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North Carolina
Collection

Elizabeth ("Libby") Parker Roberts Scrapbook Collection

Title:	Elizabeth ("Libby") Parker Roberts Scrapbook Collection
Inclusive Dates:	1921-2000
Extent of Materials:	29 oversize boxes
Location:	Duke Storage
Date of Accession:	2014
Donor:	Snow Roberts, who also assisted with description
Relationship of donor or materials to the DCL/NCR	
Processor:	Kristen Merryman
Description:	The Elizabeth Parker Roberts scrapbook collection consists of 70 scrapbooks Mrs. Roberts created between 1921 and 2000 documenting her family's life in Durham, North Carolina. They include materials related to local social events in which Mrs. Roberts participated, as well as many family-related materials. Items relating to both of the Roberts' sons, Bennett and Surry, are also included.
Subject Headings:	Women—North Carolina—Durham—Societies and Clubs.
	Clubs—North Carolina—Durham.
	Community organizations—North Carolina—Durham.
	Social groups—North Carolina—Durham.
	Watts Hospital (Durham, N.C.).
	American Tobacco Company.
	Junior League of Durham, N.C.
	Hope Valley Country Club (Durham, N.C.).
	Scrapbooks.
Scope and Content:	The Elizabeth Parker Roberts scrapbook collection consists of 70 scrapbooks Mrs. Roberts created between 1921 and 2000 documenting her family's life in Durham, North Carolina. They include materials related to local social events in which Mrs. Roberts participated, as well as many family-related materials, including items concerning her two sons, Bennett and Surry. Also well represented are items relating to organizations in which she was involved, including St. Philip's Episcopal Church, the Auxiliary of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina, Junior League of Durham, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and the Colonial Dames of America. Materials related to Watts Hospital, where Elizabeth's husband Dr. B. W. Roberts was a pediatrician, and from American Tobacco Company, where son Bennett worked, are also included.
Related Materials:	Hope Valley Country Club Records

	Durham-Orange County Medical Auxiliary Records
Restrictions:	This collection is open for research.
Biographical/Historical Note:	<p>Elizabeth "Libby" Parker Roberts (January 11, 1904–October 20, 2001), daughter of Surry Parker and Mary Shepard Odom Parker, was born in Pine Town, N. C., a town planned and built by her father, who manufactured logging equipment. She attended Salem Academy for three years, beginning in 1918, continuing her education at Salem College, where she played violin in the orchestra, participated in intramural sports, and joined a sorority. In 1925, she graduated from college and moved to Norfolk, Virginia, to teach school.</p> <p>In 1936 she married Bennett Watson Roberts, son of Edward Rascoe Roberts and Annie Elizabeth Cowper Roberts, of Gatesville, N. C. A pediatrician in private practice, he worked with the first pediatrician to practice in Durham. Dr. and Mrs. Roberts lived in a log cabin on Bellamy Street in Durham until 1942. They had two sons, Bennett Watson Cowper Roberts, born 30 April 1937, and Surry Parker Roberts, born 4 March 1940. In 1942, the family moved to 1503 West Pettigrew Street, where they lived for 25 years. After Dr. Roberts was paralyzed by a stroke, they moved to a one-story house without entrance steps, 1406 Kent Street, where they both lived until their deaths.</p> <p>During her years in Durham, Elizabeth Parker Roberts became involved in many organizations. For three years she was a Cub Scout den mother. While her children were in school, she was a member of the Parent-Teacher Association (P.T.A.), including a stint as president of the P.T.A. at Carr Junior High School. In 1937, she joined Durham's Saint Philip's Episcopal Church, where she was very active in the Women's Auxiliary, serving as president, starting a long-running fundraising bazaar, serving as bazaar chairman and chairman of the book booth, contributing to the church cookbook, serving as mission chairman, chapter chairman, pansy chairman, United Thanks Offering (UTO) chairman, member and chairman of the altar guild, and as a member of the vestry. In 1940, she became a charter member of the Daughters of the King, where she was active in visiting shut-ins.</p> <p>In 1939, after living in Durham for two years, she joined the Service League (later the Junior League), serving on the board of directors and later as a sustaining member.</p> <p>She was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Colonial Dames of America for many years. She was also a member of the Salvation Army Maternity Home and Hospital, the Better Health Foundation, Watts Hospital Staff Wives, United Way, and the Town and Campus Book Club. Before there were pink ladies, she worked for several years at the Duke Hospital clinic visiting patients and giving out magazines. In 1959 she was chosen to serve on the board of trustees of Salem Academy and College by the alumni and served three years. In the Auxiliary of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina she served as president and as chairman of that organization's committee on handbook publication.</p> <p>Mrs. Roberts remained an active community member until her death. She is buried next to her husband in Gates County Cemetery in Gatesville, NC.</p>
Condition Notes:	Some of the scrapbooks are very fragile. All should be handled with gloves.
