

Collection: Clarence W. GRIFFIN Papers
Rutherford County
1920-1957

Physical Description: 19 black MS boxes and 12 grey fibredex boxes containing correspondence; typescripts; original documents such as indentures, tax lists receipts, certificates, notices of appointment, and Confederate money; newspaper clippings; scrapbooks, and so forth.

Acquisition: Gift of Clarence W. Griffin, Forest City, N.C.

North Carolina State Archives
Raleigh, North Carolina

Description: Clarence Wilbur Griffin (1904-1958) was the son of Lewis W. and Naomi Johnson Greene Griffin. Having studied engineering at North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering in 1923/24, Griffin was employed as an engineer by the North Carolina State Highway Commission from 1924 to 1925. In the latter year, at age 21, he became editor of the Forest City Courier, subsequently the Forest City Courier-Spindale Sun. Beginning in 1942 he was editor, general manager, and secretary-treasurer of the newspaper, and it remained under his guidance until Griffin's death. As editor of the paper Griffin was active in the North Carolina Press Association, the National Editorial Association, and the Western N.C. Weekly Newspaper Association.

Griffin's interest in local history was coeval with his involvement with the local newspaper. He was appointed Rutherford County historian in 1927 and held the assignment until his death. In addition to his work as manager and editor of the Historical and Genealogical Record, Griffin authored the following books and pamphlets: The Bechtlers and Bechtler Coinage (1929), Colonel John Walker and Family (1930), Descendants of Chisholm Griffin (1931), Public Officials of Rutherford County, 1779-1935 (1935), History of Old Tryon and Rutherford Counties, 1730-1936 (1938), Western North Carolina Sketches (1939), The Story of Our State (1942), Essays of North Carolina History (1951), and History of Rutherford County, 1937-1951.

From 1933 to 1935 Griffin, who was an officer of the Rutherford County Democratic executive committee, represented his county in the North Carolina General Assembly. Additionally, he was a member of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Museum Commission, National Youth Administration (advisory council), Rutherford County Radio Company, Rutherford County Red Cross, and trustee and director of the Rutherford County Library from 1939 to 1958. Active in many civic organizations and affairs, Griffin was a member of the Methodist Church.

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	<u>History of Old Tryon and Rutherford County, Chapters 1-14</u>
2	<u>History of Old Tryon and Rutherford County, Chapters 15-28</u>
3	<u>History of Old Tryon and Rutherford County, Chapters 29-35</u>
4	<u>Western North Carolina Sketches</u>
5	North Carolina Press Association, 1940-1943
6	North Carolina Press Association, 1943-1945
7	North Carolina Press Association, 1945-1947
8	North Carolina Press Association, 1947-1948
9	North Carolina Press Association, 1948-1950
10	North Carolina Press Association, 1950-1951
11	North Carolina Press Association, 1951-1952
12	North Carolina Press Association, 1952-1953
13	North Carolina Press Association, 1953-1954
14	North Carolina Press Association, 1954-1955
15	North Carolina Press Association, 1955-1958
16	National Editorial Association, 1942-1945
17	Rutherford County Material (Unarranged)
18	Rutherford County Material (Unarranged)
19	Miscellaneous Material and Pamphlets
20	Griffin Family Papers, 1805-1879. Includes correspondence, indentures, Rutherford school laws, tax lists, receipts, certificates, notices of appointment, and Confederate money. <u>Maps</u> included are: "Forest City" September, 1943, Harwood Beebe Company, Municipal Engineers, Spartanburg, S.C.; "Burke County, Supplement" revised Jan. 1, 1953, by N.C. State Highway and Public Works Commission; "Iredell County" revised Jan. 1, 1944, by N.C. State Highway and Public Works Commission; and "Historical Map Rutherford County, N.C." sponsored by Rutherford County Chapter, DAR, drawn by Karl Smith. <u>Personal scrapbooks</u> include: Poetry collection; Vacation trip, Aug. 1939, Forest City to N.C. coast; "List of Items Other than N.C. in Library" and list of items relating to N.C.; three lists titled "Booklets, Pamphlets, and Magazines," "Non-Fiction," and "Historical"; "Reminiscences of Christenberry Lee, 1823-1895 (clipping of series from Forest City Courier); and Rutherford County and miscellaneous cemetery records.

