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Cranford Family Papers

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Processed by Lindsey Smith

North Carolina Collection Archives

300 N. Roxboro Street

Durham, NC 27701

ncc@dconc.gov

URL: <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc>

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Summary Information

Repository:	North Carolina Collection Archives
Source:	Ross, Susan Cranford
Creator:	Cranford, Lois, 1924-2017
Creator:	Cranford, H. C. (Henry Clay), 1920-2004
Title:	Cranford Family papers
ID:	NCC.0024
Date [inclusive]:	circa 1936-2013
Physical Description:	8 Linear Feet (15 boxes: 13 document boxes, 2 oversize boxes)
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

[Item, folder, and box information], Cranford Family papers (NCC.0024), North Carolina Collection, Durham County Library, NC.

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Biographical / Historical

H. C. Cranford Jr. (1920-2004) and Lois Cranford (1924-2017) were prominent members of the Durham community. Both attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and were active in producing the Carolina Magazine. H. C. Cranford wrote feature articles for many local newspapers and reported for the Durham Sun and the Durham Morning Herald. After his service in the second World War, Cranford became one of the first public relations officers in North Carolina. He worked on the Good Health Campaign in the mid 1940s, then was public relations director and later vice-president for public relations at Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina for 36 years. As a volunteer, he was active in starting the Durham City of Medicine program, which focused on promoting Durham's status as a center of health and medicine. Lois Cranford wrote feature articles for local newspapers in her hometown of Greenwood, South Carolina, as well as in Durham, and became the first public relations director for Watts Hospital in Durham. Later, she also was the marketing and promotion head

for Durham's Northgate Mall. The collection illuminates the lives of H. C. and Lois Cranford throughout their years of activity in the Durham community.

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Scope and Contents

The Cranford Family Papers span the years of circa 1936-2013, with most of the material dating from 1942-2000. The collection consists of a variety of materials including correspondence, family history and documents, writings, speeches, three scrapbooks and many photographs. The collection also contains notes and documents relating to friends and acquaintances of the Cranfords who were notable Durham community members. Of particular interest in this collection is a series of letters between H.C. Cranford and his wife Lois during his service in World War II. The letters span 1943-1945, with the bulk of the series from 1944. The collection documents the Cranfords' life and work in the Durham community.

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Arrangement

Arranged in 7 series: Series 1: Family Papers. Series 2: Writings and Articles. Series 3: Community Involvement. Series 4: Papers Concerning Friends and Acquaintances. Series 5: Miscellany. Series 6: WWII and Miscellaneous Letters. Series 7: Photographs and Scrapbooks.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

North Carolina Collection Archives

300 N. Roxboro Street
Durham, NC 27701

ncc@dconc.gov

URL: <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc>

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Susan Cranford Ross

Conditions Governing Use

There are no restrictions on the use of this material except where previously copyrighted material is concerned. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain all permissions.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Digitized content: <http://durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc/ww-scrapbook/>

Related Materials

Steed and Mozette Rollins Collection (NCC.0158)

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Controlled Access Headings

- Durham sun
- Durham morning herald
- Community life -- North Carolina -- Durham
- World War, 1939-1945
- Ross, Susan Cranford
- Cranford, Lois, 1924-2017
- Cranford, H. C. (Henry Clay), 1920-2004
- Watts Hospital (Durham, N.C.)
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina

Collection Inventory

1. Family Papers, 1940-2013

Physical Description: 1.5 Boxes (Boxes 1-2)

Title/Description	Instances	
Cranford Family History, 1969-1989	box 1	folder 1
Scope and Contents		
Writing on family history by Lois Cranford, correspondence, genealogical research, and other notes on the history of the Cranford name and family		
Minnie Cranford and H. C. Cranford Sr., 1969-1988	box 1	folder 2
Scope and Contents		
Material on Minnie and H. C. Cranford Sr., including a memoir by H. C. Cranford Sr. and notes by Thom Cranford about H. C. Sr.		
Family Correspondence, 1988-2013	box 1	folder 3
Scope and Contents		
Includes correspondence between Lois and H. C. Cranford and their close family		
College and University Life, 1942-1947	box 1	folder 4
Scope and Contents		
Magazines, flyers, correspondence, and a football program related to life at the University of North Carolina. Includes some correspondence to H. C. Cranford about feature stories		
Military Service--H. C., 1942-1946	box 1	folder 5
Marriage and Birth Certificates, 1942-1971	box 1	folder 6
Lois Cranford--Personal Correspondence, 1943-1956	box 1	folder 7
Scope and Contents		
Correspondence, generally related to Lois Cranford's activities in the Alpha Delta Pi sorority, as well as a few personal notes from later in her life		
Lois Cranford--Book of Golden Deeds Award, 1983, 1989	box 1	folder 8
H. C. Cranford--Retirement, 1985	box 1	folder 9

