

Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
William Watts Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy Collection

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Accession Number: 2012.08.21

Title: William Watts Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy Collection

Physical Characteristics: 1 record storage box and 5 drop-front storage boxes

Donated by: Gretchen Miller

Arrangement: Documents are generally arranged chronologically

Creator: Historians, presidents, and members of the William Watts Chapter; early scrapbooks were compiled by Mrs. Maggie Dull Crute.

Reproduction Restrictions: No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

Processor: Angela Stiefbold, May 6, 2024

Historical Note:

The William Watts Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, General No. 809, Virginia Division No. 8, was officially recognized by the national organization in 1904. However, this group was first organized in 1892 as a women's auxiliary organization of the William Watts Camp, Untied Confederate Veterans, which had been founded in 1891. Members were blood descendants of persons who served in the Army, Navy, or Civil Service of the Confederate States of America. The William Watts Chapter, UDC, was disbanded in 2004.

In its early years, the William Watts Chapter, UDC, provided social support and financial assistance to aging Confederate veterans and their widows, and assisted with organizing burials for deceased veterans. By the mid-twentieth century, the organization's purpose shifted to memorializing Confederate veterans through monuments and museums and supporting efforts to promote patriotism, citizenship, education, and charity. During the twentieth century the national organization and its local chapters promoted a now-discredited version of Civil War history known as the "Lost Cause" mythology, which romanticized the antebellum era, and emphasized "states' rights" rather than slavery as the cause of the Civil War.

By the late twentieth century, with dwindling membership, the local organization was focused on continuing to maintain monuments, attending memorial services, educating themselves regarding the history of the Civil War, and supporting local programs for living veterans.

Scope and Content:

The donated collection consisted of scrapbooks, binders, and photo albums, as well as some loose items, across the active years of the organization, though the depth of information varies. The years from the organization's founding through the 1930s are

well represented in several scrapbooks, with an emphasis on local activities and obituaries, as well as Civil War history. From the 1940s, most information relates to documents distributed by the national organization about its educational resources and programs. Scrapbooks from the middle years of the twentieth century focus on UDC events, both local and national, and include newspaper clippings and event ephemera. Many events were jointly sponsored by the Fincastle Rifles Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and some also included the Hanging Rock Rangers Chapter, Children of the Confederacy. The scrapbooks from 1980s through the disbanding of the organization include numerous photos from local events, as well as newspaper clippings regarding the history and memorialization of the Civil War, often at a national level.

The early scrapbooks were compiled by Maggie Jane Dull Crute (1868-1950), wife of Samuel L. Crute (1839-193), a Confederate veteran and active leader in the William Watts Camp of Confederate Veterans. Mrs. Crute was very active in the UDC and also served on the state pension board for veterans and widows. These albums largely consist of newspaper articles related to Confederate veterans' issues, including many obituaries and biographies, as well as the activities of the UDC and items related to Civil War history. There are a few photographs in the albums, but individuals are generally unidentified.

The collection also includes the minute book of the William Watts Camp of Confederate Veterans from its founding in 1891 through 1912. In addition, the collection includes over two hundred Certificates of Eligibility for the Southern Cross of Honor, a medal awarded by the UDC to living veterans.

Materials from binders that could be easily disassembled were placed in file folders. In the case of "magnetic" photo albums, digital images were made of pages prior to disassembly. Most scrapbooks consist of acidic paper and largely contain newspaper articles. Each scrapbook was digitized. The method of attachment of items varied; in later books photographs could be and were removed, but in earlier scrapbooks removal of items would have caused irreparable damage. Scrapbooks have been preserved, but researchers should primarily consult the digital files.

Container List:

Box 1 of 6

- Folder 1: Certificates of Eligibility, Southern Cross of Honor, book 1, part 1 – Removed from a three-ring binder titled "Book 1, William Watts Chapter, Mrs. Crute, 630 Belleville Rd, Roanoke, 1904, Cross of Honor" Items are generally alphabetical, but also numbered and kept in numerical order. Containing 1- 75 (surnames A – D).
- Folder 2: Certificates of Eligibility, Southern Cross of Honor, book 1, part 2 – Containing 76 – 147 (surnames E – L).