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21	<u>Miscellaneous.</u> Correspondence, newspaper clippings, etc., various dates; typescript "Marriage Bonds of Rutherford County, N.C., 1779-1867" abstracted by Clarence Griffin; Rutherford County Abstracts of Wills, A-P [only]; Abstracts of Lincoln County Marriage Bonds, 1780-1824; Commissioners' Minute Docket, Rutherford County; Abstracts of Tryon County Minute Docket, 1769-1779; Rutherford County Minute Docket [abstracts], 1779-1868; "Public Officials of Rutherford County, N.C., 1779-1934"; "Civil and Military Officials of Rutherford County to 1933" with index.
22	<u>Miscellaneous (cont'd).</u> "Rosters of Rutherford County Soldiers in the War Between the States, 1861-1865"; Rutherford County Democratic Executive Committee minutes and miscellaneous papers, 1933-1937; Correspondence and biographical sketches of N.C.P.A. officials and newspaper editors; Miscellaneous articles from historical and genealogical journals.
23	<u>Scrapbooks--Local History.</u> 1923-1927: Newspaper clippings pertaining to North Carolina, especially Rutherford County history. 1920-1926: Newspaper and magazine clippings re N.C. history. 1926-1932: Clippings pertaining to N.C. history. 1927-1929: Clippings pertaining to N.C., esp. Rutherford County.
24	<u>Scrapbooks--Local History (cont'd).</u> 1928-1937: Clippings pertaining to N.C., esp. Rutherford County. 1931-1932: Clippings pertaining to N.C., esp. Rutherford County.
25	<u>Scrapbooks--General.</u> 1924-1932: Clippings, correspondence, biographical sketch of Clarence W. Griffin; genealogy of John Walker and descendants; misc. reports, articles, and bulletins; Griffin's campaign for N.C. House of Representatives (programs, personal notes, ballots), 1932. 1933-1938: Clippings, ballots, correspondence, stamp collection, membership cards, letterheads, Rutherford County Historical Assoc. constitution, Boy Scout record. 1938-1939: Clippings, programs, 1939 Forest City Kiwanis Club directory, 1901-1904 newspaper clippings, index.
26	<u>Scrapbooks--General (cont'd).</u> 1938-1939: Clippings, "Our Neighbor" series, <u>Forest City Courier</u> ; genealogy (Eaves family, Worley, Rev. Campbell Smith), Spindale history, typed copy from county court execution docket, 1782-1796, newspapers, transcriptions from published <u>Colonial and State Records of N.C.</u> , biographical sketch of Prof. J. W. Griffin, lists of Rutherford County post offices. 1940-1941: Clippings, programs, etc., with index. 1942-1945: Clippings, programs, etc., with index. 1949-1953: Clippings, ballots, invitations, programs, membership cards.

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27	<u>Scrapbooks--General (cont'd)</u> 1953-1955: Clippings, photographs. 1956-1957: Clippings, photographs, personal notes, membership cards, correspondence, programs, invitations, etc., largely pertaining to historical and civic organizations, Dept. of Archives and History quarterly reports to the Executive Board, biographical sketch of Griffin.
28	<u>Scrapbooks--Correspondence and General</u> 1934-1944: Correspondence relating to N.C. Historical Commission; copies of bills defining duties and functions of Dept. of Archives and History, Historical Commission appointment, copies of minutes of N.C. Historical Commission, letters and folders relating to collection of county war records. 1942-1952: Correspondence, clippings, programs, pamphlets, etc., relating to Rutherford County and N.C. organizations, quarterly reports and minutes of Dept. of Archives and History, corresp. regarding genealogical research, "Bibliography of N.C. County Histories" compiled by E. J. Lawrence and W. S. Powell.
29	<u>Scrapbooks--Correspondence and General (cont'd)</u> 1953: Correspondence, clippings, programs, etc., relating to State Society of County and Local Historians, State Literary and Historical Association, and Executive Committee of the State Dept. of Archives and History, considerable material pertaining to Historical Markers Program.
30	<u>Scrapbooks--Correspondence and General (cont'd)</u> 1954: Correspondence, clippings, ballots, pamphlets, programs, etc., pertaining to Forest City and North Carolina associations and organizations, Dept. of Archives and History, Historical Marker Program, "Griffin genealogy".
31	<u>Scrapbooks--Correspondence and General (cont'd)</u> 1955: Correspondence, clippings, personal notes, programs, pamphlets, etc., pertaining to Forest City and North Carolina organizations and associations, material relating to Polk County centennial.