

**HILDA WATROUS
PAPERS, 1892-1998****SC22210**

QUANTITY: 10 boxes (3.50 cubic ft.)
ACCESS: Records are open to research.
ACQUISITION: Gift; Hilda Watrous; 4 April 1999
PROCESSED BY: Aimee Morgan, Student Assistant, Spring 2005

Biographical Note:

Hilda Watrous is a freelance writer and historian who has specialized in issues related to women's history. She was active in politics as a longtime member of the League of Women Voters of New York State (LWV-NYS). A member of the organization's state board, Watrous was the first person to serve as official historian for the LWV-NYS.

Publications by Watrous include *The County Between the Lakes: A Public History of Seneca County, New York, 1876-1982* (1982); *In League with Eleanor: Eleanor Roosevelt and the League of Women Voters 1921-1962* (1984); *Oswego Reflections, 1887-1987* (1994); and *75 Years of a Great Idea: A History of the League of Women Voters of New York State* (1995). Watrous has also presented papers at numerous conferences and events.

Scope and Content:

These papers are comprised chiefly of correspondence, research files, and publications related to Hilda Watrous's involvement in state and local organizations of the League of Women Voters of New York State.

Series I consists of Watrous's files on the League of Women Voters. Included are chronological research files on the LWV-NYS, as well as a sample of LWV-NYS publications. There are a few files on the national League of Women Voters organization, containing mostly publications. Also included are organizational files on the founding of the League of Women Voters of Shenendehowa, later renamed the League of Women Voters of Southern Saratoga. A lengthy run of newsletters from this organization depicts League of Women Voters activities at a local level.

Series II is comprised of Watrous's research files on Eleanor Roosevelt. Of particular interest to Watrous was Roosevelt's connection with the LWV-NYS. *In League with Eleanor: Eleanor Roosevelt and the League of Women Voters 1921-1962* was published by LWV-NYS's Foundation for Citizen Education in 1984.

Series III consists of research files from a project completed by Watrous under contract for the New York Capitol Commission in 1985-1986. Watrous was hired to write biographical sketches

of activists for woman suffrage whose names were listed on a tablet in the New York State Capitol. The tablet had been placed in the Capitol by LWV-NYS in 1930.

Series IV comprises research for other projects, in particular the lives and careers of Harriet May Mills and Narcissa Cox Vanderlip. Watrous wrote a biography of Mills to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the New York State Fair's Women's Building in Syracuse, which was named to honor Mills. Watrous's research on Vanderlip contributed to the decision to include Vanderlip in the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery.

The papers provide insight into the research process of a local historian. However, they do not present a complete overview of Watrous's career. The collection contains no research files for her publications on Seneca County and the town of Oswego.

Box	Folder	Contents
		Series I: League of Women Voters, 1910-1998
1		National League of Women Voters, 1940-1990
	1	Archives, 1986
	2	History, 1985
	3	Military Intelligence Records on the League of Women Voters, National Archives, 1920s
	4	Political Activity, ca. 1970s-ca. 1990s
		Publications
	5	1940-1957
	6	1962-1970
	7	1971-1986
		League of Women Voters of New York State, 1920-1994
		75 th Anniversary
	8	1992-1994
	9	Commemorative Journal, 1994
	10	Gala, Program, 1994
	11	Information Packet, 1993
	12	Correspondence, 1980s
2	1	Transfer of League Archives to Columbia University, 1969-1981
		Historical Research, ca. 1990s
	2-3	1920s
	4	1921
	5	1922
	6	1923
	7	1924
	8	1930s
	9	1940s
	10	1970s
	11	1980s
	12	1990s
3	1	A-F, no date

	2	G-R, no date
	3	S-Z, no date
	4-6	At Columbia University Library, ca. 1990s
	7	Board of Directors, 1920-1923
	8	Edey, Birdsall Otis, 1982
	9	First Legislative Conference, 1939
	10	Mott, Lucretia and Anna Lord Strauss, no date
	11	Miscellaneous, ca. 1910s-1990s
	12-14	Histories of the State League, 1980s-1990s
	15	History Conference Presentation, 1982
	16	History Presentation at State Convention, 1985
	17	Miscellaneous, ca. 1970s-ca. 1990s
	18	Oral History Guidelines, no date
4	1	Political Activity and Organization, ca. 1970s-ca. 1980s
	2	Reports to State Board on League History, 1980-1988
		Publications
	3	<i>30 Years in Action: History of the State Program, 1920-1950, 1951</i>
	4	<i>1919-1969: It Made a Difference, 1969</i>
	5	<i>Campaign for a Capital Move, 1988</i>
	6	<i>New York State Action in Albany, Winter 1980</i>
	7	<i>New York State Voter, 1974-1985</i>
		<i>Weekly News</i>
	8	1925
	9	1926
	10	1927
	11	1928
	12	1929
	13	Miscellaneous Publications, 1979-1982
	14	Other State League Programs, 1970-1981
		Local Leagues, 1969-1998
	15	Capital District League of Women Voters, <i>Regional Report, 1972-1974</i>
		League of Women Voters of Shenendehowa
	16	1977-1985
	17	1993-1998
	18	Budget, 1969-1978
		Newsletter
5	1	1971
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	3	1973
	4	1974-1975
	5	1976-1977
	6	1978-1979
	7	1980-1983
	8	1984-1986
	9	Organizational Documents, 1971-1973

