SUMMARY INFORMATION

Title: Julia W. Croft Family Papers
Dates: 1830-1937 inclusive; bulk 1920-1937
Accession #: 0000-042
Creators: Croft, Sarah Julia Brooks Wood Landrum, 1860-1964
Landrum, John Morgan, 1861-1922
Croft, William McMahon, 1878-1943
Physical Description: 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)
Languages: Collection material in English.
Processing: Julia A. Cowart processed the collection and completed the finding aid in 2018.
Collection Summary: Family correspondence, financial and business papers, miscellany and writings from a family from North Augusta, Aiken County, S.C.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition:
Donation date and donor are unknown.
Separated Materials:
These materials were added to the Special Collections book collection and can be found in the library’s online catalog:
- Catalogue and circular of the Anderson Female Seminary at Anderson, S.C., 1884
- The Philistine, A Periodical of Protest, Vol. 34, no. 5, 1912
Related Material:
- Furmaniana folder – Julia W. Croft
- George S. Lovell, Jr. Papers Acc. 1997-011
- Major Gifts (26/007) – 1 box [Croft]
Biographical Sketch:

Sarah Julia Wood was born in Alabama ca. 1868 to Ashley Clinton Wood (1832-1897), a lawyer, and Margaret Josephine Brooks (1836-1887). Julia’s mother was a daughter of Iverson Lewis Brooks (1793-1865), a wealthy planter and a Baptist pastor in Georgia and South Carolina, who served on the Furman Institution’s first Board of Trustees in 1835. Julia Wood was possibly named for her grandmother, Sarah Julia Oliver.

Julia is listed as a preliminary-collegiate student at the Anderson Female Seminary at Anderson, S.C. in 1884. After Julia’s parents passed, she began living with her aunt, Julia E. Brooks Graham (1848-1909), widow of Winchester M. Graham (1821-1877), before 1897 in Schulz Hill, [now North Augusta] Aiken Co., S.C. Julia’s aunt died in 1909, and sometime between 1910 and 1914, Julia married J. Morgan Landrum, a local farmer in Schulz Hill, and they lived on a farm called the Landrum Place.

After her first husband’s death in 1922, Julia became the second wife of William M. Croft, son of Alabama Congressman, George W. Croft, in 1924. William Croft was in the dry goods business, and later was owner of Oak Grove Touring camp outside of North Augusta.

Julia’s grandfather had obtained two plantations in Aiken and Edgefield counties, S.C. with his marriage to his third wife, Mrs. Sarah J. Oliver Myers in 1831. Soon after this marriage, he settled on an estate at Woodville, near Hamburg [now part of North Augusta, S.C.], in Aiken County, S.C., where he spent most of the remainder of his life. Julia Croft for many years lived in what was known as the old Brooks home on the Brooks estate [Woodville plantation] in North Augusta, S.C.

Through her relationship with Baptist minister Rev. George S. Lovell, Jr., Julia Croft intended to bequeath monies to Furman University and Mercer University upon her death. After her death in 1964, the Brooks estate was sold and a fund was established in excess of $1 million named the Iverson L. Brooks Fund, the interest to benefit the two universities.

USING THE COLLECTION

Access Restrictions: None.

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item], Julia W. Croft Family Papers, Acc. 0000-042 [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections and Archives, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.
ARRANGEMENT

The collection has been arranged in three series, one of which have been further arranged in subseries. The arrangement scheme for the collection was imposed during processing in the absence of a useable original order.

Series 1, Julia Wood Landrum Croft, 1882-1930
Series 2, John Morgan Landrum
Series 3, Other Family
   Subseries 1, Correspondence
   Subseries 2, Miscellany

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection includes financial and legal documents, correspondence, essays, newspaper clippings, photographs, and advertising ephemera, reflecting the varied activities of Julia Wood Landrum Croft and her husbands.

Series 1 consists of both personal and business correspondence, financial and legal documents and nine compositions by Wood arranged alphabetically.

Series 2 consists mainly business correspondence and financial documents dealing with farm business. There is a letter regarding Mrs. Laura Smith’s share of the Iverson L. Brookes Estate, August 7, 1919.