Organization of Collection:	The collection is organized chronologically.
Container List	
Box 1	Scrapbook 1921-1923: Elizabeth Parker's Salem College experience including telegrams, photos, invitations, dance cards, and newspaper clippings chronicling life as a resident student in Winston-Salem, NC.
	Scrapbook 1925-1926: Documentation of events in Norfolk, VA, and the Great Dismal Swamp, where the family lived for a brief period. Photographs of their 1907 Liberty Brush automobile called Baby Bullet in Nags Head, NC. Other Salem College memorabilia including dance cards, church events, and athletics.
Box 2	Scrapbook 1924-1930: Dance cards, invitations, social events, theatre programs, and correspondence centering around Salem College and Norfolk, VA. International travel brochures and ticket stubs from travel experiences.
	Scrapbook 1931-1935: Documentation of events in Norfolk, VA, while Elizabeth Roberts was a teacher at the Larchmont School starting in 1932. Party invitations for sister Mary Shepard Parker's engagement to Jack Edwards. Family correspondence.

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Box 3	Scrapbook 1930: Materials related to the wedding of Elizabeth Watson Roberts to Dr. Bennett Watson Roberts of Gatesville. Photographs including the bride in a dark suit with her father, bride with her sisters and other family members in Norfolk, VA. Photographs, trip documents, and other memorabilia from honeymoon including travel to Cuba and New York.
	Scrapbook 1936-1937: Memorabilia from events in Durham, NC, including a Salem College friend's wedding, Dr. B. W. Roberts's involvement in the Durham Babies' Milk Fund; Duke athletic events, Hope Valley Country Club events, and other clippings and ticket stubs.
	Scrapbook 1937: Materials related to living in Durham, NC, including programs, driver's license, photographs from Bellamy Street cabin, invitations, and newspaper clippings.
	Scrapbook 1938-1939: Documentation of events in Durham, NC, including Junior League induction and the Fancy Dress Ball, Salem College alumni events, and Hope Valley Country Club events, where the Roberts were founding members.
Box 4	Scrapbook 1939-1940: Duke Football; Junior league; Women's auxiliary. Florida and Washington, NC, brochures.
	Scrapbook 1941-1942: Correspondence, Valentine's Day cards, medical society information, Salem College memorabilia, newspaper clippings. Brother-in-law Jack Edwards (Sister Mary Shepard's husband, of Greenville, NC) political flyer, Camp Goodspeed information, furniture flyers, Hotel Norlina menu.
Box 5	Scrapbook 1941-44: Junior League bulletins, Calvert Method School materials, Democratic National Convention coupons, White Rock Baptist Church booklet, chickenpox quarantine, Hope Valley Country Club rosters, playbills and theater programs, graphic cards, World War II medical booklets, and information about relative Capt. W. R. Cowper's World War II activities.
