



Malcolm E. Crosland papers, 1925-1954
SCHS 103.00

Creator: Crosland, Malcolm Elliott, 1901-1954

Description: 0.5 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical Note: Malcolm Elliott Crosland was born in Bennettsville, South Carolina, April 7, 1901, to Throop and Margaret Weatherly McLaurin Crosland. Malcolm Crosland completed his education in the Bennettsville schools before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in World War I. During World War I, Mr. Crosland served with Companies H and C of the Eleventh Regiment in France (June 4, 1918-November 15, 1919). He entered Clemson College in January 1920. Crosland transferred to the University of South Carolina where he received his LL.B. in 1922. From 1922 until 1924 Crosland worked for the Bureau of Public Roads, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC. While working in Washington, Crosland took courses in law at Georgetown University. In February 1924, he moved to Bennettsville, South Carolina to practice law.

Crosland entered a partnership for the practice of law with A.L. Hamer in Charleston, South Carolina, June 1, 1925. During his time at Hamer and Crosland, he married Rosa Maria Lucita Chartrand Webb, February 15, 1927. He continued at Hamer and Crosland until leaving to become and associate in the firm of Mayor Thomas P. Stoney, April 15, 1928. In October 1930, he became a partner in the firm of Stoney, Crosland and Pritchard. Crosland remained a partner in the firm until his death, September 1, 1954.

Crosland's memberships included the Charleston County Bar Association, the Charleston City Democratic Executive Committee, the Charleston Rifle Club, the Masons, the Elks, Hibernian Society, St. Andrew's Society, the American Legion, and the Thomas Memorial Church (Bennettsville, South Carolina).

Scope and Content: Papers consist of correspondence (1925-1934, 1936-1947, 1949, 1953); a project file; and documents organized by material type.

Correspondence includes letters between Crosland and his uncle John L. McLaurin and other family members; letters pertaining to the political career of Thomas P. Stoney; and Crosland's correspondence as chairman of the Charleston White City Democratic Party Executive Committee regarding the decision to use voting machines, state elections, and the rewriting of party rules to accommodate U.S. Circuit Judge J. Waties Waring's 1947 court decision that outlawed South Carolina's all-white Democratic Party primary system. Correspondents include gubernatorial candidate Neville Bennett, Congressman L. Mendel Rivers, and many others.

The correspondence between Malcolm Crosland and his uncle, John L. McLaurin, is of particular interest. John L. McLaurin was a United States Senator from South Carolina, known for his close association with Benjamin Ryan Tillman. John McLaurin and Ben Tillman served

together in the United States Senate and became bitter rivals for federal patronage. The United States Senate censured Tillman and McLaurin after they engaged in a fist fight on the Senate floor. The correspondence between Crosland and McLaurin demonstrates a close relationship between the two. The correspondence occurred near the end of McLaurin's life after McLaurin's political demise.

Also of interest are references to Thomas Stoney's political career. As a legal partner of Stoney's during his years as mayor of Charleston, Crosland seems to have been involved in Stoney's various political campaigns. Crosland petitioned the support of John McLaurin in Stoney's campaign for United States District Attorney.

Crosland's position as chairman of the Charleston City Democratic Executive Committee is also documented in the correspondence. The correspondence documents the decision of whether to use voting machines in Democratic primaries. It also documents the rewriting of the rules for the Charleston Democratic Committee. The Democratic Party in South Carolina was in a turmoil concerning J. Waties Waring's court decision that outlawed the states' all white Democratic Primary. The Executive Committee, like many subdivisions of the Democratic Primary in South Carolina, attempted to rewrite their rules to obey the letter but not the spirit of Waring's decision. Because of Crosland's position as chairman of the Executive Committee, correspondence concerning this activity is contained in the collection.

Project file consists of records (bulk 1947) of the White Democratic Party of the City of Charleston (S.C.) and the Charleston County Democratic Party including instructions to enrolment clerks; Charleston ward committee lists; notices; newspaper clippings; 1946 Handbook of the Charleston County Democratic Party; 1947 Rule Book of the White City Democratic Party; documents pertaining to the establishment of a civil service system for municipalities in South Carolina; a memo to City of Charleston department heads concerning the Civil Service bill and in particular its sections dealing with political activities by municipal employees; and resolutions of the City White Democratic Party regarding voting machines.

Other items include an abstract of title (1935) for a house on Tradd Street (Charleston, S.C.); bills; a map of Bailey Drive (location unknown); and case records (1925) concerning violations of the prohibition laws in Charleston, including a statement by LeRoy Nelson, who procured bootleg whiskey.

