



Leila Wilkinson papers, 1920-1970
SCHS 1117.00
Container 11/460

Creator: Wilkinson, Leila Fayssoux.

Description: 0.5 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical Note: Missionary, educator, and tourist home operator. She was born in Union County, S.C. Wilkinson served as an Episcopal missionary in China from 1920 to 1924, and made Charleston, S.C. her home from about 1940 till the time of her death. In 1943, after the retirement of her second husband, James Withers Wilkinson, she opened a kindergarten in Charleston. She and her husband James lived at 51 South Battery, which housed the kindergarten and later became a tourist (or guest) home.

Scope and Content: Papers consist of photographs, correspondence, clippings, a diary, and other items.

Correspondence (1920-1970) includes letters (1923-1924) from Wilkinson in China concerning her life at a mission school, a voyage, and other matters; a letter (1947, 9 p.) about the restoration of 51 South Battery; and later correspondence (1950-1970).

Photographs are of kindergarten classes at the Charlotte (N.C.) Day School (1930s) and the South Battery Kindergarten (1943-1954); school Christmas plays (1950s); Wilkinson family, relations, and friends; 51 South Battery; students (American and Chinese) and staff at the Episcopal mission in Anking (China), "Hangchow" ("a leading official in the district"), and other people and places in China.

Diary (1924) records Wilkinson's daily activities in China and a trip through the Middle East and Europe to Southampton (England). Newspaper clippings (1931-1970) mainly concern Wilkinson's career as an educator. Other items include a diary (1936-1940) used also as a guest book for 51 South Battery; illustrated calling cards; kindergarten commencement programs; and brochures about 51 South Battery.

Preferred Citation: Wilkinson, Leila Fayssoux Davidson, 1881-1970. Leila Wilkinson papers, 1920-1970. (1117.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Wilkinson, Leila Fayssoux Davidson, 1881-1970 -- Travel.

Episcopal Church -- Missions -- China.

South Battery Kindergarten (Charleston, S.C.) -- Students.

Christmas plays.

Dwellings -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Education, Primary -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Historic buildings -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Conservation and restoration.
Kindergarten facilities -- North Carolina -- Charlotte.
Kindergarten facilities -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Streets -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- South Battery, 051.
Students -- China.
Tourist camps, hostels, etc. -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Anking (China) -- Photographs.
Charleston (S.C.) -- History.
South Carolina -- History.
Brochures.
Clippings.
Diaries.
Letters (correspondence)
Photographs.
Visiting cards.
Visitors' books.
Educators.
Missionaries.

Container list:

11/460/1-13 Wilkinson, Leila Davidson Fayssoux, 1881-1970

Papers, 1920-1970. 20 items.

Missionary in China, Charleston kindergarten teacher. Correspondence (1920-1970) of Wilkinson regarding China (1923-1924), the restoration of her house at 51 South Battery, Charleston. Photographs and papers regarding Wilkinson's kindergarten class photographs (1943-1954). Also photographs of China and Wilkinson's family and a diary regarding daily events (1924) and appointment and guest dairy (1936-1938).