



**Robert Lathan Papers, 1898-1970**  
**SCHS 1251.00**  
**Containers 25/187-196b**

**Creator:** Lathan, Robert, 1881-1937.

**Description:** ca. 5.75 linear ft.

**Biographical/Historical note:** Journalist, of North and South Carolina.

**Scope and content:** Chiefly containing correspondence relating to Lathan's family and his career as court stenographer for South Carolina 3rd Circuit Court (1903-1906); journalist with South Carolina newspapers *Columbia State* (1900-1903), *Charleston News and Courier* (1906-1927), and editor of *Asheville Citizen* in North Carolina (1927-1937). Correspondents include: Hervey Allen, John Jacob Astor, James F. Byrnes, Warrington Dawson, Johnson Hagood, J.C. Hemphill, Bessie Early Lathan (his wife; d.1972), Walter Lippmann, Richard I. Manning, Josephine Pinckney, A.S. Salley, Herbert Ravenel Sass, Yates Snowden, David Duncan Wallace, and Henry Watterson.

**Described in:** South Carolina Historical Magazine 85 (Oct. 1984): 337.

**Preferred citation:** Lathan, Robert, 1881-1937. Robert Lathan papers, 1898-1970. (25/187-196) South Carolina Historical Society.

**Provenance:** Purchase, 1984.

**Search terms:**

Allen, Hervey, 1889-1949 -- Correspondence.  
Astor, John Jacob, 1886-1971-- Correspondence.  
Byrnes, James F. (James Francis), 1882-1972 -- Correspondence.  
Dawson, Warrington, 1878-1962 -- Correspondence.  
Gonzales, Ambrose Elliott, 1857-1926 -- Correspondence.  
Gonzales, Narciso Gener, 1858-1903 -- Correspondence.  
Hagood, Johnson, 1873-1948 -- Correspondence.  
Hemphill, J. C. (James Calvin), 1850-1927 -- Correspondence.  
Lathan, Bessie Early, 1882-1972 -- Correspondence.  
Lathan, Samuel B., 1862-1929 -- Correspondence.  
Lippmann, Walter, 1889-1974 -- Correspondence.  
Manning, Richard Irvine, 1859-1931 -- Correspondence.

Pinckney, Josephine, 1895-1957 -- Correspondence.  
Salley, A. S. (Alexander Samuel), 1871-1961 -- Correspondence.  
Sass, Herbert Ravenel, 1884-1958 -- Correspondence.  
Snowden, Yates, 1858-1933 -- Correspondence.  
Wallace, David Duncan, 1874-1951 -- Correspondence.  
Watterson, Henry, 1840-1921 -- Correspondence.  
Lathan family.  
South Carolina. Circuit Court (3rd Circuit)  
Asheville Citizen (Asheville, N.C. : Daily)  
News and courier (Charleston, S.C. : Daily)  
State (Columbia, S.C. : 1891 : Daily)  
American newspapers -- North Carolina -- Asheville.  
American newspapers -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
American newspapers -- South Carolina -- Colombia.  
Circuit courts -- South Carolina.  
Journalism -- Editing.  
Journalism -- North Carolina.  
Journalism -- South Carolina.  
Law reporting -- South Carolina.  
Journalists -- North Carolina.  
Journalists -- South Carolina.  
Law reporters -- South Carolina.  
Newspaper editors -- North Carolina.  
Newspaper editors -- South Carolina.

**Container listing:**

**25/187            Correspondence, 1889-1902**

Early letters and materials relating to Robert Lathan's teaching career, including a teaching certificate from Abbeville County, dated 1898. Letters to Robert Lathan from family members, including letters from his brother Samuel B. Lathan during his time at Spartanburg Business College. Letters from N. G. Gonzales regarding opportunities at the Columbia State newspaper (1900).

**25/188            Correspondence, 1903**

Many letters between Bessie Early and Robert Lathan. Early letters of 1903 about his appointment as a court stenographer. Letters from William Banks, Ambrose Gonzales, and others regarding the murder of N. G. Gonzales and trial of James H. Tillman.

**25/189            Correspondence, 1904-1905**

Letters between Lathan and family members, including letters relating to his wedding to Bessie Early in July 1904. Letter dated February 28, 1904 from James F. Byrnes from Aiken, SC, regarding a job appointment for a friend as a court stenographer. Letters regarding Lathan's

career as court stenographer, including letters from various attorneys requesting transcripts of court cases.

**25/190 Correspondence, 1906-1907**

Letters between Bessie and Robert Lathan and other family members. Letter from James F. Byrnes dated January 18, 1906, discussing a bill creating a county court in Aiken. A letter from J.C. Hemphill dated February 3, 1906 regarding Lathan's return to newspaper work.

