TILLY, DOROTHY ROGERS, 1883-1970
Dorothy Rogers Tilly papers, 1868-1970

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Tilly, Dorothy Rogers, 1883-1970
Title: Dorothy Rogers Tilly papers, 1868-1970
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 539
Extent: 2 linear feet (4 boxes), 4 bound volumes (BV), 1 oversized papers box (OP)
AV Masters: .25 linear feet (CLP)
Abstract: Papers of church and civil rights worker Dorothy Rogers Tilly, including correspondence, printed material, photographs, and records of the President's Committee on Civil Rights (1947).
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
The official files of the Committee on Civil Rights are located at the Truman Library, Independence, Missouri; other related materials are located at Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia and Winthrop College Archives, Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Related Materials in This Repository
Eliza K. Paschall papers, Frances F. Pauley papers, Josephine Wilkins papers, and Glenn W. Rainey papers.

Source
Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Dorothy Rogers Tilly papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript,
Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing
Processed by Susan Potts McDonald, March 2007.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note
Born in Hampton, Georgia, on June 30, 1883, Dorothy Rogers Tilly, church and civil rights
worker, was the daughter of Richard Wade Rogers, a Methodist minister, and Frances (Eubank)
Rogers. She attended Reinhardt College in Waleska, Ga. and received an A.B. from Wesleyan
College in Macon, Ga. in 1901. She also attended Scarritt College for Christian Workers in
Nashville. Dorothy Rogers married Milton Eben Tilly, a mill owner and chemical manufacturer,
on November 24, 1903, and they had one child, Eben Fletcher. During the majority of their
married life, Mrs. Tilly and her family resided in Atlanta, Georgia. She died in Atlanta on March
16, 1970.

Throughout her life, Dorothy Rogers Tilly worked through church and civic organizations for
the cause of civil rights. Her earliest work was under the auspices of the Methodist Church,
and she remained active in the Church's women's organizations until her death in March,
1970. She served as a teacher under the General Board of Education of the Methodist Church;
was elected a delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South
in 1938, the Uniting Conference in 1939, and the General Conference in 1944; served as
secretary of Christian Social Relations, Southeastern Jurisdiction of the Woman's Society of
Christian Service, 1940-1948, and as a member of the department of Christian Social Relations,
1940-1952.

In addition to her work with the Methodist Church, Mrs. Tilly was active in the Georgia
Interracial Committee, the Atlanta Urban League, the Georgia Conference on Social Work, and
as director of women's work for the Southern Regional Council. In September 1949, she founded
the Fellowship of the Concerned, a women's organization whose goals were similar to those of
the Commission on Interracial Cooperation's Association of Southern Women for the Prevention
of Lynching - namely, to end discrimination in the courts, police brutality, and irregularities
in voter registration. One of Mrs. Tilly's achievements in the South was her organization of a
petition of 28,000 signatures which resulted in the appropriation of state funds for the Georgia
Training School for Delinquent Negro Girls.

In 1947, Mrs. Tilly was appointed to President Truman's Committee on Civil Rights and
co-authored its report "To Secure These Rights." In 1948, she served as a member of the
American Palestine Committee to Israel. She was also a member of the U. S. Community Service
Commission. Mrs. Tilly lobbied in Washington for the Farmer's Union, the Catholic Rural Life Conference, the Federal Council of Churches, the A. F. of L., and with the C.I.O. to save the Farm Security Administration.

Mrs. Tilly received numerous awards, including awards from the Atlanta Constitution and the Atlanta Women's Chamber of Commerce (1950), the Methodist Church (in 1950, 1958, 1963, and 1965), the National Committee of Negro Women (1950), the Philadelphia Fellowship Commission (1956), and the Southern Regional Council (1964). Biographical source: Alfred M. Pierce, A History of Methodism in Georgia (North Georgia Conference Historical Society, 195 , pp. 196-197) and from two clippings in the Tilly papers (Sarah Cunningham, "A Woman Beyond Her Times," The Church Woman, December, 1966, pp. 5-12; and Helena Huntington Smith, "Mrs. Tilly's Crusade," Collier's, December 30, 1950, pp. 29, 66-67).

