

Collection: BROOKS, E. C., PAPERS (1871-1947)  
Raleigh, North Carolina

P.C. 212.1 - 212.3

1925-1931

Physical Description: Letters, telegrams, reports, speeches, audits, legislative bills, newspaper clippings, book review, board minutes, by-laws, and blueprint. 702 items.

Acquisition: Given by Colonel John W. Harrelson, State College, Raleigh, North Carolina.  
May 4, 1954.

Division of Archives and Manuscripts  
State Department of Archives and History  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Description: E. C. Brooks well known as a teacher, writer, and editor, was born in Greene County, December 3, 1871. He attended Bethel Academy in Lenoir County before entering Trinity College, where he graduated in 1894. After graduating Brooks went to Washington, North Carolina as a correspondent for the Raleigh News. In 1897 he became a teacher and three years later was the head of the Kinston City Schools. Other positions in the educational field included supervision of public school libraries, superintendency of the Goldsboro schools, and first head of the department of education at Trinity. In 1906 Brooks founded the State teacher's magazine, North Carolina Education, and remained as editor until 1923. In that year he became president of North Carolina State College and remained there until his retirement in 1934. Brooks died October 18, 1947.

Dr. Brooks' papers indicate his activities in several capacities: as chairman of the Commission on County Government (1925-1931); chairman of the five-member Equalizing Fund Commission (1926-1927); member of the North Carolina Park Commission (1926-1929); member, board of trustees, Carolina New College, Burnsville, North Carolina (1929); and member, State Fair Board (1929). The material is arranged under these various headings.

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I - COMMISSION ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT (1925-1931)

Governor Angus McLean, in 1925, appointed a commission to study county government and make recommendations for improvements and to draw a bill for the General Assembly to incorporate their suggestions into the law. Brooks and the Commission were aided in their work by the Extension Division of the University of North Carolina, particularly by the Department of Rural Social Economics. This Division made a broad study, pointing out the need for a constructive program. A law was passed by the General Assembly setting up a County Government Advisory Commission to advise county governments on the best method of administering local government. Charles M. Johnson was appointed Executive Secretary in 1928 and served for four years.

Correspondence relative to this Commission includes requests to the North Carolina Society of Certified Public Accountants for suggestions, notices of meetings of the committees within the Commission expressing the opinions of members, requests for Brooks to speak and copies of his speeches, reports from the Federation of Women's Clubs and other civic groups, progress reports from the Extension Division, plans for presenting the findings of the Commission to the Association of County Commissioners before giving a report to the governor, and appointment of a committee from the North Carolina Bar Association to confer with the Commission in drawing up a bill for the legislature. Later letters relate to instructions and suggestions from the Executive Secretary to various county officials. Correspondents are: Commission members F. P. Spruill, A. C. McIntosh, J. A. Orrell, and Mrs. Thomas O'Berry; E. C. Branson and Paul W. Wager at the University; and Charles M. Johnson's original letters to Dr. Brooks and carbons of some of his correspondence, as well as a series of mimeographed letters from Johnson to County Commissioners and Accountants.

Reports and speeches include: Report of the Committee on Taxation, North Carolina Cotton Manufacturer's Association (1926); the Committee on Standards report entitled "A Tentative Standard by which to Judge the Efficiency of County Government"; "An Outline of the Major Factors Essential to Good County Government," by E. C. Branson and Paul Wager (1926); "For Improved County Government in North Carolina," by Paul W. Wager; an outline for the organization of counties by J. A. Orrell; and an address by Brandon Trussell, University of North Carolina Institute for Research in Social Science, before the Commission on County Government (1926). There is a mimeographed and printed copy of the Report of the Commission on County Government (1927), and of the bill entitled "An Act to Improve County Government and to Enlarge Certain

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Powers of the County Commissioners." Several items by Dr. Brooks are: his address to the convention of the Association of County Commissioners; a forty-page manuscript entitled "Changing Conceptions of Local Government"; and a typescript of his review for the News and Observer of Wager's County Government in North Carolina. Speeches by Charles M. Johnson include a typescript of "A New Day in the Fiscal Affairs of North Carolina Counties" (1928) and a reprint from The Certified Public Accountant entitled "Accounting for County Governments." News releases (mimeographed) and clippings are from The Enterprise (High Point), March 1, 1926; the Greensboro Daily News, June 13, 1927; News and Observer (Raleigh), July 7, 1928; The Dispatch (Lexington), June 28, 1928; and The Enterprise (Mooresville), August 29, 1929. There is also an audit for Pitt County, June 30, 1926.

II - EQUALIZING FUND COMMISSION (1926-1927)

The object of this Commission of five members, appointed by the governor, was to approve the apportionment of the remainder of the equalizing fund for 1925-1926 and for 1926-1927. Correspondence covers the brief period from March 26 to June 25, 1926 and consists of notices of meetings and a few letters to and from A. T. Allen. There is a mimeographed copy of the State Equalizing Fund Apportionment for 1926-1927.