H. C. Cranford--Funeral, 2002, 2004	box 1	folder 10
H. C. Cranford--Personal Files, 1940-2000, (1992)	box 2	folder 1

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, stories written by H.C. about his childhood, poems, newspaper articles, mementos from his 80th birthday party, and other personal items.

Lois Cranford--Personal Files, 1952-1998	box 2	folder 2
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Scope and Contents

Cards, notes, articles, as well as correspondence regarding Lois's position as director of public relations at Watts Hospital including a job description, biographical information, drafts of personal letters to H. C. Cranford, and material related to Lois's volunteer work in various organizations such as the Girl Scouts and United Way. Also includes some personal family correspondence.

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2. Writings and Articles, 1942-1946, undated

Physical Description: 1 Box (Boxes 2-3)

Title/Description	Instances	
H. C. Cranford--Articles, undated	box 2	folder 3

Scope and Contents

A variety of articles and writing drafts by H. C. Cranford. Articles cover Chapel Hill's history, local events and legal cases, student issues at UNC, and a wide array of other topics.

H. C. Cranford--Carolina Magazine and Others, 1942-1946	box 2	folder 4
H. C. Cranford--Miscellaneous Writing, circa 1942	box 2	folder 5

Scope and Contents

Term papers, correspondence, and writing assignments from Cranford's time at UNC

Lois Cranford--Articles, circa 1943	box 3	folder 1
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Scope and Contents

Drafts of articles on a variety of topics generally related to the UNC community, including the installation of student trailers due to a housing shortage, changes in university policies, and other

topics, in addition to some features related to the larger Chapel Hill community.

Lois Cranford--Memoirs and Other Writing, undated box 3 folder 2

Scope and Contents

Short stories and fiction writing by Lois Cranford and drafts of memoirs that detail various events from her life, including growing up in Greenwood, South Carolina, writing for the Greenwood Index Journal, as well as volunteer work in the Girl Scouts, the Rotary Club, and other organizations. Also contains opinion essays and other writing on a variety of topics.

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3. Community Involvement, circa 1943-2013, undated

Physical Description: 1.5 Boxes (Boxes 3-4)

Scope and Contents

Items in this subseries focus on the Cranfords' activities in local organizations, including newsletters from the Rotary Club, speeches given by H. C. or Lois Cranford at community events, and drafts of short stories written by Lois Cranford for the Durham Writers Club. Also included is material from H. C. Cranford's time at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, containing speeches and general information about his work, a variety of items related to the Good Health Campaign, H. C. Cranford's public relations career, and Lois Cranford's involvement in the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority.

Title/Description	Instances	
Rotary Club--General Documents, 1965-2008	box 3	folder 3
Rotary Club--Bulletins and Publications, 1961-2003	box 3	folder 4
Rotary Club--Centennial and Other Events, 1965-2013	box 3	folder 5
Rotary Club--Speeches, circa 1986-1992	box 3	folder 6
Rotary Club--District Governor, 1971-2001	box 3	folder 7
Durham Writer's Club, undated	box 3	folder 8
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina--General, 1953-1982, undated	box 4	folder 1
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina--Speeches, undated	box 4	folder 2
Good Health Campaign, circa 1943-1947	box 4	folder 3
Alpha Delta Pi, circa 1999	box 4	folder 4
Public Relations Hall of Fame and Public Relations Society of America, 1989-1991	box 4	folder 5
Other Organizations, 1968-1998	box 4	folder 6

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4. Papers Concerning Friends and Acquaintances, circa 1946-2010

Physical Description: .5 Box (Box 5)

Title/Description	Instances	
George Watts Hill Sr., 1974-1993	box 5	folder 1
Helen Bevington, 1981-1985	box 5	folder 2
Bessie Perry Burgess, 1995-1996	box 5	folder 3
Edward Owen--Correspondence, circa 2009-2010	box 5	folder 4

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5. Miscellany, circa 1946-2013, undated

Physical Description: .5 Box (Box 5)

Title/Description	Instances	
Christmas Cards, 1956-1995	box 5	folder 5
Newspaper Articles, circa 1946	box 5	folder 6

Scope and Contents

Contains published articles written by H. C. and Lois Cranford in various local newspapers.