	Scrapbook 1946-67: Medical society pin, correspondence, and news articles. More information on W. R. Cowper, Christmas card from local friends the Harrisons (Bill Harrison was a long-time Durham resident), playbills, St. Philip's Episcopal Church information, Dumbo picture for the Dumbo club Mrs. Roberts started with children's friends. (Very fragile book)
Box 6	Scrapbook 1947-1949: documentation of plays, wedding announcements, and various Durham, NC, events.
	Scrapbook 1944-1947: Events including St Philips Episcopal Church where the Roberts were long time members, the Junior League, drawings from their sons and other newspaper clippings.
Box 7	Scrapbook 1947-1951: Materials from Calvert Method School (now Durham Academy) in Durham, NC, including valentines and school assignments for oldest son Bennett Watson Cowper Roberts. Also includes materials related to the Boy Scouts and the Dumbo Club, which Elizabeth Roberts started and ran for neighborhood friends.
	Scrapbook 1946-51: George Watts Hill School in Durham, NC, events, announcements, and assignments for second son, Surry Parker Roberts.
	Scrapbook 1950-1951: Materials relating to Dr. Roberts's induction into the Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution events, Junior League, and wedding announcements.
	Scrapbook 1951: Local pamphlets from Durham, NC; items related to Morehead Planetarium, Watts Hospital, and Episcopal church events; newspaper clippings related to the family and weddings.
	Scrapbook 1951-1952: Christmas cards, items related to Auxiliary of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina events, clinic photo of Dr. B. W. Roberts in local newspaper.
Box 8	Scrapbook 1950-1972: Newspaper clippings through the years from Durham, NC, Gates County, and sent from Mrs. Roberts's sister Mary Shepard Edwards.
	Scrapbook 1953: Information related to Junior League, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Auxiliary of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina. Newspaper clipping of Dr. and Mrs. B. W. Roberts planning a vacation and clippings related to other Durham, NC, events.

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	Scrapbook 1957: Newspaper clippings from Durham, NC, including information on Watts Hospital, where Dr. B. W. Roberts worked, and the well-baby clinics that he was instrumental in founding. Other newspaper clippings and Christmas cards.
Box 9	Scrapbook 1955: Clippings from Durham's first debutante ball, family birth announcements, documentation of Junior League and Watts Hospital events.
	Scrapbook 1955-1956: Materials on Durham events, newspaper clippings related to weddings and wedding invitations.
Box 10	Scrapbook 1953: Materials related to trip to England, including newspapers, clippings, tickets, luggage tags, and assorted travel memorabilia of the ship the Queen Mary.
	Scrapbook 1955: Christmas cards, newspaper clippings, programs, and information on assorted events.
Box 11	Scrapbook 1954: Daughters of the American Revolution, Salem alumni materials, political flyers, correspondence, football flyers, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 1954 commencement.
	Scrapbook 1957: Debutante Cotillion and Christmas Ball program, Ninth Annual Dixie Classic, playbills, Junior League and Calvert School clippings.
	Scrapbook 1958: Watts Hospital, city of Durham traffic violation, playbills including Durham Star Playhouse, and various articles.
Box 12	Scrapbook 1959: Wedding announcements, Elizabeth Roberts's election to the board of trustees of Salem Academy and College, 1959 commencement program from UNC-Chapel Hill when Bennett Roberts graduated.
	Scrapbook 1960: Materials related to UNC Medical School alumni events, wedding-related events, and correspondence.
	Scrapbook 1959-1961: Newspaper clippings on family friends, Salem College Board, and Durham theatre.
	Scrapbook 1964: Engagement of son Bennett Roberts to Snow Loy of Eustis, FL, including party given by lifelong Durham friends, the Watkins.
Box 13	Scrapbook 1961: Music programs, wedding announcements, and miscellaneous materials.
	Scrapbook 1962: Auxiliary of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina information, playbills, information on North Carolina Episcopal church events, Colonial Dames event luncheon invitation, and newspaper clipping on son Surry Parker Roberts's acceptance to medical school. Additional information on Salem alumnae meetings, playbills, and correspondence.
