

MYRICK, SUSAN, 1893-1978.
Susan Myrick papers, 1913-1978

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-6887
rose.library@emory.edu

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Myrick, Susan, 1893-1978.
Title: Susan Myrick papers, 1913-1978
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 542
Extent: 1.75 linear feet (4 boxes), 4 oversized bound volumes (OBV), and 1 oversized papers boxes (OP)
Abstract: Papers of journalist Susan Dowdell Myrick, including correspondence, writings, clippings, printed material, photographs, and scrapbooks.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Related Materials in Other Repositories

[Susan Myrick papers](#), Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Collection, University of Georgia.

Source

Gift, 1975, with subsequent additions 1975, 1976, 1977, and 1978.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Susan Myrick papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Susan Dowdell Myrick (1893-1978), Georgia journalist, was born (February 20[?] 1893) and grew up in Baldwin County, Georgia, the fifth of eight children of Thulia Whitehurst and James Dowdell Myrick. Myrick studied to become a physical education teacher at the Georgia Normal and Industrial College (now Georgia College, 1910-1911) and at the Harvard Summer School of Physical Education (1917). She held teaching posts Georgia Normal (1911-1912, 1914--1915, and 1918-1922), at the Student Normal School of Physical Education in Battle Creek, Michigan (1913-1914), in Hastings, Nebraska (1916-1917) and at Lanier School for Girls in Macon (1923-1928). While teaching, Myrick also began preparing for the *Macon Telegraph* an advice column written under the pseudonym, "Fanny Squeers." Myrick left teaching to join the staff of the *Macon Telegraph* in 1928, and served as obituary writer, reporter, feature writer, farm editor, associate editor and columnist. Myrick's membership in the Georgia Press Association led to friendships with many writers and journalists, including Margaret Mitchell. When plans were being made to produce a film version of Mitchell's novel, *Gone With the Wind*, Mitchell recommended that Myrick be consulted about Southern accents, dress, customs, and manners of the Civil War era, and Myrick was employed by Selznick International Pictures in Hollywood as a technical adviser for the film (January - July 1939). Many of the regular columns and articles written by Myrick for Georgia newspapers during her work on the motion picture have been collected and edited by Richard Barksdale Harwell in *White Columns In Hollywood* by Susan Myrick (Macon: Mercer University Press, 1982). Myrick was a charter member (1934) and president (1947-1948) of the Macon Little Theater and she appeared in performances regularly. Her life-long interest in farming, agriculture, and soil conservation led to service as a member of Macon Chamber of Commerce committees dealing with farming and livestock, to writing a children's reader, *Our Daily Bread* (1950) about conservation, and to being named Progressive Farmer's "Woman of the Year in Service to Agriculture" (1956). Myrick also served as an advisory board member for the Salvation Army and the Family Services Agency, and as a member of both the Georgia Press Association and the Macon Writers' Club. Myrick officially retired from newspaper work in 1967 at the age of seventy-four but continued writing and participating in community affairs until shortly before her death. Myrick died on 4 September 1978, and was buried in Memory Hills Cemetery, Milledgeville, Georgia. Information for this brief biographical note has come from materials in the Susan Myrick Papers, most notably "Susan Myrick: A Biographical Essay," by Susan Drinnon Morris (unpublished typescript. 1983) located in Series IV of the collection.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains the papers of Susan Myrick 1913-1978. The papers include correspondence, columns written for the *Macon Telegraph*, clippings, printed material, photographs, and scrapbooks. A large portion of the collection concerns the filming of *Gone With the Wind*. Correspondents include Martha Berry, Herb Bridges, Wright Bryan, Roland Flamini, Julian LaRose Harris, Richard Barksdale Harwell, John R. Marsh, Margaret Mitchell, Eugene C. Patterson, David O. Selznick, John C. Settlemyer, Phinazy Spalding, and Eliot Wigginton.

Arrangement Note

Organized into four series: (1) Correspondence, (2) Writings, (3) *Gone With the Wind*, and (4) Photographs and other papers.

Description of Series

[Series 1: Correspondence, 1913-1978](#)

[Series 2: Writings, 1929-1978](#)

[Series 3: Gone With the Wind, 1938-1976](#)

[Series 4: Photographs and other papers](#)

Series 1
Correspondence, 1913-1978
Box 1

Scope and Content Note

This series includes personal and professional correspondence, as well as a large amount of correspondence relating to *Gone With the Wind* from 1913-1978. The bulk of the correspondence dates from late 1939 to early 1940 around the time of the premiere of *Gone With the Wind*, and from 1974 to 1978 which includes the time period of the television premiere of *Gone With the Wind*. Other *Gone With the Wind* related materials may be found in Series 3. No original Margaret Mitchell letters are located here, but this series does include a telegram from Peggy [Margaret Mitchell] and John R. Marsh (14 September 1948) and correspondence with Margaret Mitchell's husband, John R. Marsh (7 January 1950, 10 September 1951), and with her brother, Stephens Mitchell (15 December 1954, 29 March 1976, 13 April 1976, 10 May 1976, 13 May 1976).

Other correspondents represented in Series 1 include Martha Berry (1939), Herb Bridges (1974), Wright Bryan (1974, 1976), Roland Flamini (1975), Julian LaRose Harris (1939), Richard Barksdale Harwell (1974, 1975, 1976, 1977), Eugene C. Patterson (1972), David O. Selznick and others at Selznick International Pictures (1938, 1939), John C. Settelmayer (1954), Phinizy Spalding (1976, 1977) and Eliot Wigginton (1972). In an exchange of letters with a professor of English at Ball State University (1974-1975), Myrick shares views and information about author Sherwood Anderson.