Provenance Note: A large collection of papers was discovered during the renovation of 51-53 Broad Street. The ensuing disarray made it difficult to ascertain the original order of the collection. During the preparation of the Thomas P. Stoney papers a number of smaller collections appeared as part of the morass. The Malcolm Elliott Crosland papers constitute one of these collections. As a legal associate and partner of Thomas P. Stoney's for 26 years, many of the papers were probably generated at the law offices. Those papers predating the association between Crosland and Stoney probably came with Crosland when he left Hamer and Crosland. Because of the condition of the papers when they were obtained by the South Carolina Historical Society, researchers interested in Malcolm Elliot Crosland should also examine the Thomas P. Stoney papers, the James Allan papers, the John Diedrich Ernest Meyer papers, and the Edward K. Pritchard papers. Malcolm Crosland's legal papers are part of the unprocessed papers for the firms Hamer and Crosland; Stoney, Crosland and Pritchard; and Stoney and Crosland.

Preferred Citation: Crosland, Malcolm Elliott, 1901-1954. Malcolm E. Crosland papers, 1925-1954. (103.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Bennett, Neville, 1902-
Crosland, Malcolm Elliott, 1901-1954.
McLaurin, John Lowndes, 1860-1934.
Rivers, L. Mendel (Lucius Mendel), 1905-1970.
Stoney, Thomas P. (Thomas Porcher), 1889-1973.
Democratic Party (Charleston County, S.C.)
White Democratic Party (Charleston, S.C.) -- Records and correspondence.
Civil service -- South Carolina.
Elections -- South Carolina.
Primaries -- South Carolina.
Prohibition -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Voting-machines.
Charleston (S.C.) -- Politics and government.
South Carolina -- History.
South Carolina -- Politics and government.
Clippings.
Letters (correspondence)
Pamphlets.
Lawyers.

Chronological Summary: [1901-1954]

- 1901 April 7 – born, Bennettsville, South Carolina
- 1918 June 4 – began service as a member of the United States Marine Corps with Companies H and C of the Eleventh Regiment in France
- 1919 November 15 – ended services as a member of the United States Marine Corps with Companies H and C of the Eleventh Regiment in France
- 1920 January – entered Clemson College, Clemson, South Carolina
- **** Left Clemson College and entered the University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina
- 1922 Received law degree from the University of South Carolina
Began working for Bureau of Public Roads, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC
- **** Attended Georgetown University

- 1924 February – entered law practice, Bennettsville, South Carolina
- 1925 June 1 – entered law partnership with A. L. Hamer in Charleston, South Carolina
- 1927 February 15, 1927 – married Rosa Maria Lucita Chartrand Webb
- 1928 April 15 – joined practice of Thomas P. Stoney as an associate
- 1930 October – became partner in the firm Stoney, Crosland and Pritchard
- 1947 Served as chairman, Charleston City Democratic Executive Committee
- 1948 Renamed law firm Stoney and Crosland after Edward K. Pritchard left the firm
- 1954 September 1 – died

Series overview:

103.1 Biographical information: [1954]

Document types: Death certificate, essay.

Scope and Content: Contains a biographical essay concerning Malcolm Crosland and Malcolm Crosland's death certificate.

103.2 Correspondence: [1925-1954]

Document types: Letters, carbon copies of letters.

Scope and Content: Contains correspondence concerning the political and personal activities of Malcolm Crosland. The correspondence is not continuous from 1925-1954. The dates of the correspondence are from 1925-1934, 1936-1947, 1949, and 1953.

103.3 Project file: [1946-1947]

103.3.1 Malcolm E. Crosland, Chairman City Democratic Executive Committee: [1946-1947]

Document types: Essays, forms, lists, memoranda, newspaper clippings (dated), notes, pamphlets, press release, reports, resolutions, rules, single sheet.

Scope and Content: Contains information concerning Malcolm E. Crosland's activities as chairman of the City Democratic Executive committee. These activities include the discussion of the utilization of voting machines in Charleston and the rewriting of the rules of the City Democratic Party in an attempt to circumvent the 1947 Waring decision concerning the white Democratic primary. There are copies of the rules generated by the committee in their attempt to obey the letter rather than the spirit of the court's decision.

103.4 Documents by material type: [1929-1953]

103.4.1 Abstract of title: [1935]

Scope and Content: Contains the abstract of the title to 142 Tradd Street with Malcolm E. Crosland as the purchaser of the property.

103.4.2 Bills and receipts: [1929-1953]

Scope and Content: Contains bills and receipts to Malcolm Crosland for various items and services.

103.4.3 Map: [no date]

Scope and Content: Contains a map of Bailey Drive (location of property unknown).

Container List:

103.1 Biographical information: [1954]

103.2 Correspondence: [1925-1954]

103.3 Project file: [1946-1947]

103.3.1 Malcolm E. Crosland, Chairman City Democratic Executive Committee: [1946-1947]

- Essays
- Forms
- Lists
- Memoranda
- Newspaper clippings, dated
- Pamphlets
- Press release
- Reports
- Resolutions
- Rules
- Single sheet

103.4 Documents by material type: [1929-1953]

103.4.1 Abstract of title: [1935]

103.4.2 Bills and receipts: [1929-1953]

103.4.3 Map: [no date]