- Folder 3: Certificates of Eligibility, Southern Cross of Honor, book 2, part 1 – Removed from a three-ring titled “Book 2, William Watts Chapter, Mrs. Crute, 630 Belleville Rd, 1904, Cross of Honor” Items are generally alphabetical, but also numbered and kept in numerical order. Containing 148 – 224 (surnames M – S).
- Folder 4: Certificates of Eligibility, Southern Cross of Honor, book 2, part 2 – Containing 225-284 (surnames T-W and those not in alphabetical order) and additional, unnumbered certificates, as well as correspondence and items found loose within the binder.
- Folder 5: Items Inserted in William Watts Camp, UCV, Minute Book, 1891-1912 – I.O.O.F. memorial service program, 1913; correspondence to Mrs. Crute from Rev. Clark, Harris Mountain Schools, 1925; postcards from Stone Mountain Confederate Monumental Association, 1927. (minute book is in box 2)
- Folder 6: Items Inserted in Scrapbook of Maggie Dull Crute (1900s-1930s) – Records of UDC activities; Application of Samuel M. Stone to CSA Roll of Honor; correspondence received by Mrs. Crute 1910s-1930s; membership application materials; Ephemera from events of B.P.O. Elks (1920s); Jefferson H.S. band program (1943); Confederate Veterans of Virginia Reunion programs, (1934, 1935, 1936); certifications from Virginia State Library regarding individuals’ service in the Confederate Army; postcard “Brides Veil, The Cascades, Healing Springs, Va.” (scrapbook is available in digital form and is in box 4)
- Folder 7: Items Inserted in “William Watts Chapter, Mrs. Crute” Scrapbook (1900s-1950s) – Small Confederate flag, “Roster of William Watts Conf., Oct 14, 1933,” photograph of Rachel Wood Turner (scrapbook is available in digital form and is in box 3)
- Folder 8: Items Inserted in “1903, 1907, 1915” Scrapbook (1900s-1950s) – Pamphlet “The Manassas Battlefield Confederate Park – The South’s Proposed Memorial to Valor and in the Interest of American History” (1921); Pamphlet “The Confederate States Post-Office Department Its Stamps and History” by August Dietz (1948); program from Confederate Veterans of Virginia Reunion, 1935; copy of marriage license of Samuel L. Crute and Maggie J. Dull; information on Stonewall Jackson Memorial Window; correspondence received by Mrs. Crute; newspaper article photocopies; ephemera from Roanoke Lodge 197, B.P.O. Elks (1920s); pencil illustration of “Design B” Fairview Cemetery Memorial to Confederate Veterans (1939) (scrapbook is available in digital form and is in box 2)

Folder 9: 1940s Historians' Folder – Items created and collected in the 1940s by club historians Mrs. S. R. Wheeler and Mrs. W. M. McNeace, including correspondence related to book donations, yearly reports of historical work, newspaper clippings, and publications from the Virginia Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy

Folder 10: UDC Historian and Programming, 1940s-1950s – Information from Virginia and national organizations related to educational programs, scholarships, and prizes

Folder 11: Miscellaneous Items, 1930s-1970s – Programs from: 1935 Reunion of Confederate Veterans of Virginia and Sons of Confederate Veterans, held in Roanoke; 1953 Convention of the Virginia Division, UDC, held in Alexandria, VA; 1953 Convention of the UDC, held in Washington, DC; 1957 Convention of the VA div., UDC, held in Fredericksburg, VA; undated First District Conference, VA div., UDC; correspondence from 1960s and 1970s; 1963-64 William Watts Chapter Yearbook; Brochures on Winchester, VA and Luray Caverns (ca. 1950s); historical information on: Manassas Battlefield; General J. E. B. Stuart; Alexandria, VA; correspondence related to Stonewall Jackson Memorial (1957); Petition of Nancy Walker Morrison for membership in Children of the Confederacy (1943); typed biography of Adm. Franklin Buchanan (n.d.); newspaper clipping about 111-year-old veteran, John Salling (1958)

Folder 12: Scrapbook & Yearbook Rules – for UDC competitions.

