: Economic and Social, 1930-1950.* HB33 .A8

*The Carolina Economist, 1964-1968.* HB1 .C2

*A Collection of Articles, 1939-1950.* HB35 .A92

*Journal Articles: Economic and Social, 1939-1950.* HB35 .A92

*Miscellaneous Journal Articles, Reprints, Etc. 1818, 1935-1975.* AC8 .A789

*Selected Speeches, 1931-1968.* AC8 .A79 vol. 1-10

**Subjects:**

Agricultural price supports – United States

Agriculture – Economic Aspects

Aull, G.H. (George Hubert) 1899-1988

Clemson University – Clemson Forest

Clemson University -- Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology

Clemson University – Student Life

Federal Reserve Bank

Georgia Southern University -- History

Real property and taxation – South Carolina

Rural Development – South Carolina

Sales tax – South Carolina

Taxation – Law and Legislation – South Carolina

Zoning – South Carolina – Pickens County

**Correspondents**

Brown, Edgar Allan

Buie, T. S. (Thomas Stephen)

Dorn, William Jennings Bryan

Edwards, Robert Cook

Farrar, Milton Dyer

Gray, Wil Lou

Hollings, Ernest F.

Holtzendorff, Preston Brooks

Littlejohn, J. C. (James Corcoran)

Maybank, Burnet Rhett

McEachern, William W.

Mills, W.H. (William Hayne)

Morris, Earle

Poole, Robert Franklin

Sherman, Joe

Sikes, Enoch Walter

Thurmond, Strom

**Document Types**

Articles

Audio Cassettes

Audiotapes  
Maps  
Photographs  
Scrapbooks  
Speeches

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Acquired from:**

Larry Reamer transferred papers of George Aull and Marlin Bruner 85-04. G. H. Aull donated his papers and photographs 85-120. Anne Aull Bowbeer donated additional papers 88-9, 88-56, 93-64, and 94-1. The interviews were acquired from Bryan McKown 86-36 and Susan Duffy 86-109. Nate Wilkes donated the motion picture film and publications 03-137.

#### **Processing information**

Nicholas Gambrell prepared this register in 2003 as part of work in History 893 Archives Practicum with further editorial work done by Michael Kohl and processing help from student assistant Cornelius Harrington in 2004.