1988

0469: Rosanna A. Blake Papers, 1818-1991

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Finding Aid

for the

Rosanna A. Blake Papers 1818-1991

Accession Number: 1988/01.0469

Jack L. Dickinson
Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
2015
Rosanna A. Blake Papers 1818-1991
(Personal and professional papers of Rosanna A. Blake, Marshall University alumna)

James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University

Accession Number: 1988/01.0469 (originally Ms 145)
Accessioned by: Cora Teel
Location: Special Collections Department, Morrow Library, Blake Room (Room 215)

Date: 1818 to 1991, bulk of content 1930-1987
Extent: 12 linear ft.
System of Arrangement: Grouped by series.

These papers were combined with Marian Alexander Blake papers, (1979/06.0267) in 2003. Manuscript 145 was processed by Mark Jarrett and Cora P. Teel, Nov. 2004. This accession is part of the Rosanna Blake Collection.

Rosanna A. Blake
(1912 – 1987)

Rosanna Blake was born July 16, 1912, in Proctorville, Ohio, the daughter of Marian A. and Merrill Clifford Blake. Due to Rosanna’s frail health, her mother home-schooled her for a few years. The family later moved to Huntington, West Virginia, where Rosanna’s father became circuit clerk for Cabell County. Rosanna graduated from Huntington High School in 1930. She was an honors graduate (summa cum laude) of Marshall College, (now Marshall University,) in the Class of 1934. Her mother also graduated from Marshall College. In 1938 Rosanna received a Master of Arts Degree from the Ohio University at Athens, Ohio. From 1938 to 1942, Rosanna taught history and government at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina. During those years she accumulated enough money to be able to attend law school. She received her law degree from the College of Law at the University of Kentucky in 1945. She also taught both graduate and undergraduate courses in political science at the University of Kentucky prior to 1945. From 1945 to 1948, Dr. Blake was employed by the court review branch of the Office of the General Counsel in Washington, DC. She first was an associate attorney in the Office of Price Administration, which was dissolved soon after the end of World War II. Dr. Blake was employed as a trial attorney in the appellate court branch of the Office of the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) starting in 1948. From 1958 to 1960, she served as special assistant to the Associate General Counsel. Before her retirement in 1968, Dr. Blake served as an administrative law judge. In June of 1965, Marshall University conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree on Rosanna Blake. She passed away on Jan. 16, 1987 in Washington.
During her life, Dr. Blake assembled one of the finest private collections of Confederate history materials and books in the United States. Southern historians B. A. Botkin and Francis Lord stated in 1965, in letters found in these papers, that the collection was the best single collection of Confederate History materials then in existence. The collection came to Marshall University’s Special Collection Dept. in 1987 under the terms of her will. It is in accession number 2001.0703.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

The collection consists of 13 boxes of materials. It is organized in series: Series I - Rosanna Blake’s personal papers, Series II – Her professional papers, Series III – Papers of the Alexander Blake family, Series IV – Printed materials, Series V – Photographs, Series VI – Scrapbooks, albums, realia and regalia. It contains personal and business letters of Rosanna, as well as papers and letters of several of her ancestors, dating back to 1818. It also contains scrapbooks, a small postcard collection, and several photographs. There are also abstracts and published booklets on several of her court cases, and hundreds of newspaper clippings.

BOX LIST

Box 1: “Series I. Personal papers – Correspondence 1930-1991” 13 fldrs
Folder 1: Letters by Rosanna Blake, 27 items, 1930 – 1986
Folder 2: Postcards, Rosanna Blake to Mrs. M. C. Blake, 5 items, 1939-1954
Folder 3: Rosanna Blake Christmas letters, 3 items, 1974-1975
Folder 4: Letter, with draft copies, to whom it may concern, regarding Rosanna’s physician’s traffic violation, 4 items, Feb. 1976
Folder 5: Letters received by Rosanna, 15 items, 1932-1976 (includes letters from Charles Moffat)
Folder 6: Undated letters, 3 items, misc. topics
Folder 7: Notes and cards received, one Christmas card from WV Governor Hulett Smith, 1967, 3 items
Folder 8: Greeting cards, undated, unidentified, 7 items.
Folder 9: Misc. cards and blank postcards, 19 items
Folder 10: Invitations, membership cards, etc. 11 items
Folder 11: Postcards received, 10 items, 1934 – 1971
Folder 13: Check signed by Rosanna to Georgia Historical Society, 1 item, 1964

