

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

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Accession Number: 2014.09.15

Title: Roanoke Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy Collection

Physical Characteristics: 1 document storage case, 2 flat storage boxes

Donated by: Unknown

Arrangement: Documents are arranged chronologically.

Creator: Roanoke Chapter, UDC

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

Processor: Angela Stiefbold, July 2024.

Historical Note:

The Roanoke Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was established in 1926. It was an offshoot of the William Watts chapter, comprised of women, many of them teachers, who preferred to meet on Saturday afternoons to weekdays. According to its by-laws (1964), the organization's objects are "Historical, Educational, Memorial and Benevolent; to aid in collecting and preserving material for a truthful history of the War Between the States; to protect historic places of the Confederacy and to record the part taken by Southern men and women during the Reconstruction of the South; to aid in placing in all southern schools impartial and accurate histories; to teach the future generations the honesty of these principles for which their forefathers fought; and, to dispense sacred charity to sons and daughters of veterans, wives and sisters of veterans and loyal Daughters of the Confederacy." Members must be women descended from Confederate veterans or persons who gave material aid to the cause. 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.

The Roanoke Chapter UDC worked with other area chapters (William Watts, Southern Cross) to erect monuments and commemorate Confederate Veterans, including: a memorial stone in Mountain View Cemetery, Vinton (1954); supporting the designation of Robert E. Lee Plaza in front of the post office on Church Street and donating a marker (1960) and supporting its landscaping (1961); and a monument to the Battle of Cedar Creek in Deerfield, Rocky Spring Cemetery, Augusta, County (1967). The chapter supported the Roanoke Public Library through donations of items such as lamps, microfilm records of the Confederate Army and Navy, as well as a display case and historic items related to Civil War veterans. The chapter also donated history books and flags to local schools.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of Scrapbooks (ranging from 1942 to 1969) and Yearbooks (ranging from 1940 to 2000, not inclusive) compiled by the Roanoke Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The 1960 Constitution of the organization notes that the Scrapbook is the responsibility of the chapter's Custodian; available earlier versions of the constitution do not specify who compiled the scrapbooks, though the office of Custodian is defined as having "charge of all properties of the Chapter."

Five yearbooks remain largely intact (1942, 1956-57, 1959-60, 1960-61, and 1961-62); inserted and loose materials were removed to folders. Digital copies were made of the yearbooks and should be primarily consulted by researchers, due to the fragility of the scrapbook pages. The items in two scrapbooks (1964-67 and 1968-69) were mostly loose from their pages, except for newspaper articles. Digital copies were made of these pages with items placed where they had previously been attached. Items were then removed to folders, except for the newspaper articles.

The scrapbooks primarily consist of newspaper and journal articles, and national, state, and local UDC ephemera. These items document the activities of the UDC, the history and memorialization of the Civil War and its veterans, and other facets of Southern and Southwestern Virginia history. Later scrapbooks include photographs of UDC events, members, and memorials.

Chapter yearbooks include lists of officers and members and topics of meetings; some also include by-laws. Yearbooks from the 1940s through 1960s were found within scrapbooks; yearbooks for 1980-82 and from 1991-2000 were donated separately but placed with this collection.

Container List:

Box 1

Folder 1: Inserts removed from 1942 Scrapbook, part 1 – Includes programs of 1942 Virginia UDC convention held in Richmond and 1943 Virginia UDC convention held in Roanoke; Roanoke Chapter UDC Yearbooks 1940-41 & 1942-43; newspaper and magazine articles, correspondence received, and UDC and Civil War ephemera.

Folder 2: Inserts removed from 1942 Scrapbook, part 2 – Includes Roanoke Chapter UDC Yearbook 1941-42; newspaper and magazine articles, correspondence received, and UDC and Civil War ephemera.

Folder 3: Inserts removed from 1942 Scrapbook, part 3 – Special section to *The Roanoke Times*, Nov. 5, 1939, "V.M.I. Centennial Section 1839-1939."

Folder 4: Inserts removed from 1956-57 Scrapbook – Includes program of 1957 UDC national convention in Richmond; newspaper and magazine articles;

Nov. 1957 issue of *The Virginian*; UDC and Civil War ephemera; correspondence received.

