

William S. and Zoe Louise Coburn papers

Descriptive Summary

Repository:	Georgia Historical Society
Creator:	Coburn, William S., (William Springfield), 1902-1988.
Creator:	Coburn, Zoe Louise, 1893-1971.
Title:	William S. and Zoe Louise Coburn papers
Dates:	1618-1973
Extent:	10.0 cubic feet (19 boxes, 1 volume, 1 oversize box)
Identification:	MS 2010

Biographical/Historical Note

William Sprigman Coburn, Jr. (1902-1988) was born in Savannah, Georgia, to William Sprigman Coburn (1870-1923) of Savannah and Ida Zoe Mallory Coburn (1869-1954) of Sisters Ferry, Georgia. However, he lived most of his life in Virginia. He was a civil engineer, local government official, and genealogist. Coburn served as a first lieutenant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and as captain in the Eighth Air Force (1942-1945). He began his civilian career working with a survey party, progressed to inspecting roads and railroads, and, finally, held clerkships and managerial positions in various municipal and county governments in Virginia, Maryland, and California. Coburn married Virginia Kathleen Johnson (b. 1909) of Narrows, VA in 1944. They had no children.

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of this collection records the results of Mr. Coburn's genealogical research on the Coburn and Mallory families, an avocation of many years' duration. Mr. Coburn attributes much of this research to his sister, Zoe Louise Coburn (1893-1971), a life-long resident of Savannah, and asks that the collection be dedicated to her memory. The genealogical data falls into three categories: Coburn's correspondence and notes regarding various branches of the family, arranged alphabetically by surname in folders; notebooks containing the genealogical information gathered from his correspondence and research, arranged alphabetically by surname in binders; a large post-binder that was disassembled as is now housed in the last three boxes of the collection. It contained the genealogies of the Coburn-Mallory family of Savannah and Effingham County, Georgia, and its branches and ancestors. It also included copies of family documents, clippings, and memorabilia. The original order of the materials has been retained. The "family group sheets" in this portion of the collection pertain to the following families: Aborn; Arnold; Atwater; Ballard; Battey; Beardsley; Bennett; Bishop; Bradley; Campbell; Carr; Clark; Clarke; Coburn; Conant; Cooper; Cox; Denman; Douville; Dresser; Dutton; England; Gifforde; Hardington; Havens; Hill; Horton; Howard; Jenckes; Kennedy; Ketchel; Knowlton; Low; Mallory; Mansfield; Marye; Metzger; Morris; Munson; Nicholson; Parrish; Peake; Peck; Powers; Preston; Rhodes; Rodgers; Roger; Rolfe; Saale; Sayre; Schwartzwalder; Scott; Springman; Treutlen; Trowbridge; Vaughn; Walton; waterman; Westcott; and Williams.

The collection also contains one box of materials dealing with Coburn's career, several photograph albums and scrapbooks, snapshots, postcards, and a family Bible. The Bible belonged to Moses Douville Coburn (1834-1902), grandfather of William S. Coburn. It later belonged to Zoe Coburn. It includes family data and memorabilia (1865). Many of the photographs, of earlier generations of the Coburn-Mallory family, as well as of William Coburn's own generation, are identified. Among the latter are a number relating to his sister, Zoe, secretary to the Savannah Diocese of the Episcopal Church; another sister, Mary Augusta (Coburn) Carter (Mrs. Edward P.) (1910-); and scattered items concerning Charles Coburn (1877-1961), uncle of William S. Coburn, Jr. and celebrated character actor. Box 15 contains snapshots, other photographs (including cased 19th century images), and postcards with subjects including Samuel B. Grubbs and his family, Dr. David Cady Wright of Christ Episcopal Church, Camp Reese (Episcopal Church camp on St. Simons Is.), the Rew family, Hollywood friends, and Zoe's work and vacations. Some of the individuals are identified.