Miscellaneous Papers, 1965-2013, undated	box 5	folder 7
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Scope and Contents

Postcards, recipes, newsletters, cards, newspaper articles, and other material related to the Cranfords. Also includes a small portrait and some printed copies of a few family photos.

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6. WWII and Miscellaneous Letters, 1937-1946, undated

Physical Description: 7.5 Boxes (Boxes 6-13)

Scope and Contents

Letters between H. C. and Lois Cranford, as well as between various members of the Cranford and Ribelin families during the second World War. Some letters are censored and may be somewhat incomplete.

Title/Description	Instances	
Early Letters, 1940-1943	box 6	folder 1
Letters, 1943 September	box 6	folder 2
Letters, 1943 October	box 6	folder 3
Letters, 1943 November-December	box 6	folder 4
Letters, 1944 January	box 6	folder 5
Letters, 1944 February	box 6	folder 6
Letters, 1944 February	box 6	folder 7
Letters, 1944 February	box 6	folder 8
Letters, 1944 February	box 7	folder 1
Letters, 1944 March	box 7	folder 2
Letters, 1944 March	box 7	folder 3
Letters, 1944 March	box 7	folder 4
Letters, 1944 March	box 7	folder 5
Letters, 1944 March	box 7	folder 6
Letters, 1944 April	box 8	folder 1
Letters, 1944 April	box 8	folder 2
Letters, 1944 April	box 8	folder 3
Letters, 1944 April	box 8	folder 4
Letters, 1944 April	box 8	folder 5
Letters, 1944 May	box 8	folder 6
Letters, 1944 May	box 8	folder 7
Letters, 1944 May	box 9	folder 1
Letters, 1944 May	box 9	folder 2
Letters, 1944 May	box 9	folder 3
Letters, 1944 June	box 9	folder 4
Letters, 1944 June	box 9	folder 5
Letters, 1944 June	box 9	folder 6
Letters, 1944 June	box 9	folder 7

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Letters, 1944 July	box 9	folder 8
Letters, 1944 August	box 10	folder 1
Letters, 1944 August	box 10	folder 2
Letters, 1944 September	box 10	folder 3
Letters, 1944 September	box 10	folder 4
Letters, 1944 October	box 10	folder 5
Letters, 1944 November	box 10	folder 6
Letters, 1944 November	box 11	folder 1
Letters, 1944 November	box 11	folder 2
Letters, 1944 November	box 11	folder 3
Letters, 1944 December	box 11	folder 4
Letters, 1944 December	box 11	folder 5
Letters, 1944 December	box 11	folder 6
Letters, 1944 December	box 11	folder 7
Letters, 1945 January	box 12	folder 1
Letters, 1945 February	box 12	folder 2
Letters, 1945 March	box 12	folder 3
Letters, 1945 April	box 12	folder 4
Letters, 1945 May	box 12	folder 5
Letters, 1945 June	box 12	folder 6
Letters, 1945 July	box 12	folder 7
Letters, 1945 August	box 12	folder 8
Letters, 1945 September	box 13	folder 1
Letters, 1945 October-November	box 13	folder 2
Letters, 1945 December	box 13	folder 3
Letters, circa 1943	box 13	folder 4
Miscellaneous letters, undated, 1937, 1946	box 13	folder 5

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7. Photographs and Scrapbooks, circa 1936-2000s, undated

Physical Description: 2.5 Boxes (Boxes 13-15)

Title/Description	Instances
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Cranford Family Papers

120 Forestwood Drive house, undated	box 13	folder 6
Family, circa 1940s-1960s	box 13	folder 7
Family, circa 1960s-1970s	box 13	folder 8
Family, circa 1980s-2000s	box 13	folder 9
Press, circa 1940s-1950s	box 13	folder 10

Scope and Contents

Photographs that seem to have been used to accompany articles written by H. C. or Lois Cranford in various local newspapers

Scrapbook, circa 1936-1940	box 14
Scrapbook, circa 1940-1964	box 15
Scrapbook, circa 1940-1944	box 15

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