Box 2: “Series I. Personal papers – Certificates, Notations, Holographs” 21 fldrs
Folder 1: Rosanna Blake certificates, 7 items, 1938 – 1978
Folder 2: Autograph album “Graduation Memories of Rosanna,” 1 item, 1930
Folder 3: Camp Cheondia, N.C., “The Cheondian”, 3 items, 1932(2), 1940
Folder 4: Holographic Ms, “Robert E. Lee” by Rosanna Blake, 1 item
Folder 5: Holographic Ms, Rosanna Blake about her collection, 1 item
Folder 6: Holographic Ms, “Lees of Virginia,” by Rosanna Blake, 1 item, 1932
Folder 7: Term paper HST 332, “The Resources of the South,” 1 item, 1933
Folder 8: Holographic notes by Rosanna Blake about her funeral arrangements and memorial service, 3 items
Folder 9: Holographic notes by Rosanna Blake, 3 items
Folder 10: Holographic notes, typescript of prayers, 20 items
Folder 11: Typescript, Zeta Theta Alpha scholarship rules, 1 item
Folder 12: Misc. handwritten notes, 4 items
Folder 13: Notes on various topics, 13 items
Folder 14: Blank postcard and Civil War cachet envelope, 2 items
Folder 15: Pedigree and Kennel Club documentation on Rosanna’s dogs, 3 items
Folder 16: Autograph album of Miss Elma Paul, Athens, Oh., 1883.
Folder 17: Drawing, art print, pencil profile, 3 items
Folder 18: Blank English Literature exam, typescript, 1 item
Folder 19: Receipt dated 1829, notes from “Ray’s Arithmetic,” 2 items
Folder 20: Misc. letters, not to or from Rosanna Blake, 3 items, 1911 – 1927
Folder 21: Typescript, transcription of CW diary of James P. Stephens, (original diary in Blake Collection as 2001.0703.08)

Box 3: “Series I. Personal papers – Confederate collection” 10 fldrs
Folder 1: Letters to Rosanna about her collection, 31 items, 1958-1981
Folder 2: Correspondence to and from Rosanna concerning disbursement of her library, (includes original Francis Lord letter evaluating collection), 25 items, 1964 - 1972
Folder 3: Letters to and from H. W. Apel regarding inquiries into Blake Collection, 6 items, 1965 – 1985
Folder 4: Letter and book inscriptions to Rosanna from B. A. Botkin, 5 items, 1960 - 1967
Folder 5: Reimbursement check to Rosanna from Charles E. Tuttle Co., 1 item, 1956
Folder 6: Book lists from dealers, etc., 9 items, 1959 – 1968, some undated
Folder 7: News releases & 3 photos regarding Blake library disbursement, 7 items, 1964-1985
Folder 8: Holograph notes regarding Confederate topics, 2 items, undated
Folder 9: Rosanna’s holographic notes about her library, 9 items, undated
Folder 10: Blake Collection publicity and articles, 3 items, 1987 – 1990

Box 4: “Series I. Personal papers – Presidential Memorabilia 1884-1968” 14 fldrs
Folder 1: Mounted illustrations of President Grover Cleveland and Mrs. Cleveland, by Allen & Ginter’s Cigarettes, 1 item, ca. 1897?
Folder 2: Print of “Unfinished portrait of FDR,” 1 item, 1945
Folder 3: Inauguration materials from FDR’s inauguration, 6 items, 1933
Folder 4: Inauguration materials from FDR’s inauguration, 2 items, 1941
Folder 5: Birthday reception announcement for FDR’s birthday, 1 item, 1946
Folder 6: Memorabilia from the Roosevelt Day Dinners, 7 items, 1950-1958
Folder 7: Passes & certificate to memorial dedication of FDR memorial, 3 items, 1965
Folder 8: Letter from Pres. Harry Truman to Rosanna, 3 items, 1953
Folder 9: 2 photos of Adlai Stevenson, one autographed, 2 items
Folder 10: Memorabilia from Adlai Stevenson, 8 items, 1960 – 1965
Folder 11: Invitation to John F. Kennedy inaugural salute, 1 item, 1963-1964
Folder 12: Presidential memorabilia, Lyndon Johnson, 4 items, 1965
Folder 13: Memorabilia, Vice President Hubert Humphrey, 1 item, 1968
Folder 14: Memorabilia, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, 3 items, 1913