Box 14	Scrapbook 1965: St. Philip's bazaar, Auxiliary of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina, Watts Hospital Symposium, Colonial Dames, Sweaney wedding, and miscellaneous clippings.
	Scrapbook 1966: Christmas cards, St. Philip's bazaar, wedding announcements, and Duke football information.
Box 15	Scrapbook 1967: Auxiliary of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina materials, family news of Harrisons, correspondence from son Surry Parker Roberts, a physician in Hawaii in military service.
	Scrapbook 1967-1973: Newspaper clippings relating to Durham, Duke graduation, and American Tobacco Company events.
Box 16	Scrapbook 1968: Wedding of Snow Thigpen Anderson, first cousin of daughter-in-law Snow Loy Roberts; wedding of Mary John Best to Herschel Caldwell, Jr., lifelong friends of the Roberts. Promotion of son B. W. C. Roberts at American Tobacco Company. Junior League newspaper clippings and correspondence.
	Scrapbook 1969: Watts Hospital information, American Tobacco Company correspondence, article on family friend Herschel Caldwell. Newspaper clipping on fraternity brother of son Bennett Roberts, Captain William Palmer.
Box 17	Scrapbook 1970: Cards, correspondence, and wedding clippings.

	Scrapbook 1971: Cards, correspondence and Watkins-Belk wedding.
	Scrapbook 1972: Christmas cards and correspondence.
Box 18	Scrapbook 1973: Birth announcement for Mary Claudia Belk, granddaughter of lifelong friend Claudia Watkins; materials related to Daughters of the American Revolution events, Debutante ball, and assorted clippings.
	Scrapbook 1974: Salem College information, valentines, and assorted clippings.
	Scrapbook 1976: Materials related to the loss of husband Dr. B. W. Roberts and assorted theater playbills.
	Scrapbook 1975: Information on the American Tobacco Company where son Bennett Roberts worked from 1961-1987 and the Salem College alumnae lunch.
Box 19	Scrapbook 1973-1979: Information related to the Auxiliary of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina and the annual bazaar at St. Philip's Episcopal Church.
	Scrapbook 1977: Materials relating to Stagville, charter membership of Hope Valley Country Club, Durham political mailings, and items related to local stores including Montaldos.
	Scrapbook 1978: Article "A smile for Monday" featuring granddaughter Snow Loy Roberts, St. Philip's Episcopal Church alms basin article, assorted other family articles, and greeting cards.
	Scrapbook 1979: Information related to the loss of family friend Joseph Clarence Farmer, III, theater programs, correspondence, and other newspaper clippings.
Box 20	Scrapbook 1980: Playbills, telegrams, Woodberry Forest booklet, St Philip's Episcopal Church bulletin, Tyler House at Northgate Mall announcement (long-time Durham women's dress shop now out of business), death of William Cross, long-time family friend and neighbor in Gatesville, NC, where Dr. B. W. Roberts was from.
	Scrapbook 1981: Cards, drawing from grandchildren, wedding materials from the marriage of one of George Pyne's children (George Pyne was a Durham architect and long-time member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church), Durham Symphony program, Durham Academy Christmas program, Raleigh culture week brochure, and cards from family and friends.
	Scrapbook 1982: Correspondence, Brownie troop program from granddaughter Snow Roberts, troop and dance recital program, Christmas cards from close friends and family.
Box 21	Scrapbook 1983: "The American" (newsletter of American Tobacco Company), Durham Symphony program, St Philip's Episcopal Church bulletins, marriage of niece Jane Parker Bosman, Festival for the Eno, North Carolina Museum of Art bulletin.
	Scrapbook 1984: Birthday cards (70th birthday), Durham County Hospital bulletin, Durham Symphony bulletin, Festival for the Eno bulletin, valentine from grandson Webb Roberts, Hope Valley Country Club information, political flyers.
