

Jesse Frisbie Jackson family papers

Descriptive Summary

Repository:	Georgia Historical Society
Creator:	Jackson, Jesse Frisbie, 1873-1954.
Title:	Jesse Frisbie Jackson family papers
Dates:	1898-1953
Extent:	2.5 cubic feet (4 boxes, 20 volumes)
Identification:	MS 1572

Biographical/Historical Note

Jesse (Jack) Frisbie Jackson (1873-1954) was born in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. He began his career as a stenographer in Manchester, Iowa, in 1894 with the Illinois Central Railroad. After moving to Dubuque, Iowa, he became chief clerk of the Assistant General Passenger Office in 1899, and in 1909 he became a traveling passenger agent in that office. In 1910, Jackson accepted a job as an immigration agent with the Central of Georgia Railway Company, and he and his family moved to Savannah, Georgia. After two years as an immigration agent, Jackson switched to the railway's agricultural department and became an agricultural agent. In 1922, Jackson was promoted to general agricultural agent and ran the agriculture department. He remained in that position until his retirement in 1945.

While working for the Central of Georgia Railway's agricultural department, Jackson worked to encourage southern farmers to adopt methods that will make them more prosperous, since the railway's earnings were dependent on the prosperity of the region's agriculture. Jackson encouraged projects of lasting impact, such as the establishment of permanent pastures and the reintegration of soil in the South. He was very active in his profession and was a member of the American Railway Development Association (ARDA), the Southern Railway Development Association (SRDA), the Southern Cattlemen Association (SCA), Friends of the Land and the National Farm Chemurgic Council, as well as Savannah's Rotary Club. He served as president of the ARDA, SRDA, and the SCA at various times. In 1944, he was named Man of the Year by *The Progressive Farmer* magazine.

Jackson wrote extensively throughout his career about farming, but he also tried his hand at creative writing. In 1898, while in Iowa, he attended the Sprague Correspondence School of Journalism, and in the fall of 1933, he tried the John Gallishaw School for Creative Writing, Inc. Jackson was an avid reader and a big fan of Mark Twain.

Jackson lived at 905 Henry Street in Savannah with his wife, Laura Atwater Jackson (b. 1886). Together they raised five children: Helen (later Mrs. Stilson Brannen), Mary Atwater (b. June 5, 1908), Margaret Clow (b. June 5, 1908), Jesse Atwater (b. May 23, 1901), and Laurance (Laurie) Frisbie (b. 1906).

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of the personal and business papers of Jesse F. Jackson, as well as some papers of the rest of the Jackson family. The first box contains correspondence of the Jackson family. The majority of this correspondence is from 1929-1936 and concerns the inheritance the family received in 1930 from Mrs. Helen Clement, an aunt of Jesse F. Jackson. Mrs. Clement was from the mid-west and came to Savannah a few months before dying in February of 1930. Financial papers concerning the inheritance are also included. A variety of membership cards are also in the collection, most belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson. The rest of the papers in box 1 pertain solely to Jesse F. Jackson. These include some personal and business papers, as well as business correspondence. Two files hold papers concerning Jackson's dealings with the National Farm Chemurgic Council and also the Friends of the Land organization. Jackson also kept a list of birthdays of co-workers and others in his field and this is also in the collection. Some of the names on the list also include some biographical information about the person in addition to their birth date. Jackson tried his hand at creative writing on at least two occasions; his writing lessons from the Sprague Correspondence School of Journalism in 1898 and a short story he wrote for the John Gallishaw School for Creative Writing in 1933 are included in the collection. Box 1 concludes with Jackson's retirement papers from the Central of Georgia Railway Company and news clippings about Jackson throughout his career.

The second box contains copies of Jesse F. Jackson's weekly report as head of the agricultural department to the President of the Central of Georgia Railway Company from 1916 to March of 1945 (except for 1922).

The collection also contains 16 scrapbooks and 4 diaries. The scrapbooks were created by Jesse F. Jackson and pertain to his career in the agricultural department of the Central of Georgia Railway Company. These scrapbooks contain letters, news clippings, pamphlets, reports, and other memorabilia, and they span the length of Jackson's career. Three of the diaries in the collection were kept by Mrs. Laura Jackson for the years 1929-1930, 1937, and 1945. In her entries, she relates her day's events and the comings and goings of her family. Entries range from very brief to a few sentences, and there are some large gaps where no entries were made. Also, a few letters and news clippings can be found pasted into the diaries. The other diary was kept by Laurance F. Jackson for the years 1923-1925. HE writes almost daily about what he did each day and provides a good glimpse into the life of a teenager in Savannah in the 1920s.

Also included are several photographs of Jesse F. Jackson, his family, and the family house and car. Folder 2 consists of two photos of the office of the agricultural department of the Central of Georgia Railway Company, a photo of Jackson announcing at the Savannah Stock Yards, and two photos of men on a train. Folder 3 contains 5 photos taken at a Friends of the Land meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on June 11, 1942. The last folder contains 2 similar photos of 2 unidentified men in an office and a photo of a man basket-weaving under a tree. In addition, there are 7 loose panoramic photographs that appear to have been taken at various conferences that Jackson attended throughout his career. These photos are tightly rolled.

The box containing visual materials is noted as "VM" in the collection inventory.