**Box 5:** “Series II. Professional papers –Correspondence, court briefs, 1944-1973,” 2 fldrs, 58 Books
Folder 1: Professional correspondence regarding cases, 5 items, 1954-1961
Folder 2: Professional correspondence (NLRB), 18 items, 1946-1973
Booklets: 58 NLRB cases where Rosanna was attorney, 1944-1973

**Box 6:** “Series III. Alexander Blake families. Papers 1884-1973” 21 Fldrs, 1 Book
Folder 1: Lewis C. Alexander letters, 5 items, 1884 – 1905
Folder 2: Church papers, certificate, reports, 4 items, 1910 & undated
Folder 3: Pastor’s memo books with notes, Rev. Lewis C. Alexander, 7 items, 1890, 1897, undated
Folder 4: Notes and misc. items, 75 items, undated
Folder 5: [L C. Alexander?] Notes for sermons, 69 items, undated
Folder 6: Holographic obituaries, 4 items, 1896 – 1905
Folder 7: Program of Marietta [Oh.] Epworth League, 1 item, 1906
Folder 8: Receipts, 6 items, 1894 – 1913
Folder 9: Clippings from newspapers, other clippings, 49 items, undated
Folder 10: [L. C. Alexander] Printed religious booklets, 4 items, 1886 – 1914, Undated
Folder 12: Hannah Alexander letters, 3 items, 1914
Folder 13: Roseanna Alexander postcards sent & received, letter, 15 items, 1926 – 1950
Folder 14: Marian A. Blake letters, cards, papers, 24 items, 1930 – 1973
Folder 16: Calling card of Marian A. Blake, 1 item, undated
Folder 17: Marshall College grade reports for Marian A. Blake, 16 items, 1929 – 1933
Folder 18: Certificates – Alexander & Blake family, 9 items, 1886 – 1939
Folder 19: Clifford Blake, letters & cards received, 8 items, 1930, some undated
Folder 20: Merrill C. “Cliff” Blake, certificates & cards, 5 items
Folder 21: Envelopes, 4 items, 1893 -1897
Book: “The Light of Other Days,” by Marian Alexander Blake, 1 item, 1972
Box 7: “Series IV. Printed material & books”  7 Books
    Book 2: “Wonders of the Nineteenth Century,” 1899
    Book 3: “The Life of Jesus for Children,” 1894
    Book 5: “Roosevelt Album,” (Franklin Delano Roosevelt,) 1945, 2 copies
    Book 6: “New Designs for Old Mexico,” 1939 (note says contains several references to Dwight Morrow.)