Folder 13: 1950s Scrapbook – Items glued to pages removed from a three-ring binder, including: newspaper and magazine clippings (most 1950s, some 1960s, 1970s), including donation of microfilm viewer to Roanoke Library by UDC; information on historic sites and their preservation (Fredericksburg, VA; Lee Mansion National Memorial; Proposed Memorial to Gen. Robert E. Lee in Washington Cathedral, Old Christ Church, Savannah, GA, Ash lawn, Charlottesville, VA); postcards and cigarette card with Civil War related images; advertisement for *The Gray Ghost* television show. Also program from 1974 Virginia Division UDC, Second District Conference, held in Bedford, VA. (digital copy created)

Folder 14: Items Inserted in “Wm Watts Chapter UDC 1954” Scrapbook – Newspaper clipping on chapter elections; program “Historical

Evening”; magazine clipping of photograph of Bill Lundy, 109-year-old veteran.” (scrapbook is available in digital form and is in box 5)

- Folder 15: Item Inserted in 1960s Scrapbook – program from Dedication Service, Confederate Memorial, Roanoke Chapter, UDC, May 29, 1954, Mountain View Cemetery, Roanoke County. (scrapbook is available in digital form and is in box 2)
- Folder 16: Items Inserted in “1964, 1969, 1971, 1974” Scrapbook – Blueprint of City Cemetery, Roanoke, VA, with some annotation; lists of veterans (1932) and confederates (1937) buried in City Cemetery, undated list of names; undated newspaper clippings of UDC and DAR activities. (scrapbook is available in digital form and is in box 4)
- Folder 17: Items Inserted in “1974-1975” Scrapbook – pamphlet on Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt; envelope from Harry F. Byrd to Mrs. A. Clifton Stafford; “Making Meetings Effective” pamphlet, Extension Division Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Aug. 1968 (scrapbook is available in digital form and is in box 4)
- Folder 18: “The War of 1961-1865” – Publication by *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* and *The Richmond News Leader*, 1961.
- Folder 19: Historian’s Album, 1979 -1985 – Items removed from “magnetic” album. Newspaper clippings, ephemera from UDC events, funeral programs and obituaries, correspondence received, photographs of UDC events and historic sites (Petersburg, VA). (digital copy available)
- Folder 20: Historian’s Album, 1984-1985 – Items collected by Mrs. James D. Hicks, removed from “magnetic” album. Newspaper clippings, ephemera from UDC and SCV events, funeral programs and obituaries, Photographs of UDC events, Sons of Confederate Veterans events, historic sites (East Hill Cemetery, Salem VA; Petersburg, VA; Lexington, VA). (digital copy available)
- Folder 21: President’s Book, 1980s – Items collected in plastic pages in three-ring binder, by Mrs. O. R. Counts (Belva Marshall Counts). Ephemera from the national UDC; newspaper and magazine clippings; correspondence received; undated membership list; Chapter goals 1984-86; obituaries and funeral programs; undated chapter report; William Watts UDC yearbooks 1972-74 and 1980-81 and 1986-88; 1989-90 Officer List, Hostesses, Programs; 1989 Chapter Report; program of 1989 Annual Convention of UDC Virginia Division;

1988-1991 Yearbook of the Historian General of the UDC; article, obituary, photograph of member and actual daughter of Confederate Veteran, Clara Akers Semones.

Folder 22: Photographs, “1986-1987-1988” Scrapbook – Photographs of UDC events; Bentonville Battle ground; White Sulphur Springs; Clifton Forge church & cemetery; Gettysburg, PA; Harpers Ferry, WV; Manassas, VA; Cross Keys; Port Republic; Annie Carter Lee grave; Boyd Homes, Martinsville, WV; Antietam, MD. (scrapbook is available in digital form and is in box 6)

Folder 23: Photographs, Scrapbook (1989-90) – Photographs of UDC events; Mrs. Stonewall Jackson headstone; Caroline Reynolds; Gertrude P. Richardson. (scrapbook is available in digital form and is in box 6)