Scope and Content Note
The collection consists of the papers of Dorothy Rogers Tilly from 1868-1970. The papers consist of general correspondence (approximately 200 letters, 1936-1970), clippings, biographical information, and other printed material relating to Mrs. Tilly's activities with the Women's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church, the Southern Regional Council, and the Fellowship of the Concerned and other organizations; records of the Committee on Civil Rights, 1947, on which Mrs. Tilly served; and four bound volumes.

Twenty-eight letters in the general correspondence, May 20-August 14, 1944, concern Eleanor Roosevelt's visit to a Methodist Women's Assembly at Lake Junaluska in the summer of 1944. Approximately 100 letters, mainly dated 1947 but scattered throughout 1948 and 1949, refer to Mrs. Tilly's work on the President's Committee on Civil Rights, and are mainly letters of commendation. The election of 1948 is discussed in two letters of November 4 and 8 of that year. Other letters of interest include a letter from Jessie Daniel Ames concerning race relations in Georgia (TLS, March 30, 1949, 1 p.), and a letter describing a symposium on women in public life, dated September 24, 1958.


Records of the President's Committee on Civil Rights include mimeographed transcriptions of the discussions at the committee meetings and certain subcommittee meetings, staff interviews and reports made to the committee; also some official correspondence, memoranda, and scattered minutes, as well as miscellaneous material collected by the committee or by Mrs. Tilly, and unidentified reports. A copy of the committee's published report, To Secure These Rights, is catalogued for the Rose Library.
Dorothy Rogers Tilly papers, 1868-1970  
Manuscript Collection No. 539

Container List

<table>
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<th>Box</th>
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Committee on Civil Rights, 1947

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Transcripts of meetings, September 12, 1947 (morning)

Transcripts of meetings, September 12, 1947 (afternoon)

Transcripts of meetings, September 13, 1947

Bound volumes

BV1 Scrapbook of clippings and mementos
BV2 Record of Life Members, Woman's Missionary Society; North Georgia Conference
BV3 Jubilee Baby Book, North Georgia Conference, Woman's Missionary Society
BV4 Woman's Missionary Society, scrapbook, 1880-1888

Oversized papers

OP1 1 Diploma, Wesleyan College, 1901
OP1 1 Certificate honoring Dorothy Tilly, United Church Women, October 10, 1966
OP1 1 Richard W. Rogers, Certificate of Membership, Washington College (Lexington, Va.,) 1869 (photographic reproduction)
OP1 1 Citation, "National Fellowship Award" from Philadelphia Fellowship Commission

Audiovisual

CLP1 - Tilly, Dorothy Rogers, address to Women's National Press Club, Washington, D.C., 1947, WINX Washington (part 1 of 8) [original: phonograph]
        [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id bbjt0]
CLP1 - Tilly, Dorothy Rogers, address to Women's National Press Club, Washington, D.C., 1947, WINX Washington (part 2 of 8) [original: phonograph]
        [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id bbjv4]
CLP1 - Tilly, Dorothy Rogers, address to Women's National Press Club, Washington, D.C., 1947, WINX Washington (part 3 of 8) [original: phonograph]
        [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id bbjw8]
CLP1 - Tilly, Dorothy Rogers, address to Women's National Press Club, Washington, D.C., 1947, WINX Washington (part 4 of 8) [original: phonograph]
        [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id bbjxd]
CLP1 - Tilly, Dorothy Rogers, address to Women's National Press Club, Washington, D.C., 1947, WINX Washington (part 5 of 8) [original: phonograph]
        [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id bbjzj]
CLP1 - Tilly, Dorothy Rogers, address to Women's National Press Club, Washington, D.C., 1947, WINX Washington (part 6 of 8) [original: phonograph]
        [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id bbk0s]
CLP1 - Tilly, Dorothy Rogers, address to Women's National Press Club, Washington, D.C., 1947, WINX Washington (part 7 of 8) [original: phonograph]
        [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id bbk1x]
CLP1 - Tilly, Dorothy Rogers, address to Women's National Press Club, Washington, D.C., 1947, WINX Washington (part 8 of 8) [original: phonograph]