**25/191 Correspondence, 1907-1910**

Letters between Bessie and Robert Lathan and other family members. Letters from early 1910 congratulating Lathan on being promoted to Managing Editor of the Charleston *News and Courier* newspaper. Letter from Warrington Dawson dated April 8, 1910 offering to contribute an article to the *News and Courier*. Letter from Warrington Dawson dated April 8, 1910 regarding his contributing an article to the *News and Courier* about the merchant marines. Additional letters from Warrington Dawson from Versailles dated May 3, 1910, about his meeting with President Roosevelt in Paris, and November 18, 1910, about subjects for articles including a piece on French author Gaston Roupnel.

**5/192 Correspondence, 1911-1919**

Letter to Robert Lathan from J.C. Hemphill, dated March 21, 1911, concerning H.E.C. Washington's application to be the Washington correspondent for the *News and Courier*. Letter dated January 9, 1912, from Henry Watterson, editor of the *Louisville Courier Journal*, regarding a trip to Charleston. Letters from various *News and Courier* correspondents regarding political campaigns, including letters discussing the election of President Woodrow Wilson. Letter from A.S. Salley, dated February 5, 1913, regarding an editorial in the *News and Courier* about defending his work and the Historical Commission of South Carolina. Letter also from J.C. Hemphill, dated February 14, 1913, regarding his accepting a position as a special correspondent in Washington D.C. for the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*. Letter from Warrington Dawson, dated February 21, 1913, about an article written for the newspaper. Letter dated April 17, 1913 from Yates Snowden at the University of South Carolina regarding his being nominated for the presidency of the university and other matters. Letter from David D. Wallace dated July 28, 1914 regarding the gubernatorial race and followers of Governor Blease. Letter from Governor Richard I. Manning, dated November 2, 1915, regarding the state militia. Letter from Herbert R. Sass, dated April 28, 1916 regarding a new daily newspaper called *Common Sense*. Letters from Warrington Dawson in 1917 from Versailles about his writing articles for the newspaper while visiting the American front.

**25/193 Correspondence, 1920-1926**

Letter from Warrington Dawson dated October 17, 1922 regarding his health and the serial publication of his novel *The Pyramid*. Letter from Yates Snowden dated, September 4, 1923 from Hendersonville, NC regarding an article about Stephen Barnwell. Letter from Frank D. Fackenthal of Columbia University notifying Robert Lathan that the *News and Courier* won the

Pulitzer Prize for best editorial article written during the year for the editorial “Plight of the South”, published November 5, 1924. Many letters of congratulations on the Pulitzer Prize announcement, including a letter from Hervey Allen dated April 28, 1925 and a letter from Richard I. Manning dated May 4, 1925. Letter from Herbert Ravenel Sass congratulating Lathan on winning the Pulitzer, and a letter from Johnson Hagood regarding his promotion to Major General, dated August 2, 1925.

**25/194 Correspondence, 1927-1934**

Letters regarding Lathan accepting the position of editor of the *Asheville Citizen* newspaper, including letters of congratulations in April 1927 from James F. Byrnes, J. C. Hemphill, Richard I. Manning, and Walter Lippmann. Letter from Herbert Ravenel Sass, signed “Hobo”, dated May 3, 1927 about meeting with representatives of various magazines and about family matters. Letters and other materials about Lathan’s trip to Europe with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in the summer of 1927. Included are two photographs and a cartoon of the arrival of the American newspapermen to Prague. Also included is a photograph identified as Elizabeth Early, dated July 22, 1927, in front of the Congressional Library. Letter to Lathan from J.J. Astor concerning lunch at Printing House Square in New York City on Tuesday, July 26th, 1927. Letter from Herbert Ravenel Sass, dated October 19, 1933 about a novel he’s written.

**25/195 Correspondence, 1937-1970**

Letters between Robert Lathan and Bessie and others regarding family matters and Lathan’s illness. A list of flowers received from the Flower Shop of Middlemount Gardens in Asheville for the funeral of Robert Lathan, September 28, 1937. Letters of condolence to Bessie for the passing of Robert Lathan, including a letter, dated October 10, 1937 from Herbert Ravenel Sass expressing his grief over his death.

**25/196 Undated correspondence and ephemera**

Undated letters between Robert Lathan and Bessie and others, including a letter from Josephine Pinckney asking Mrs. Lathan to visit her while in Paris. Miscellaneous ephemera including greeting cards and wedding invitations.

**25/196a Bills, receipts, and other financial records, diaries, ephemera**

Financial records of Robert Lathan, including records related to the *News and Courier*. Includes ephemera related to the 1936 Pulitzer Prize dinner and Pulitzer music scholarship.

**25/196b Carnegie trip ephemera; editorial material**