Folder 24: Photographs, Inserts, Scrapbook (1990s) – Photographs of UDC events; Jackson Monument in Lexington, VA; Montgomery White Sulphur Springs. (scrapbook is available in digital form and is in box 6)

Folder 25: Miscellaneous Items, 1993 – Correspondence with Sen. Sam Nunn regarding UDC patent renewal; photograph from UDC table at Vinton Folklife Festival; Fincastle UDC and SCV ephemera; etc. from 1993; March 1994 Virginia Division UDC newsletter (items were inside the cover of the “1986-1988 Scrapbook”)

Folder 26: Historian’s Album (1993-2004), Ephemera – Items removed from “magnetic” album. Newspaper clippings (Civil War history; Confederate submarine recovery); correspondence received; UDC event programs, including 100th Anniversary Southern Cross Chapter UDC, 75th Anniversary William Watts Chapter UDC, Rededication of Maj. Gen G. E. Pickett Monument, Richmond, VA; member obituaries; information on Rena Lee dress donation to Stratford Hall Plantation; 2000-04 Yearbook. (digital copy available)

Folder 27: Historian’s Album (1993-2004), Photographs – Photographs removed from “magnetic” album. Subjects include Rena Lee dress and UDC events, including William Watts Chapter 100th Anniversary Celebration. (digital copy available)

Box 2 of 6

William Watts Camp, United Confederate Veterans, Minute Book, 1891-1912 – Hand-written minute book from first meeting, May 26, 1891, through September 16, 1912. Some newspaper clippings and

ephemera are pasted into the book. Items inserted between pages and from dates outside the range of the minute book were removed to box 1 folder 5.

“1903, 1907, 1915” Scrapbook (1900s-1950s) – Compiled by Mary Dull Crute, includes newspaper clippings and ephemera related to Confederate Veterans, the UDC, and the history of the Civil War; obituaries of Capt. Samuel L. Crute and numerous others; correspondence received by Mrs. Crute, including letter from Fairview Cemetery, May 8, 1916, noting designation of “Confederate Avenue” in the cemetery; ephemera from Roanoke Lodge 197, B.P.O. Elks (ca. 1920s). Newspaper articles are generally undated and not in chronological order. Items inserted between pages of the scrapbook were removed to box 1 folder 8. Digital copy available.

1960s Scrapbook – Contains newspaper clippings, postcards, and ephemera related to: Civil War history, Civil War memorials, historic site preservation, and the UDC. Dated items range from 1959-1964. Postcards may be earlier. Item inserted between pages removed to box 1 folder 15. Digital copy available.

Box 3 of 6

“William Watts Chapter Mrs. Crute 1932” Scrapbook (1900s-1930s) – Clippings from newspapers and magazines related to Civil War history, Confederate veterans, and the UDC. Dated items range from 1907 to 1935, but most are undated. Digital copy available.

“William Watts Chapter, Mrs. Crute” Scrapbook (1900s-1950s) – Clippings from newspapers and magazines related to Civil War history; Confederate veterans; Confederate monuments, memorials, and remembrances; and the UDC. Dated items are primarily from 1933-35, clippings at the end of the scrapbook are from the 1950s, but most are not dated. Newspapers come from a range of cities, including Atlanta, Chattanooga, Richmond, and Roanoke, though not all are credited. Not all items are in chronological order. There are some photographs of unidentified persons in the album, as well as a group photo of the William Watts Camp of Confederate Veterans dated 1913, and a photo of a 1934 gathering of men and women holding Confederate flags (by Davis). Items inserted between pages of the scrapbook have been removed to box 1, folder 7. Digital copy available.

Box 4 of 6

Scrapbook of Maggie Dull Crute (1900s-1930s) – Collection of items related to the William Watts Camp, United Confederate Veterans, and William Watts Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy. Includes membership lists; texts of speeches given at meetings/events; ephemera from events; 1929 History of the William Watts UDC chapter; correspondence received by Mrs. Crute; newspaper clippings; “Why I Am a Member of the Daughters of the Confederacy” by Mrs. F.H. Wickes; William Watts UDC reports by Mrs. Crute from Dec. 1931 and Mar. and Apr. 1932; brief biographies or war records of the following: Willaim P. Dupuy; Dr. Henry Vincent Gray; Albert Pinckney Hughston Walker; Col. William Watts; Joseph M. Painter; George M. Cannaday; Edward James Duffel; S.L. Crute; Robert H. Creasey; Timothy Driscoll; David M. Armstrong; Chester B. Turner; Items inserted between pages of the scrapbook have been removed to box 1, folder 6. Digital copy available.