Series 3 is further arranged in two sub-series: Correspondence and Miscellany. The Correspondence series contains correspondence to other family members, including Croft’s grandfather, Rev. Iverson Lewis Brooks, W.J. Wood, and her second husband, William M. Croft. Folder 1 includes an 1830 love letter from Baptist minister Luther Rice [1783–1836] to Croft’s grandmother, Susan (Sarah Julia Oliver, widow of James Myers), who married Iverson L. Brooks in 1831. The Miscellany sub-series contains material from Croft’s aunt, Julia Brooks Graham, and her nephew, Morgan Oliver. There are also newspaper clippings, a pencil drawing, photographs, recipes, and assorted undated material.

There is a fundraising leaflet for the Local Committee of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Augusta, Ga. with William H. Fleming as chairman. Fleming was an attorney and former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, 1897 – 1903, was married to Julia’s cousin, and was said to have been a childhood friend of Woodrow Wilson.
COLLECTION INVENTORY

Box 1:

Series: Julia Wood Landrum Croft

Folder 1. Correspondence, 1910, 1920-1930
- Letter, from L.C. Hammond to Julia [Landrum], October 21, 1910
- Postcard, to Mr. & Mrs. J.M. Landrum, postmarked December 31, 1920 [swastikas]
- Postcard, from Morgan to Mrs. J.M. Landrum, postmarked August 17, 1924
- Postcard, from W.J. Wood to Mrs. J.M. Landrum, August 29, 1924
- Letter, Mrs. Edwin L. Culler [Providence (Polly) Graham, granddaughter of Winchester Graham and first wife, Eliza Smith; his second wife was Julia Croft’s aunt, Julia E. Wood] to Mrs. William H. Fleming [Marie Celeste Ayer, Julia’s cousin], January 27, 1926
- Letter, Providence [Polly] Graham Culler to Mrs. John Morgan Landrum, September 13, 1926
- Letter, Providence [Polly] Graham Culler to Julia Wood Croft, November 17, 1926
- Letter, Florence E. McMahon Croft [mother of William McMahon Croft] to Julia W. Croft, November 1926
- Letter, from Sara Sibley Fleming to Mrs. William M. Croft, May 1, 1929
- Letter, from “Mattie” Mrs. W.J. Wood, Jacksonville, Fla., August 28, 1929
- Postcard, from Mattie and Walker to Mrs. J.M. Landrum, September 27, 192?
- Letter, from Marie P. Price to Mrs. Croft, April 4, 1929
- Postcard, to Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Croft, June 9, 1930

Folder 2. Correspondence from Walker J. Wood [1866-1929], 1925-1928

Folder 3. Check Books, 1922-1923 and undated

Folder 4. Insurance, 1924-1932

Folder 5. Leases - Advertising Signboards, 1924-1933

Folder 6. Legal Documents, 1925-1926, 1931

Folder 7. Receipts, 1918-1933

Folder 8. Rents, Brookes Estate, 1924-1931

Folder 9. Tax Receipts, 1928-1932

Folder 10. Vendor Contracts, 1927-1931

Folder 11. Essays, Julia B. Wood, 1882-1883
  - “Augusta”
  - “Captain John Smith”
  - “Columbus”
  - “Cotton”
• “Psalms,” November 11, 1882
• “South Carolina”
• “The New Year”
• “The Revolutionary War,” Composition No. 5, January 1883
• “The Seasons”

Box 2

Series: J.M. Landrum
Folder 1. Advertising Ephemera
Folder 2. Bills and receipts, 1904-1922
Folder 3. Checks and Notes, 1906-1920
Folder 4. Correspondence, 1908-1921
Folder 5. Insurance, 1903-1922
Folder 6. Notes and mortgages, 1912, 1920
Folder 7. Planting List Prices, undated

Series: Other Family
Sub-series: Correspondence
Folder 8. Letter from Luther Rice to Sarah Julia (Oliver) Myers, 20 November 1830
Folder 10. W.M. Croft, 1928

Sub-series: Miscellany
Folder 11. Julia Brooks Graham
Folder 12. Morgan Oliver
Folder 13. Newspaper Clippings, undated
Folder 14. Pencil Drawing
Folder 15. Cartes de visite and tintype
  • Carte-de-visite, W.B. Penn written on reverse, R.H. Mims Photograph
    Gallery, Edgefield C/H/, S.C., undated
  • Carte-de-visite, unidentified man, L.N. Wade Photography, Augusta, Ga.,
    undated
  • Tintype, two males seated, undated
Folder 16. Recipes
Folder 17. Miscellaneous Material