



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tompkins and Reid families papers, 1930-2022 (Bulk 1940-2015)

SCHS# 0690.00

Description: 5.5 linear ft. (6 boxes, 1 box of Artifacts & 1 flat file)

Biographical/Historical Note: Wyatt Edward “Ed” Tompkins (1928—2018) was born in Taylors S.C., he was son of Wyatt James Tompkins (1906-1934) and Mary Jones Tompkins (1906—1975). He attended Greenville High School and was drafted into the Army before finishing his degree. He worked for time at infirmary ward in Japan before leaving Army, and he finished his high school education at Blue Ridge Prep School in Hendersonville, N.C., before attending Furman University on a football scholarship for one year. He married Mille Florence Center (1931—2022), the daughter of Robert “RC” Center (1910—1984) and Freddie Banks Center (1911—1964). Born in Neeses, S.C., she graduated from Parker High School in Greenville, S.C. and later worked for Furman University and Joyce Food Equipment. Wyatt Edward “Ed” and Millie Center Tompkins had three daughters, Cynthia Ann Tompkins Kinghorn (1952—), Edna Lynn Tompkins Whittle (1956—), and Susan Elizabeth Tompkins Reid (1960—).

Charles Hazel “Pete” Reid (1924—1981) was born in Greenville, S.C. the son of James Knox Reid (1896—1928) and Vinnie James Reid Gosnell (1902—1980). Charles “Pete” Reid left school at a young age to work in a textile mill to help support his family, which struggled after his father’s death when Charles was four years old. Charles worked in the textile industry including at Monaghan Mill until his retirement. He became a member of the Shriner’s, which he remained active in until his death in 1981. Charles “Pete” Reid married Constance Ivonell “Ike” Galloway (1932—) in 1950. Constance Ivonell “Ike” Galloway (1932—) was born in Greenville, S.C. the daughter of Charles Benson Galloway Sr. (1896—1973) and Ella Davis Galloway (1896—1989). She attended school in Charleston, S.C. for a few years, and graduated from Parker High School in Greenville, S.C. She worked in the textile industry and retired from McDonalds. Charles “Pete” and Constance Ivonell “Ike” had four children, Linda Reid Williams (1951—), Robert Steven Reid (1953—), Larry Dean Reid (1957—2020), and Gary Thomas Reid (1959—). The youngest daughter of Wyatt Edward and Millie Center Tompkins, Susan Elizabeth Tompkins married the youngest son of Charles “Pete” and Constance Ivonell “Ike” Reid, Gary Thomas Reid in 1981 connecting the Tompkins and Reid families.

Scope and content: Collection consists chiefly of correspondences, journals, diaries, newspaper clippings, genealogical information and images of the Tompkins, Reid and related families. The items related to the Tompkins family were compiled largely by Millie Center Tompkins (1931—2022) while the items related to the Reid family were compiled largely by Constance Ivonell “Ike” Galloway Reid (1932—). The collection includes personal papers related to Wyatt Edward “Ed” Tompkins, Millie Center Tompkins, Charles Hazel Reid, and Constance Ivonell “Ike” Galloway Reid. The papers of Millie Center Tompkins consist of newspaper clipping related to Greenville, S.C. and South Carolina, research that was conducted on the history of Duncan Chapel Elementary School in Greenville, S.C. Several personal diaries, journals, and

payer journals in which Millie writes about her life, experiences, family, world events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and her personal thoughts and prayers for her family and friends. The collection contains a journal that was written by both Millie Center Tompkins and Wyatt Edward Tompkins in which they each write about the parents, early childhood memories in Greenville and Neeses, S.C, schooling, military service, meeting each other, marrying, and having children.

Note: Four boxes of photographs have been removed to the Tompkins and Reid families visual materials, 0690.00 VM.

Preferred Citation: Tompkins and Reid families papers, 1930-2022. (0690.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Tompkins family.
Reid family.
Galloway family.
Center family.
Banks family.
Jones family.
Greenville (S.C.).
Neeses (S.C.)
Columbia (S.C.)
Charleson (S.C.)
Furman University
Shrines.
Textile industry

Container listing:

BOX 1

Tompkins Family Biographical Papers:

- 1 Wyatt James Tompkins papers. Contains newspaper clippings related to Wyatt James Tompkins death in 1934 and genealogical information on James Wyatt Tompkins and Mary Jones Tompkins.
- 2 Wyatt Edward "Ed" Tompkins papers. The personal and professional papers of Wyatt Edward "Ed" Tompkins include items related to his military service, professional life working at Palmetto Engraving Company and Liberty Life Insurance Company, items related to his involvement in Greenville High School reunions, and records of his death in 2018.
- 3 Robert "R.C." Center and Freddie Banks Center papers include real estate titles relate to land in Saluda and property located on Bailey Street in the San Souci neighborhood in Greenville, SC, as well as a death and probate records.
- 4 Millie Center Tompkins papers. The personal and professional papers of Millie Center Tompkins include items relating to her schooling at Parker High School located in Greenville, SC, a newspaper article about her involvement in the Pinehurst Community Club, and an article about her home located in the Pinehurst neighborhood (11 Vista Drive, Greenville, SC), Millie's professional records include her time working at Furman University, her resume, and items related to estate planning, her last wishes and will, and records related to her death in 2022.