Box 8: “Series IV. Printed material– newspaper clippings, magazine articles, etc.”  43 fldrs
    Folder 1: Americans for Democratic Action-programs & pamphlets, 5 items
    Folder 2: J. S. Canner & Co., spring 1963 catalog of books & pamphlets, 1 item
    Folder 3: “Coronet” magazine, Sept. 1964, 1 item
    Folder 4: “Democratic Digest,” Sept. 1958, 1 item
    Folder 5: “Democratic Letter,” June 1974, 1 item
    Folder 6: “Democratic Register- Congressional Yearbook, 1936,” 1 item
    Folder 7: “The Inquest Into the Death of Mary Jo Kopechne,” 1970, 1 item
    Folder 8: “Liberty” magazine, Jan. 1947, 1 item
    Folder 9: “Life” magazine, June 14, 1968, 1 item
    Folder 10: “New York Folklore Quarterly,” Spring 1961, 1 item
    Folder 11: “Newsweek,” June 17, 1968, 1 item
    Folder 12: “Time,” June 14, 1968, 1 item
    Folder 13: US Senate, 77th Congress, 2nd session, “Development of United States Foreign Policy, Addresses and Messages of Franklin D. Roosevelt,” 1942, 1 item
    Folder 14: Calling cards, business cards, 4 items
    Folder 15: Ephemera, 8 items
    Folder 16: Marshall College Bulletin, June 1, 1940, newsletters, 3 items
    Folder 17: Pamphlets, brochures, etc., 31 items
    Folder 18: Programs, 16 items
    Folder 19: Rosanna Blake obituary, 1987, 2 items
    Folder 20: Newspaper articles, Rosanna Blake, family, 17 items
    Folder 21: Newspaper articles, Robert E. Lee, 14 items
    Folder 22: Newspaper articles, Huntington, Morrow Library, etc., 14 items
    Folder 23: Newspaper clippings, misc., 35 items
    Folder 24: Misc. clippings, 34 items
    Folder 25: “Bugging” articles, secret agreements, suppression of news, etc., 14 items
    Folder 26: Newspaper articles, CIA, 20 items
    Folder 27: Newspaper articles, democrats, 5 items
    Folder 28: Newspaper articles, democrats other than FDR & family, 30 items
    Folder 29: Newspaper articles, democrats except FDR, 79 items
    Folder 30: Newspaper about Robert Kennedy assassination, 1968, 1 item
    Folder 31: Newspaper articles, democrats except FDR, 64 items
    Folder 32: Newspaper “Dewey Defeats Truman,” 1948, 1 item
    Folder 33: Newspaper articles, FDR, family, Hyde Park, 68 items
Folder 34: Newspaper articles, Gerald Ford, 21 items
Folder 35: Newspaper articles, “Fraud-Gen,” 7 items
Folder 36: Newspaper articles, Justice Hugo Black, 13 items
Folder 37: Newspaper articles, law, courts, 5 items
Folder 38: Newspaper articles, law, courts, judges, 93 items
Folder 39: Newspaper articles, medicine, drugs, 41 items
Folder 40: Newspaper articles, politics, etc., 13 items
Folder 41: Newspaper articles, republicans, 30 items
Folder 42: Pamphlet, “Roosevelt: A First Appraisal by those who Knew Him,” 1946, 1 item
Folder 43: Newspaper articles, women, personal & misc., 48 items

Box 9: “Series V: Photographs 1880 - 1958” 13 fldrs
Folder 1: Rosanna Blake, also with others, 10 items
Folder 2: Rosanna Blake with collection, 1958, 4 items
Folder 3: Rosanna Blake studio portraits, 14 items
Folder 4: Merrill Clifford Blake, 3 items
Folder 5: Identified photographs, snapshots, 10 items
Folder 6: Unidentified Blake woman, 1894, 1 item
Folder 7: Dog photos, 13 items
Folder 8: Photographs of houses, 2 items
Folder 9: Unidentified photographs, 1880’s – 1900’s, 31 items
Folder 10: Photograph “Cupid asleep,” copyprint, 1 item
Folder 11: Negative of dog, 1 item
Folder 12: CD with Gill carte-de-visites, 38 images, with documentation
Folder 13: Boxed medal awarded by ACF after WWI, cataloged under 1988.01.0469.01.13.01 in Blake Collection

Box 10: “Series VI: Scrapbooks, albums & realia” 5 Books
Scrapbook 1: “Newspaper clippings – 1920 period”
Scrapbook 4: (Woodrow Wilson newspaper photo on cover), mainly political figures
Scrapbook 5: “Collegiate Loose Leaf Note Book,” “Subject: Confederacy”

Box 11: “Series VI: Scrapbooks, albums & realia-Postcard album” 1 Book, 1 fldr
Folder 1: Loose postcards from album, 50 items
Scrapbook 1: Confederate & southern-related postcards

Box 12: “Series VI: Scrapbooks, albums & realia” 2 Books
Book 1: Leather-bound ledger book used as newspaper clipping scrapbook
Book 2: Leather-bound ledger book used as newspaper clipping scrapbook (Some articles Civil War-period to 1890’s)
Box 13: “Series VI: Scrapbooks, albums & realia”
- Rosanna Blake’s academic hood
- Honorary Society regalia
- Small box with college pins
- Small box with printing plate of Rosanna’s bookplate