- Folder 5: Inserts and loose items removed from 1959-60 Scrapbook – Includes program of 1959 UDC national convention in Norfolk; magazine articles; UDC and Civil War ephemera.
- Folder 6: 1964-67 Scrapbook, part 1 – All items, except newspaper articles, were removed from this scrapbook. Includes magazine clippings; re-typed letters from *General Lee* by Fitzhugh Lee; 1964-65 Roanoke UDC Yearbook; Roanoke UDC Constitution, 1964; Civil War Centennial postage stamps; program of 1964 state convention in Lynchburg; program of 1964 national convention in Richmond; program of first district convention in Vinton; correspondence received; memorials to Mrs. Devona Staples Gillespie, Mrs. F.J. Burt; UDC and Civil War ephemera. Digital copy is available, which includes newspaper articles.
- Folder 7: 1964-67 Scrapbook, part 2 – All items, except newspaper articles, were removed from this scrapbook. Includes re-typed letters from *General Lee* by Fitzhugh Lee; program of 1965 state convention in Wytheville, 1966 convention in Alexandria; program of national convention in Richmond in 1966; program of first district convention in Roanoke in 1966 and in Christiansburg in 1967; memorials to Kathleen Shelor Bibb, Mrs. Ethel Frink Dickerson, Mrs. Anne Shelton Beoddy; UDC and Civil War ephemera. Digital copy is available, which includes newspaper articles.
- Folder 8: 1964-67 Scrapbook, part 3 – All items, except newspaper articles, were removed from this scrapbook. Includes magazine clippings; program of 1967 state convention in Petersburg; program of national convention in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1967; Roanoke Chapter Yearbook, 1966-68; UDC and Civil War ephemera. Digital copy is available, which includes newspaper articles.
- Folder 9: 1964-67 Scrapbook, photographs – Subjects include: Memorial to Robert E. Lee, Roanoke; Memorial Stone in Mountain View Cemetery, Vinton; Memorial Stone in City Cemetery, Roanoke; Cedar Creek Memorial Dedication Ceremony; Real Daughters—Miss Carrie Layne, Mrs. M. D. Dickerson, Mrs. E. D. Poe, Mrs. J. P. Shumate, Miss Laura Marrow, Mrs. H. A. Bass, Miss Nelle Thompson, Mrs. J. A. Varner; 1966 convention pages; Mrs. Archer Overbey; Mrs. A. P. Martin; Mrs. E. J. Palmer.
- Folder 10: 1968-69 Scrapbook – Items dates range from 1968-1971. All items, except newspaper articles, were removed from this scrapbook. Includes UDC ephemera; newspaper and magazine clippings of articles related to the Civil War and the UDC; Roanoke Chapter UDC 1966-68 Yearbook and 1968-70 Yearbook; programs from 1968 state convention in Front Royal and 1971 in Roanoke; program from 1971 district convention in Blacksburg; Memorials to Mrs. Rose Miller Wright, Miss Nancy Caroline Layne, Mrs. Ethel Draper Lucado, Mrs. Maude Paine Croy, Mrs. Martha Lena Hancock Woodrum, Mrs. Minnie King Bass, Mrs. Lacy G. Edgerton,

Mrs. Cora Lampkin Gregory. Digital copy is available, which includes newspaper articles.

Folder 11: 1968-69 Scrapbook, photographs – Subjects include: UDC events, Martha E. Via Sigmon, donation of display case to library.

Folder 12: Yearbooks – Roanoke Chapter UDC Yearbooks from: 1980-82, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000.

Box 2

1942 Scrapbook, Roanoke Chapter, UDC – Items date from 1937-1944 and are primarily articles from newspapers and magazines about Confederate leaders and soldiers, Confederate flags and currency, other historical figures, WWII, UDC Virginia Division meetings, and obituaries of veterans. It also includes ephemera from UDC events, including: Virginia Division meetings 1941 in Bristol, 1942 in Richmond, and 1943 in Roanoke; Yearbooks for the Roanoke Chapter from 1938-39, 1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43; chapter attendance list from 1943-44. “VMI Centennial Section,” from *The Roanoke Times*, Nov. 5, 1939 was removed to Box 1, Folder 3. Some correspondence received had been inserted in the book. Loose items and inserts were removed to Box 1, folders 1 and 2. Digital copy is available.

1959-60 Scrapbook, Roanoke Chapter, UDC – Items date from 1959-60 and are primarily clippings from newspapers and magazines about the Civil War, Confederate leaders, historic life in the South, Civil Rights Act, and UDC events, including groundbreaking for the UDC Lee monument in Roanoke. It also includes: ephemera from UDC events, including the state meeting in 1959 in Norfolk; a copy of the Roanoke Chapter UDC By-Laws, dated 1960; a pamphlet on National Hospital Day Open House at the Roanoke Veterans Administration Hospital (1960); tourism information on the Confederate Museum in Richmond and on Lexington, Virginia; and a copy of a print of “Libby Prison.” Original artwork is found on several pages of the scrapbook is. Loose items and inserts were removed to Box 1, Folder 5. Digital copy is available.

1960-61 Scrapbook, Roanoke Chapter, UDC – Items date from 1960-61 and are primarily clippings from newspapers and magazines about the Civil War, Confederate leaders, book reviews, historic life in the South, a series of articles by Raymond Barnes about Roanoke’s Confederate veterans, the centennial of the start of the war, obituaries, and UDC events, including dedication of the UDC Lee monument in Roanoke. It also includes ephemera from UDC events, including the state meeting in 1960 in Roanoke, the dedication of the Jefferson Davis Memorial Chapel at the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, as well as the national convention in Richmond in 1960. A reproduction of the original manuscript of

“Dixie,” published by the UDC, is inserted in the scrapbook. Digital copy is available.

Box 3

1956-57 Scrapbook, Roanoke Chapter, UDC – Items date from 1956-59 and are primarily articles from newspapers and magazines about the Civil War, Confederate leaders, historic life in the South, and UDC events. It also includes ephemera from UDC events, including district and state meetings and the 1956 National Convention in Los Angeles, CA, 1957 National Convention in Richmond, VA, and the opening of the UDC Memorial Building in Richmond in 1957, and the dedication of the Capt. Sally Tompkins Memorial, Richmond in 1959. Pamphlets on Jamestown and Williamsburg, as well as correspondence related to membership nominations are also included. Some correspondence received is also included. Loose items and inserts, including Nov. 1957 issue of *The Virginian*, were removed to Box 1 Folder 4. Digital copy is available.

1961-62 Scrapbook, Roanoke Chapter, UDC – Items date from 1955-61 and are primarily clippings from newspapers and magazines about the Civil War, Confederate leaders, historic life in the South, Virginia’s Civil War Centennial Center, and UDC events, including dedicating and landscaping the Lee plaza. It also includes ephemera from UDC events, including the state meeting in 1955 in Roanoke. Other information includes a suggested tour route of Wilderness to Appomattox. Digital copy is available.