



Anita Williams Papers, 1924-1968

Collection Summary:

Title: Anita Williams Papers

Summary: A collection of correspondence, ephemera, photographs, printed materials, reports, and writings belonging to Anita Williams, ranging between 1924 and 1968.

Physical Description: Two boxes, 0.834 linear feet

Language: English

Stack Location: Section 11.16

Repository: Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County, 615 Church St., Nashville, TN 37219

Biographical Note:

Anita Thetis Williams was born January 8, 1898 in Shelbyville, Tennessee, to Annie Thetis (Jones) and John Lester Williams. She received a B.S. and M.A. (specializing in Sociology and Political Economy) from Vanderbilt University. As Chairman of the Division of Art and the Fine Arts of the Tennessee Federation of Women's Clubs (1924-1927), Williams worked to secure appropriations for a National Museum of Art in Washington, D.C., and was instrumental in ensuring the completion of the Parthenon in Nashville as a permanent art museum. In 1926, Williams was elected President of the Tennessee League of Women Voters, where she placed the first "Citizenship Booth" at the Tennessee State Fair Women's Building. During her time as President, Williams was active in the passage of legislation revising the laws of the State of Tennessee relating to marriage and qualifications for marriage. Anita Williams was also active in numerous women's organizations, including the Tennessee Federation of Women's Clubs, the Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Delta Delta Delta Fraternity. She died January 11, 1995.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

The Anita Williams Papers contain approximately 50 items ranging from 1924-1968, with the majority of the materials covering the span of 1926 to about 1931.

Materials in this collection give an overview of the activities of the Tennessee League of Women Voters, as well as the activities of several other women's organizations. This collection also contains ephemera, printed materials, and reports that document the history of women's suffrage in Nashville, and the issues studied, influenced by, and lobbied for by the League of Women Voters.

Index Terms:

Subjects:

Daughters of the American Revolution. Tennessee Society
General Federation of Women's Clubs.
League of Women Voters of Nashville
League of Women Voters of Tennessee
National Kindergarten Association (U.S.)
National League of Women Voters (U.S.)
National League of Women Voters (U.S.)--People--1920-1940
Women's Suffrage--1920-1940

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into six series, including correspondence, ephemera, photographs, printed materials, reports, and writings. Series are arranged alphabetically.

The *correspondence* series ranges from 1925 to 1932, and documents Williams's term as President of the Tennessee League of Women Voters, as well as her involvement with the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the National League of Women Voters, and *The Woman Citizen* magazine. Much of the correspondence is from various officers of the National League of Women Voters regarding the passage of legislation and other League business.

The *ephemera* series ranges from 1925 to 1932, and contains programs from conferences and conventions, press releases from the National League of Women Voters, materials relating to the Fort Nashborough Chapter of the DAR, a biennial council program and delegate's ribbon from the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and a National League of Women Voter's convention badge.

The *photographs* series contains a photograph of National League of Women Voters President Belle Sherwin, a photograph depicting the General Federation of Women's Clubs "Care-for-Korea" campaign, and several portraits of Anita Williams.

The *printed materials* series ranges from 1924-1968, and contains bulletins and newsletters from various women's organizations, as well as directories and yearbooks from the Women's Club of Nashville and the Tennessee Federation of

Women's Clubs. Also included are publications from the Tennessee Society DAR and the Delta Delta Delta Fraternity.

The *reports* series contains meeting minutes from both the National and Tennessee Leagues of Women Voters, a copy of revisions of the Marriage Law Act, and reports on the working conditions of women in the United States and the selection of federal employees.

The *writings* series contains poetry written by Anita Williams, as well as questionnaires and autobiographical information.

Contents Listing:

Box 1:

- Folder 1: Correspondence--Business and Professional Women's Clubs
- Folder 2: Correspondence--General Federation of Women's Clubs
- Folder 3: Correspondence--Maryland League of Women Voters
- Folder 4: Correspondence--Missouri League of Women Voters
- Folder 5: Correspondence--National Kindergarten Association
- Folder 6: Correspondence--National League of Women Voters, 1926
- Folder 7: Correspondence--National League of Women Voters, 1927
- Folder 8: Correspondence--National League of Women Voters, 1928
- Folder 9: Correspondence--National League of Women Voters, 1929-1930
- Folder 10: Correspondence--Shelby County League of Women Voters
- Folder 11: Correspondence--Tennessee League of Women Voters
- Folder 12: Correspondence--Unknown
- Folder 13: Correspondence--Williams, Anita
- Folder 14: Correspondence--Woman Citizen, The
- Folder 15: Correspondence--Women in Industry
- Folder 16: Correspondence--Women's National Democratic Club
- Folder 17: Ephemera--American Association of University Women
- Folder 18: Ephemera--DAR, Forth Nashborough Chapter
- Folder 19: Ephemera--General Federation of Women's Clubs
- Folder 20: Ephemera--National League of Women Voters Convention
- Folder 21: Ephemera--Press Releases
- Folder 22: Ephemera--Tennessee League of Women Voters Convention
- Folder 23: Ephemera--Tennessee Woman's Press and Authors Club
- Folder 24: Photographs--General Federation of Women's Clubs
- Folder 25: Photographs--Sherwin, Belle
- Folder 26: Photographs--Williams, Anita
- Folder 27: Printed Materials--Child Labor Newsletter
- Folder 28: Printed Materials--General Federation of Women's Clubs Bulletins
- Folder 29: Printed Materials--List of Publications, NLWV
- Folder 30: Printed Materials--Metaphysical Club Directory

Folder 31: Printed Materials--National League of Women Voters Bulletins
Folder 32: Printed Materials--National Popular Government League Bulletins

Box 2:

Folder 1: Printed Materials--Proceedings of the Tennessee Society DAR
Folder 2: Printed Materials--Spanish American War Reunion Clippings
Folder 3: Printed Materials--Story of the General Federation of Women's Clubs
Folder 4: Printed Materials--Tennessee Federation of Women's Clubs Yearbook
Folder 5: Printed Materials--Tennessee League of Women Voters Bulletin
Folder 6: Printed Materials--Testimonials, Annie Thetis Williams
Folder 7: Printed Materials--Trident, The
Folder 8: Printed Materials--Women's Club of Nashville Yearbooks
Folder 9: Reports--Federal Employees
Folder 10: Reports--Marriage Laws Act
Folder 11: Reports--National League of Women Voters Minutes
Folder 12: Reports--Tennessee League of Women Voters Minutes
Folder 13: Reports--Working Conditions of Women
Folder 14: Writings--Poems
Folder 15: Writings--Vita

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: In-library use only.

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Administrative Information:

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Provenance: Unknown.

Processing Information: Processed by Kelley Sirko, November 2016.

Accruals: No further accruals expected.