“1964, 1969, 1971, 1974” Scrapbook – Contains newspaper clippings on local, state and national UDC activities; DAR activities; Civil War history; “real daughters” of the Confederacy; communications and aid for soldiers in Vietnam; controversies over “Dixie,” the Confederate flag, and Southern Heritage. Also includes ephemera from UDC and Children of the Confederacy events; photographs and descriptions of Confederate memorials at Hanging Rock, Evergreen Cemetery, City Cemetery, Lee Plaza, Lee Highway, and Fair View Cemetery; program from 100th Anniversary of the Surrender at Appomattox ;historic site ephemera (Old Blandford Church, Petersburg, VA, New Market Battlefield); 1966-67 William Watts Chapter UDC budget; correspondence received. Inserts removed to box 1, folder 16, include a blueprint of City Cemetery, Roanoke, VA, and lists from the 1930s of veteran burials there. Digital copy available.

“1974-1975” Scrapbook – Contains newspaper clippings (Civil War History, UDC activities); historic site information (Shirley Plantation, Clifton Forge, Vanderbilt Mansion, Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt); UDC event programs and ephemera; correspondence received; April 1974 newsletter from US Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr.; pamphlet “Making Meetings Effective” (1968). Items inserted between pages of the scrapbook have been removed to box 1 folder 17. Digital copy available.

Box 5 of 6

“William Watts Chapter UDC 1954” Scrapbook – Contains newspaper clippings (national, state, and local UDC activities; Civil War History;

Confederate pensions; last remaining veterans; Confederate flag; Montgomery White Sulphur Springs; UDC Headquarters Building in Richmond, VA; State's Rights) and pamphlets from Stonewall Jackson Memorial, Lexington, VA. Items inserted between pages of the scrapbook have been removed to box 1 folder 14. Digital copy available.

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“1986-1987-1988” Scrapbook – Contains 1990-91 Chapter yearbook; historic site ephemera and photographs (Bentonville Battle ground; White Sulphur Springs; Clifton Forge church & cemetery; Gettysburg; Harpers Ferry; Manassas; Cross Keys; Port Republic; Annie Carter Lee grave; Boyd Homes, Martinsville, WV; Antietam); newspaper clippings (Civil War history; Richmond Home for Confederate Women; Confederate flag; Civil War reenactors; White House of the Confederacy); UDC and Sons of Confederate Veterans event ephemera and photographs; member obituaries. Photographs removed to box 1, folder 22. Digital copy available.

Scrapbook (1989-1990) – Contains correspondence received; newspaper articles on Civil War History; member obituaries and photographs; newspaper clippings (Civil War history; Civil War reenactors; Civil War Cyclorama; Confederate Home for Women; Ken Burns' Civil War series; Roanoke County Courthouse Confederate Soldier statue; the Confederate Embassy/Memorial Home; Museum of the Confederacy; VMI; Fair View Cemetery) ephemera from Lynchburg Cemetery, Fair View Cemetery, The Pest House Medical Museum; and UDC event programs, photographs, and ephemera. Photographs removed to box 1, folder 23. Digital copy available.

Scrapbook (1990s) – Contains correspondence received (some regarding proposed highway through Montgomery White Sulphur Springs); newspaper articles (Civil War history and commemoration, and the UDC); sheet music and song lyrics; photographs (UDC events; Jackson Monument in Lexington, VA; Montgomery White Sulphur Springs); ephemera from Lynchburg Cemetery, Fair View Cemetery, and The Pest House Medical Museum; and UDC and SCV event programs and ephemera. Inserts and photographs removed to box 1, folder 24. Digital copy available.