Index Terms

Bibles.
Clippings (information artifacts)
Coburn family.
Coburn, William S., (William Springfield), 1902-1988.
Coburn, Zoe Louise, 1893-1971.
Genealogies (histories)
Letters (correspondence)
Photograph albums.
Photographs.
Research notes.
Scrapbooks.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Material was acquired from creator.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], William S. and Zoe Louise Coburn papers, MS 2010, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information

Gift of William S. Coburn, 1972, 1973, 1978, 1979.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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Sponsorship

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

Container List

Genealogical research notes and correspondence concerning the following families

Box Fldr

1	1-17	Aborn, Arnold, Atwater, Battey, Beardsley, Bennett, Bradford, Bradley, Bunnell, Campbell, Carr, Clarke-Clark, Coburn, and Conant
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Box Fldr

2 1-11 Cowper-Cooper, Douville, Dupuis, Hill, Howard, Kennedy, Low, and Mallory

Box Fldr

3 1-20 Metzger, Nicholson, Parrish, Peck, Powers, Preston, Rhodes, Rogers, Schwartzwalder, Scott, Sprigman (Pigman), Treutlen, Trowbridge, Waterman, Waters, and Williams

There are also folders containing Coburn-Mallory pedigree charts; clippings; papers; notes from Ebenezer Record Book; notes from parish registers, and various other public records and published sources concerning many of the above surnames, as well as Reid, Murry, and Blain, Rhode Island families, and Bishop Middleton Stuart Barnwell

Box Fldr

4 1-12 Aborn, Arnold, Atwater, Ballard, Battey, Beardsley, Bennett, Bishop, Bradford, Bradley, Braithwaite, and Bunnell

Box Fldr

5 1-6 Campbell, Carr, Clarke, Conant, Cooper, and Cox

Box Fldr

6 1-15 Denman, Douville, Dresser, Dupruis, Dutton, England, Greene, Havens, Hide, Hill, Howard, Jenckes, Kennedy, Ketchel, and Knowlton

Box Fldr

7 1-11 Lamberton, Low, Long, Mallory, Mansfield, Metzger, Morris, Munson, Neale, and Nicholson
Notebook 4 contains a typescript entitled "Peter Mallory and Some of His Descendants" by Leste D. Mallory

Box Fldr

8 1-9 Parrish, Peake, Peck, Powers, Preston, Ramsey, Read, and Rhodes

Box Fldr

9 1-9 Rodgers, Rolfe, Sale, Sayre, Schwartzwalder, Scott, Sprigman, Treutlen, and Trowbridge

Box Fldr

10 1-5 Walton, Waterman, Waters, Westcot, and Williams

Personal papers of William S. Coburn, Jr.

Box Fldr

- 11 1 Miscellaneous papers
including the wedding announcement of Mary Octavia Coburn and Stephen Nathan Harris (1901), business cards of Wm. S. Coburn and Emma E. Coburn, certification of William S. Coburn, Jr.'s employment with the California Highway Commission (1921-1922), a resolution on Captain William Sprigman Coburn (1870-1923) by the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Rhode Island (1924) and clippings re William S. Coburn, Jr.
- 2 Text of talk to the Young People's Society at the Chester, VA Presbyterian Church by William S. Coburn, Jr., (May 12, 1940)
- 3 Clippings re Coburn's clerkship (1941-1946) with the Board of Supervisors of Augusta County, VA (1946), (1946)
- Correspondence and clippings
- Coburn's tenure as business manager (1949-1951) for Anne Arundel County, MD and after (1949-1962)
- Coburn's city managership (1952-1956) of Hampton, VA (1951-1956), (1951-1956)
- 7 "The Clifton Forge Record" (Coburn's label), correspondence and clippings re Coburn's city managership (1956-1959) of Clifton Forge, VA (1957-1960), (1957-1960)
- 8-9 "The Porterville Debacle" (Coburn's label), correspondence and clippings re Coburn's city managership (1959-1962) of Porterville, CA, (1957-1962)
- 10 Papers re Zoe Coburn's association with the Episcopal Church, (1955-1970).
She was, for many years, financial secretary of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia
- 11 Correspondence, programs, and clippings, (1946-1972). **View images: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6.**
Online Inventory Contains Digitized Items
Regarding Charles Coburn nicknamed "Nunkie" by family members). The program for "You Can't Take It with You" contains a brief biographical sketch of the actor. Charles was a Georgia native, moving with his family to Savannah at the age of nine months. As a young man, he managed the Savannah Theatre and, throughout his life, called Savannah "home"
- 12 "A Boyhood in the Eighties" by Samuel B. Grubbs, M.D., from the *Michigan Alumnus Quarterly Review*, 1940 December
2 copies of reprint. One copy is inscribed to Zoe Coburn from the author
- 13 Stage play typescript for "The Yellow Jacket" by George C. Hazelton and Benrimo, staged by Benrimo at the Coburn Theatre in New York City, beginning November 7, 1928