III - NORTH CAROLINA PARK COMMISSION (1926-1929)

The Park Commission was authorized by the 1924 General Assembly in resolutions to present the claims of the State to the Commission appointed by the United States "for the purpose of effecting the location of a National Park in the Southern Appalachian Mountains." The Great Smoky Mountains National Park was made a reality through an appropriation of \$4,000,000 by the North Carolina and Tennessee legislatures and a \$5,000,000 donation by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Correspondence (1928-1929) of this Commission relates to the sale of bonds by the two states to raise money, contributions from the Rockefeller Fund, condemnation proceedings for the acquisition of land, litigation with the Suncrest Lumber Company, financial transactions with the State Auditor and Treasurer offices, progress reports on road cuttings, etc., notices of meetings, transactions with the Champion Fibre Company, opinions from the State Attorney General, and an expedition into the region sponsored by the Asheville Times. Correspondents include: Governor Angus W. McLean, bond attorneys Reed, Hoyt and Washburne, Walter S. Adams, editor of The Asheville Times, Vance Rhodes, Executive Secretary of the Commission, and Mark Squires, Chairman.

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Typescript reports give accounts of the activities of the North Carolina Park Commission for February 28, March 31, April 30, May 31, and June 30, 1929 and "A Second Report on Progress of Surveys and Appraisals, Great Smoky Mountain National Park." Two proposed bills are: "An Act to Amend Chapter 48, Public Laws of North Carolina, Session 1927, Known as 'The Great Smoky Mountain Park Act,'" and another "To Provide Extension of the Boundary Limits of the Proposed Great Smoky Mountains National Park. . . ." (May 22, 1926). Legal action by the Suncrest Lumber Company is represented in a subpoena, petition of notice to show cause, and a temporary restraining order. Two newspaper clippings publicize the Park.

#### IV - CAROLINA NEW COLLEGE (1929)

This college was an outgrowth of the Stanley McCormick School organized in 1898. Mrs. Cyrus McCormick named the school in honor of her son and contributed funds for the erection of the first brick building and equipment for an academy for mountain children at a period when few elementary and high schools existed in the region. In 1921 the school came under the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions with continued support from Mrs. McCormick. It was reorganized in 1926 under an independent board as a non-denominational school with Leroy F. Jackson as president. Two years later a campaign was started to raise \$500,000 to expand the school and initiate progressive education. Brooks was a member of the board of trustees.

Correspondence from January to July, 1929, is chiefly notices of meetings, attempts to gain additional members for the board, and fund raising efforts. Brooks sent a letter of resignation in July, 1929. Correspondents include: Leroy F. Jackson, Assistant to the President Holland Estill, and Roy F. Ebbs, Chairman of the Board.

Reports give an account of public relations activities to the board by Estill and President Jackson's preliminary survey and resume of activities. There is a copy of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees, July 2, 1929. A newspaper clipping from The Sunday Citizen (Asheville), July 7, 1929 gives a brief history of the school and outlines its campaign for a building fund.

#### V - STATE FAIR (1929)

T. S. White served as president of the State Fair Board in 1929 and Dr. Brooks was one of the members along with O. Max Gardner, N. C. Newbold, and Clarence Poe.

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Correspondence for the board covers the year 1929. From March to May the chief topic is a state-wide Industrial Exposition sponsored by the State Fair Board. The exposition was aimed at giving manufacturers an opportunity to show their products and "to mirror the State's industrial progress and diversified interests." Amusement and entertainment features - carnival, midway, fireworks, and rodeo - would also be a part of the exposition. The date planned was May 13 - 18 and the Fair Grounds was the location. Form letters were sent to Secretaries of Chambers of Commerce, manufacturers, newspapers, directors of the State Fair, and to two hundred of the largest industrialists in North Carolina. Another subject of the correspondence was the question of a separate fair for Negroes and the opinions of outstanding Negroes in this regard suggesting some State control over such a fair and expressing a preference for one fair for both races. T. S. Imboden of Bricks, North Carolina, N. C. Newbold, and S. G. Atkins of Winston-Salem College were the main correspondents in this matter. Other subjects of correspondence include premium lists, cost of cups, and suggestions for the erection of a woman's building. Dr. Clarence Poe urged continuance of the fair and Governor O. Max Gardner stressed observation of North Carolina Home Coming Week, October 14 - 19.

Reports and other miscellaneous items include: a current balance sheet for the fair dated November 2, 1929; an emergency list noting equipment needs, April, 1929; a blueprint showing floor space of the Grand Exhibition Building for the Industrial Exposition, May 13 - 18, 1929; Minutes of the Executive Committee, September 16, 1929.

WORK SHEET

NUMBER: P.C. 212 (Addition)

PC 212.1

NAME OF COLLECTION: BROOKS, E. C. PAPERS (ADDITION)

DATES:      n. d.     

ACQUISITION INFORMATION: Gift of Mr. Maurice Toler, North Carolina State University Archives, Raleigh on January 17, 1977; accessioned January 31, 1977.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

1 item

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: Letter from [Eugene Clyde Brooks, Jr.] to his father. The younger Brooks is a student at Duke University.

Work Sheet

P. C. 212.1

NAME OF COLLECTION: BROOKS, E. C., PAPERS - Addition  
Raleigh, North Carolina

DATES: N.D.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: Manuscript notes on speech. 1 item.

ACQUISITION INFORMATION: Gift: D. H. Hill Library, North  
Carolina State University at Raleigh  
1965, March 25

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rough notes outlining speech on "Age of Benevolent Despotism."