Arrangement Note

Arranged in chronological order.

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	1913, 1918, 1919
1	2	1937-1938
1	3	1939 January - October
1	4	1939 November
1	5	1939 December and 1939 n.d.
1	6	1940
1	7	1944, 1946, 1950
1	8	1951, 1954, 1959
1	9	1967, 1971, 1972, 1973
1	10	1974 January - September
1	11	1974 October - December
1	12	1975
1	13	1976 January - May
1	14	1976 June - August
1	15	1976 September - October
1	16	1976 November

1	17	1976 December and 1976 n.d.
1	18	1977 January - March
1	19	1977 April - September
1	20	1978 and n.d.

Series 2
Writings, 1929-1978
Box 2, OBV 1

Scope and Content Note

This series contains all of Susan Myrick's writings including articles, columns, speeches, with the exception of her columns and articles written during and just after the filming of *Gone With the Wind* and other later writings on topics related to *Gone With the Wind*. Her writings address a wide variety of topics from Georgia social life and customs to issues relating to Georgia agriculture. Those writings not filed in Series 2 are found in Series 3.

Arrangement Note

Arranged in chronological order.

Box	Folder	Content
OBV1		Scrapbook: Newspaper Articles [<i>Macon Telegraph</i>], 1929-1930
2	1	Newspaper articles, 1931, 1932, 1940
2	2	Newspaper articles, 1943-1949
2	3	Columns, 1965
2	4	Columns, 1966
2	5	Columns, 1967
2	6	Columns, 1968
2	7	Columns, 1969
2	8	Columns, 1970
2	9	Columns, 1971
2	10	Columns, 1972
2	11	Columns, 1973-1975
2	12	Columns, 1976
2	13	Columns, 1977
2	14	Columns, 1978
2	15	Columns, n. d.
2	16	Magazine and journal articles, 1937-1958
2	17	Magazine and journal articles, 1960-1976
2	18	Speeches
2	19	Miscellaneous and n.d.

Series 3***Gone With the Wind*, 1938-1976****Box 3, OBV2-4, OP 1-8****Scope and Content Note**

All *Gone With the Wind* related material except correspondence is located in this series. Included here are items received or collected by Susan Myrick, her own writings, photographs, and materials about author Margaret Mitchell. This series relates not only to the filming and 1939 premiere of *Gone With the Wind*, but also to subsequent premieres and re-releases. Complementary correspondence may be found in Series 1.

Arrangement Note

Arranged in chronological order.

Box	Folder	Content
3	1	Selznick International Pictures, Inc.: Contract with Susan Myrick. 7 January 1939
3	2	Identification card for Susan Myrick, 9 January 1939
3	3	Call sheets, January - February 1939
3	4	Photographs: Stars, sets, source material, etc.
3	5	Premiere, 1939: Printed programs, menus, booklets
3	6	Schedules, invitations, etc.
OBV2-4		Scrapbooks: <i>Gone With the Wind</i> , 1938-1939
OP1	1	Scrapbooks: <i>Gone With the Wind</i> , 1938-1939 (loose pages; 1 of 6)
OP1	2	Scrapbooks: <i>Gone With the Wind</i> , 1938-1939 (loose pages; 2 of 6)
OP1	3	Scrapbooks: <i>Gone With the Wind</i> , 1938-1939 (loose pages; 3 of 6)
OP1	4	Scrapbooks: <i>Gone With the Wind</i> , 1938-1939 (loose pages; 4 of 6)
OP1	5	Scrapbooks: <i>Gone With the Wind</i> , 1938-1939 (loose pages; 5 of 6)
OP1	6	Scrapbooks: <i>Gone With the Wind</i> , 1938-1939 (loose pages; 6 of 6)
OP1	7	Broadside: Announcement of "Pardon My Unsouthern Accent," article by Susan Myrick, Collier's, 16 December 1939
OP1	8	Photographs (autographed): Olivia de Havilland, Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh
3	7	Homecoming and premiere (Macon, Georgia), 1939-1940
3	8	First anniversary premiere, 1940
3	9	Re-release, 1954
3	10	Civil War Centennial re-release, 1961
3	11	Re-release (70 mm.): Schedules, clippings, etc.
3	12	Re-release (70 mm.): Program, booklet
3	13	Re-release (70 mm.): Photographs
3	14	Television premiere, 1976
3	15	Miscellaneous writings about GWTW

- 3 16 Margaret Mitchell: Photograph
- 3 17 Clippings, biographical sketches, etc.
- 3 18 Death and memorials

Series 4
Photographs and other papers
Box 4, OP 9-10

Scope and Content Note

Series 4 contains photographs of Susan Myrick, biographical information about Myrick, materials related to awards and speaking engagements, and memorabilia.

Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type.

Box	Folder	Content
4	1	Photograph: Susan Myrick
OP1	9	Photograph: Susan Myrick
4	2	Clippings: Biographical information
4	3	Speaking engagements
4	4	Articles collected by Susan Myrick (about the English language)
4	5	Memorabilia
OP1	10	Broadside: Citation for Distinguished Service Award to Susan Myrick from National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 6 Feb 1963
4	6	"Susan Myrick: Biographical Essay," with notes on sources, by Susan Drinnon Morris (unpublished typescript prepared for Emory University Division of Library and Information Management class, 1983)