Box

- 12 Card photograph album of Will and Ida Coburn, parents of William S. Coburn, Jr.
Photograph album of Zoe Coburn, sister of William S. Coburn, Jr. Many individuals are identified. (2 items)

Box

- 13 Photograph albums of the Coburn and Mallory families. Most individuals are identified

Box

- 14 Coburn family photograph album.
Scrapbook of the Business Women's Group of Christ Church (1937). Yearbooks of Walter L. Cohen Senior High School (1967) and Savannah State College (1967)

Box Fldr

- 15 1 Snapshots of Zoe Coburn and Sam Grubbs (Coburn's label), circa 1930s-1951 **View online.**
Online Inventory Contains Digitized Items
- 2 Postcards and photos from Zoe's album (Coburn's label)
- 3 Snapshots of Zoe's friends (Coburn's label), 1920s-1950s
- 4 Cased and card photographs
- 5 Miscellaneous photographs
including Charles Coburn, Bishop Middleton S. Barnwell, a parade of the 122nd U.S. Infantry (1918), and family grave sites

Box Fldr

- 16 1 Photograph album of Zoe Coburn
Includes views of her Drayton Street home (Savannah, GA), Samuel B. Grubbs and family, other friends and relatives, and Episcopal bishops Barnwell and Stuart (circa 1940s)
- Scrapbook of Zoe Coburn
- Includes memorabilia of trips, clippings, and photographs of family and friends, (circa 1930s-1950s)

Box

- 17 Includes postcards, clippings, programs, etc., (1910s-1950s)

Coburn-Mallory family

Box Fldr

- 18 1 "Explanatory:" general genealogical information and calendars
- 2 "Pedigree charts:" of the Coburn Mallory family
- 3 "Family group sheets"
- 4 "Personal records:" documents to the life and career of William S. Coburn, Jr. Many of these items are duplicated in box 11

Box Fldr

- 19 1 "Family records:" divided into paternal and maternal histories of the Coburn-Mallory family
- 2 "Kissing Kin:"
 - includes information on the following families: Aborn, Arnold, Atwater, Coburn, Cooper, Hide, Ketchel, Knowlton, Mallory, Metzger, Parrish, Preston, Rodgers, Rhodes, Springman, Trowbridge
- "Historical:"
 - includes information on the following families
 - General data, Aborn, Arnold, Atwater, Ballard, Battey, Beardsley, Bennett, Bishop, Bradley, Campbell, Carr, Clark, Clarke, Coburn

Box Fldr

- 20 1 Conant, Cooper, Douville, England, Havens, Hill, Hide, Howard, Jenckes, Kennedy, Mallory, Mansfield, Metzger, Norris, Nicholson, Beck, Powers, Preston, Rhodes, Rodgers, Sale, Sayre, Scott, Springman, Treutlen, Trowbridge, Waterman, Westcott, Williams
- 2 "Salzburgers:" clippings and photographs
- 3 "By the Same Name" (not connected to the William S. Coburn lineage): Coburn, Cooper, Douville, England, Mallory, Metzger, Parrish

Volume

- 1 Bible of Moses Douville Coburn