Index Terms

Agricultural conservation--Southern States.
Agriculture--Experimentation--Southern States.
Agriculture--Research--On-farm.
Agriculturists--Georgia.
American Railway Development Association.
Automobiles.
Basket making.
Brannen, Helen Jackson.
Central of Georgia Railway.
Chemurgy.
Clement, Helen, d. 1930,
Farmers--Southeast.
Financial records.
Friends of the Land (U.S.)
Jackson family.
Jackson, Jesse Atwater, b. 1901.
Jackson, Jesse Frisbie, 1873-1954.
Jackson, Laura Atwater, b. 1886.
Jackson, Laurance Frisbie, b. 1906.
Jackson, Margaret Clow, b. 1908.
Jackson, Mary Atwater, b. 1908.
Land use, Rural--Southern States.
Letters (correspondence)
National Farm Chemurgic Council.
Photographs.
Railroad companies--Georgia--Savannah.
Railroad companies--Iowa.
Savannah (Ga.)
Soil conservation--Southern States.
Southern Cattlemen's Association.
Southern Railway Development Association.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Unknown.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Jesse Frisbie Jackson family papers, MS 1572, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information

Unknown.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Separated Material

Artifacts were separated and cataloged with the Georgia Historical Society Artifacts Collection. View digital images of artifacts at the end of this collection inventory or search the Digital Image Catalog for further information.

Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Container List

Jackson family correspondence

Box	Fldr	
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- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 1900; 1912; 1914; 1929-1931 |
| | 2 | 1932-1936; 1938; 1943-44; 1946; 1948 |
| 3 | | Mrs. Helen Clement correspondence, 1929 December-1930 February |
| 4 | | Jackson family financial papers |
| 5 | | Jackson family membership cards and passes |

Jesse F. Jackson

Box Fldr

- | | | |
|---|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 6 | Personal papers |
| | 7 | Business papers |
| | 8 | Business correspondence |
| | 9 | National Farm Chemurgic Council |
| | 10 | Friends of the Land |
| | 11 | Birthday greetings list |
| | 12 | Creative writing, 1898 and 1933 |
| | 13 | Retirement papers |
| | 14 | Newspaper clippings |

Weekly reports

Box Fldr

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| 2 | 1 | 1916-1919 |
| | 2 | 1920-1921 |
| | 3 | 1923-1927 |
| | 4 | 1928-1934 |
| | 5 | 1935-1938 |
| | 6 | 1939-1942 |
| | 7 | 1943-1945 March |

Box Fldr

- | | | |
|---|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 | 1 | Scrapbook created by Jesse F. Jackson |
| | 2-4 | Diaries kept y Mrs. Laura A. Jackson, 1929-1930, 1937, 1945 |
| | 5 | Diary kept by Laurance (Larry) Jackson, 1923-1925 |

vm_box Fldr

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Jackson family photographs
2 photos of the Jackson family, 1921 and mid-1930s; 1 photo of Jesse F. Jackson with |
|---|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

grandson Jesse Hooker B. Jackson (b. June 30, 1943); 1 photo of Laura A. Jackson with grandson Jesse (both photos taken in Pensacola, FL.)

vm_box Fldr

- 1 2 Jesse F. Jackson at work. **View images: 1 | 2.**
1 photo of Jackson's private office at the agricultural department of the Central of Georgia Railway Company; 1 photo of the agricultural department office of the C. of Ga. Railway; 1 photo of Jesse F. Jackson announcing at the Savannah Fat Stock Show at the Savannah Stock Yards, March 1934; 1 photo of Jesse F. Jackson and 4 unidentified men standing in the doorway of a railroad car
Online Inventory Contains Digitized Items

vm_box Fldr

- 1 3 Friends of the Land meeting
5 photos of a meeting in Atlanta, Ga. on June 11, 1942, captions on back of photos

vm_box Fldr

- 1 4 Unidentified

Artifacts

- A-1572-001 Large Rotary Club of Savannah button badge **View online.**
- A-1572-002 Red, white, and blue ribbon **View online.**
- A-1572-003 Medal with a blue ribbon from the World's Dairy Congress **View online.**
- A-1572-004 Button badge with an image of a cow from the American Short Horn Breeders Association **View online.**
- A-1572-005 J. F. Jackson's name badge and ribbon for the American Railway Magazine Editors' Association Convention, in Savannah, Ga. October 29, 1926 **View online.**
- A-1572-006 Jack Jackson's nametag with ribbon and badge for the "Rotary International, Annual Meeting, Dist. No 8, Birmingham, Ala, 1921" **View online.**
- A-1572-007 Nametag holder with red, white and blue ribbon fragment **View online.**
- A-1572-008 Southern Cattlemen's Association medal **View online.**
- A-1572-009 American Short Horn Breeders Association medal **View online.**
- A-1572-010 Lapel button from the National Shorthorn Congress **View online.**
- A-1572-011 J.F. Jackson's lapel button from the Central of Georgia **View online.**
- A-1572-012 Central of Georgia, plastic badge that folds over a pocket **View online.**
- A-1572-013 J.F. Jackson's nametag from the American Railway Development Association's 18th

annual convention, Jun 23-25, 1926 **View online.**

A-1572-014 Mrs. Jackson's name tag from the American Railway Development Association's 18th annual convention, Jun 23-25, 1926 **View online.**

A-1572-015 Empty nametag pin frame **View online.**

A-1572-016 Metal pin with an insert that reads, "Director" **View online.**