	10-11	League of Women Voters of Southern Saratoga County, Clifton Park Development Issues, 1998
	12	Other Local Leagues, Historical Research, 1979-1986
6		Series II: Eleanor Roosevelt Research Project, 1982-1998
		Correspondence, 1982-1998
	1-2	Correspondence re: Eleanor Roosevelt, 1982-1984, 1998
	3	Correspondence and Clippings re: <i>In League With Eleanor</i> , 1983-1984
		Conferences and Events, 1982-1994
	4	Hofstra University Roosevelt Conference, 1982
	5	Grant Application for Eleanor Roosevelt Film, 1983
	6-7	Centennial of Eleanor Roosevelt's Birth, Conferences and Events, 1983-1984
	8	Presentation on Eleanor Roosevelt at New York State League of Women Voters Convention, 1985
	9	Eleanor Roosevelt Program for Russell Sage Elderhostel, 1994
		Historical Research, ca. 1980s-1990s
	10	1920-1924
	11	1925-1929
7	1	1930-1939
	2	1940s-1960s
	3	Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill
	4	Eleanor Roosevelt Timeline, undated
	5	Eleanor Roosevelt and the League of Women Voters
	6	Hyde Park, Brochures and Publications
	7	Hyde Park, Correspondence and Notes
	8	Miscellaneous
	9	Photographs and Postcards, ca. 1930s-ca.1980s
	10	Publications with Eleanor Roosevelt Content, 1983-1998
		Eleanor Roosevelt, Assorted Buttons, no date [in envelope]
		Series III: Suffrage Tablet Research, 1985-1996
8	1	Background Information on Tablet, ca. 1986
	2	Completed Biographies of Suffrage Tablet Women, ca. 1986
	3	Correspondence, 1982-1996
	4	Correspondence with Capitol Commission, 1985-1986
	5	Research at New York Public Library, ca. 1986
	6	Research at New York State Library, ca. 1986
	7	Research, Miscellaneous, ca. 1986
		Suffrage Tablet Names, Research, ca. 1986
	8	A, ca. 1986
	9	B, ca. 1986
	10	C-D, ca. 1986
	11	E, ca. 1986
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	2	K-L, ca. 1986
	3	M, ca. 1986

	4	N-R, ca. 1986
	5	S-V, ca. 1986
	6	W, ca. 1986
		Series IV: Other Research Projects, 1892-1995
	7	Equal Rights Amendment Research, Correspondence with Elisabeth Griffith, 1983-1987
	8	Knapp, Florence, Research, no date
		Mills, Harriet May
		Research, ca. 1980s
	9	1892-1918
10	1	1920s-1930s
	2	House, Family, and Friends, no date
	3	Women's Building 50 th Anniversary Publication, 1984
	4	Miscellaneous, 1985-1995
	5	National Women's Hall of Fame and Women's Rights National Historical Park, 1982-1983
	6	<i>The Review</i> (Liverpool, NY), Articles Written by Watrous, 1983
		Vanderlip, Narcissa Cox
		Book
	7	Correspondence, 1980-1983
	8	Finished Copy, 1982
	9	Proposal and Funding, 1980-1981
		Research, ca. 1980s-1990s
	10	1930s-1940s
	11	At Columbia University Library, 1980
	12	Bok Peace Prize, 1923-1924
	13	Chicago, ca. 1900s-1920s
	14	Family, ca. 1910s-1960s
	15	Palos Verdes, California, 1980-1990
	16	Sheppard Towner Act, 1920s
	17	Trip to Japan, 1920
	18	Vanderlip Estate, 1980
	19	Women's Land Army, 1915-1919
	20	<i>Women's History in the United States: A Handbook</i> , Contract and Contributions, 1987-1988
	21	Women's History Month, Presentation at SUNY Plaza Celebration, 1995

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