- 5 Tompkins family property records includes records relating to 38 Prancer Ave, Greenville, SC. 134 Woodland Drive, Greenville, SC. and 11 Vista Drive, Greenville, SC.
- 6 Tompkins Family MISC ephemera
- 7 Millie Center Tompkins genealogical research of the Tompkins, Center, and other related families.
- 8 Millie Center Tompkins research related in churches in Greenville, SC includes items related to San Souci Baptist Church, Berea First Baptist Church, and Daybreak Community Church in Greenville, SC, and Shandon Baptist Church in Columbia, SC.
- 9 Millie Center Tompkins notes on the history of Duncan Chapel Elementary School located in Greenville, SC.
- 10 Newspaper clippings related to South Carolina collected by Millie Center Tompkins.
- 11 Newspaper clippings related to Greenville SC collected by Millie Center Tompkins.

BOX 2

Tompkins Family Correspondence:

- 1 Correspondence between Wyatt Edward "Ed" Tompkins and Millie Center Tompkins.
- 2 Correspondence of Freddie Banks Center.
- 3 Correspondence of Virginia Johnson and Lena Mae.
- 4 Correspondence of Freddie Jo Center Stuckey Foster (October 6, 1938 - July 15, 2020).
- 5 Correspondence of Millie Center Tompkins.
- 6 Correspondence of miscellaneous sympathy cards and notes.

BOX 3

Millie Center and Wyatt Edward Tompkins Writings (1998 — 2022):

- 1 Christmas Memories: Christmas Journal of Millie Center Tompkins (1998 — 2013).
- 2 Diary of Millie Center Tompkins (August 2000 — June 2003).
- 3 Diary of Millie Center Tompkins (March 2006 — February 2010).
- 4 Wyatt Edward "Ed" Tompkins and Millie Center Tompkins Journal written in 2013 in which they each discuss their childhoods growing up in upstate South Carolina, their families, schooling, teenage years, meeting and marrying among other things written about.
- 5 Diary of Millie Center Tompkins (October 2013 — September 2021).

BOX 4

Millie Center and Wyatt Edward Tompkins Writings (1998 — 2022) Cont.:

- 1 Reflections from a Mothers Heart Journal of Millie Center Tompkins (ca. 1998 — 2001).
- 2 "Grandmother's Memories Journal of Millie Center Tompkins.
- 3 Weekly Planner 2006 of Millie Center Tompkins.
- 4 Weekly Planner 2022 of Millie Center Tompkins.
- 5 Prayer Journal of Millie Center Tompkins (January 2021 — March 2022).

BOX 5

Millie Center Tompkins RESTRICTED Writings:

- 1 Prayer Journal of Millie Center Tompkins (March 1996 — January 2001).
- 2 Prayer Journal of Millie Center Tompkins (September 2002 — December 2007).
- 3 Prayer Journal of Millie Center Tompkins (January 2011 — March 2013 includes three entries made in May 2018 and three pages of entries made in 2017 and one entry made in 2018).
- 4 Prayer Journal of Millie Center Tompkins (February 2019 — September 2021)

BOX 6

Reid Family Biographical Papers:

- 1 James Knox Reid and Vinnie James Reid Gosnell papers. Papers include death and memorial service documents for Vinnie James Reid Gosnell including death certificate and obituaries.
- 2 Charles H. Reid and Constance Ivonell Galloway papers. Papers include Charles and Ivonell's marriage license, cards written to and from Charles to Ivonell, items found in Charles's wallet include membership cards to the Scottish Rite of the Freemasonry. The papers also include death and memorial service documents for Charles H. Reid including death certificate and obituaries.
- 3 Robert Steven Reid (1953—) papers. The papers include a nursery logbook and school records for Robert Steven Reid.
- 4 Larry Dean Reid (1957—2020) papers. The papers include a nursery logbook and school records, correspondence written to Larry after his wife Laura Reid passed away in 2016, and the papers include Larry's obituary.
- 5 Gary Thomas Reid (1959—) papers. The papers include school records for Gary Thomas Reid, and a paycheck stub from Black Electrical Supply Inc, in Greenville, SC.
- 6 MISC Reid and Galloway families' papers. The papers include genealogical information on the Reid and Galloway families, newspaper clippings, a recipe for homemade salve to use for colds and flus, and obituaries for Charles Benson Galloway, Eula Mae Jenkins, Doris Wilson Galloway, Homer C. Galloway, Annie Galloway McCroskey, Christopher Reid, Ruth Elizabeth Reid, Laura Welborn Reid, and the guest book from the memorial service for Ella Mas Gosnell Smith.

Oversized items (Located in flat file drawer):

- 1 San Souci Community in Greenville, S.C. oversized print.