	Scrapbook 1985: Peter Pan play at Durham Academy with granddaughter Snow Roberts, cards, invitations, Duke artists series, Queen Elizabeth (QE2) menus, various correspondence.
Box 22	Scrapbook 1986: Duke artist series, photograph of grandson Webb Roberts, St. Philip's Episcopal Church bulletins, Duke Chapel bulletins, wedding of family member Henry Carrington Cunningham.
	Scrapbook 1987: Elizabeth Roberts pictured at table in stylish evening dress clipping, St. Philip's Episcopal Church gets a new organ, Junior League newspaper clipping with daughter-in-law Snow Roberts, Watkins Jewelers flyer, Festival for the Eno flyers.
Box 23	Scrapbook 1988: Duke artists series, UNC-TV publication "Centerpiece," Festival for the Eno, 1988 Durham Academy commencement program and article related to grandson Webb Roberts, political flyers.

	Durham resident and family friend), North Carolina Symphony program, article on influence of Herschel Caldwell, E. P. Watkins Jewelers flyers, Duke Artists Series, Christmas cards from close family and friends, Catskill Center newsletter where nephew-in-law became executive director (Tom Hatley).
Box 24	Scrapbook 1990: Duke University Artists Series, travel postcards from family, materials from Hope Valley Country Club, Northgate Mall flyers, Bland Simpson article (a North Carolina author who wrote a book called The Great Dismal Swamp featuring an interview with Mrs. Roberts about living there), birth announcement of niece's baby Thomas Parker Hatley, Public Broadcasting System (PBS) bulletins, "Durham Academy Record" (publication).
	Scrapbook 1991: Centerpiece, Salam Academy, East Carolina University School of Music (sister Mary Shepard Edwards lived in Greenville, NC), Museum of Art Bulletin, McDonalds drugstore (friends with owners).
Box 25	Scrapbook 1992: Katharine M. Bosman funeral (mother of brother-in-law Dr. Robert I. Bosman), articles on death of Kathrine Everett, long-time friend and Durham lawyer, Durham Academy basketball state championship of granddaughter Snow Roberts's high school team, engagement of Grandson Bennett W. C. Roberts Jr., birth of relative Henry C. Cuninghams son. Valentine Day card drawn by relative Thom Harrison, granddaughter in Girls State, other correspondence.
	Scrapbook 1993: University of North Carolina national basketball championship, granddaughter Snow Roberts's graduation from Durham Academy and trip to Costa Rica, and other correspondence.
	Scrapbook 1994: Cards and correspondence. Wedding of Webb Loy Roberts, grandson in Spartanburg, SC. Birth of first great-granddaughter Madison Lane Roberts.
Box 26	Scrapbook 1995: Article on Edwin Lee Caldwell Sr.'s death (he was involved in sons Ben and Surry's fraternity at UNC-CH, Delta Kappa Epsilon). Riverside High School graduation showing photograph of Harriet Willimon, a neighbor of Bennett Roberts' family and friend to granddaughter Snow Roberts, political articles, and correspondence.
	Scrapbook 1996: Correspondence, cards, articles about President Bill Clinton.
Box 27	Scrapbook 1998: Town and Campus Club (Mrs. Roberts's book club), UNC television publication "Centerpiece," Festival for the Eno, Fayetteville Observer articles from relative and military writer Henry Cuninghams, Gates County Historical Society information, President Clinton impeachment articles, photos with health care workers, miscellaneous cards.
Box 28	Scrapbook 1999: Festival for the Eno River materials, photographs of alms basin work at St Philips Episcopal Church, great- granddaughter drawings.
Box 29	Scrapbook 1997: Photograph with birthday cake with long-time friend Claudia Watkins, photograph with great-granddaughter Madison Roberts, hospital visits, pictures of granddaughter's first apartment.
	Scrapbook 2000: St. Philip's Episcopal Church materials, miscellaneous cards, correspondence with relatives, great nieces's graduations.

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