

North Carolina Collection

R. Kelly Bryant Papers and Obituary Collection

Title:	R. Kelly Bryant Papers and Obituary Collection
Inclusive Dates:	1934-2013
Extent of Materials:	8 file cabinet drawers, 5 Hollinger boxes
Location:	NC Collection Office, wire shelves; NC Room filing cabinet 4; Map Case 2, Drawer 12
Date of Accession:	2007, 2013
Donor:	R. Kelly Bryant
Relationship of donor or materials to the DCL/NCR	
Processor:	Rachel Walton; Holly Withrow, Amy McDonald, and Kristen Merryman, also Judith Fortson, Cavett French, Patty Melendez
Description:	
Subject Headings:	Durham (N.C.)—History.
	Funeral rites and ceremonies—North Carolina—Durham County.
	Obituaries—North Carolina—Durham County.
Abstract:	
Scope and Content:	The collection consists of photocopies of Bryant's extensive collection of primarily local newspaper obituaries and funeral service programs, which he has assembled over the course of his 70-odd years as a Durham resident. Arranged in alphabetical order, these materials often contain biographical and genealogical information on their subjects. The collection also contains biographical materials, papers related to Mr. Bryant's involvement in social, professional, and alumni organizations, his long-time involvement with the Boy Scouts, and his work on the historically African-American Geer Cemetery and other cemeteries in Durham. The collection's funeral programs and obituaries have been digitized and are available on DigitalNC: https://www.digitalnc.org/exhibits/r-kelly-bryant-obituary-collection/ .
Related Materials:	Oral histories in NC Collection, Durham County Library; Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University
Restrictions:	The collection is open for research.
Biographical/Historical Note:	Born in 1917, Bryant was raised in Rocky Mount, N.C., and graduated from the town's Booker T. Washington High School in 1935. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in accounting from Hampton University in 1940. His career at Durham's North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company spanned 37 years, as he rose from chief clerk of the Ordinary Department to assistant secretary in charge of the Conservation Department. His wide-ranging community activities and service include work with the Boy Scouts, Durham Business and Professional Chain, Durham Civil Rights Reunion, Masons, Friends of Geer Cemetery, Durham Urban Trails and Greenway Commission, Durham Historic Preservation Commission, White Rock Baptist Church, Black Solidarity Committee for Community Improvement, Durham Outboard Boating Club, and more too numerous to name. He has held leadership

	positions in many of these organizations and has won numerous awards for his service. He is a historian with extensive knowledge of Durham in general and the old Hayti community in particular. His dedication to the Durham community and to the study of Durham history has been exceptional in its breadth and depth. His full curriculum vitae is located in the North Carolina Collection's Biographical File.
Condition Notes:	
Organization of Collection:	
Container List:	File Cabinet Drawers, North Carolina Room
	Contains over 2,500 obituaries arranged alphabetically collected by Bryant. The full list can be seen here: https://durhamcountylibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/kelly_bryant_obituaries_2014_03.pdf .
	Box 1
	Archival Assessment of Personal Papers performed by Lynn Richardson, April 13, 2006
	Correspondence of others (copies)
	Durham Business and Professional Chain, 1946-1971
	General Biographical Information and Personal Materials
	General Correspondence, 1947-12006
	Faucette Family
	Hampton Alumni Association
	Hampton Institute School Work, 1934-1937
	Letters of Recommendation, 1967-1987
	NAACP, 1980, 1987
	Newspaper Clippings, 1951-1998
	North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, 1959, 1971-1992, 2006
	Prince Hall Grand Lodge Masons, 1975-1998
	Prince Hall Grand Lodge Masons Programs and Newsletters, 1983-1993
	Programs from Durham Churches and Schools, 1967-2001
	White Rock Baptist Church, 1926, 1970-1989, 2000-2003
	Box 2 - Boy Scouts
	Boy Scout General Memorabilia and Ephemera, 1948-1950, N.D.
	Boy Scout Instructional Materials
	Boy Scout Health and Safety Leaflets, 1941-1946
	Boy Scout History of Integration, 1919, 1964-1968, 2003-2009
	Boy Scout Jamboree of 1953--Correspondence, Memorabilia, and Ephemera, July 1953

	Boy Scout Jamboree of 1953--Travel Photos (see digital photo archive)
	Boy Scout Leader Correspondence, 1945-1953
	Boy Scout Newsletters, 1947, 1952, 1966
	Boy Scout Newspaper Clippings, 1957, N.D.
	Boy Scout Radio Script (WDNC), 1951-1952
	Boy Scout Radio Script (WDNC), 1952
	Boy Scout Radio Script (WDUR), 1947-1949
	Boy Scout Radio Script (WHHT), 1948
	Boy Scout Radio Script (WSSB), 1951-1952
	Boy Scout Radio Script (WTIK), 1948-1949
	Boy Scout Reports, Itineraries, and Memorandums, 1946, 1952-1953
	Box 3 - Boy Scouts
	Boy Scout Roster--Drafts and Original Copy, 1950-1951
	Boy Scout Summer Camp, 1946-1949
	Boy Scout Travel Memorabilia and Ephemera (1), 1953, N.D.
	Boy Scout Travel Memorabilia and Ephemera (2), 1953, N.D.
	Girl Scouts
	Box 4 - Friends of Geer Cemetery
	Friends of Geer Cemetery Agendas and Notes, 1990-1991, 2003-2005
	Friends of Geer Cemetery Correspondence, 1985-1990, 2002-2005
	Friends of Geer Cemetery Correspondence, 2005
	Friends of Geer Cemetery Meeting Minutes, 2003-2005
	Friends of Geer Cemetery Rosters, 2003, N.D.
	Box 5 Friends of Geer Cemetery, Other Durham Cemeteries
	Geer Cemetery-- City Council Decisions and Other Government Aid, 1989, 2003-2005
	Geer Cemetery General History, 1910, 1918, 1985-1989, 2002-2004
	Geer Cemetery Historical Paper (written by Jessica Thompson Eustice) with Ex-Slave Oral Histories done by the WPA, 1937, 1945, 2002
	Geer Cemetery Newspaper Clippings
	Geer Cemetery Photos, 1992 and undated

	Other Durham Cemeteries, 2000-2006
	"Reclaiming Yesterday: The Geer Cemetery Project" Durham Service Corps Report, 1992
	Violet (aka: Wolf Den) Cemetery, 1994-1995
	Box 6 Durham Outboard Boating Club
	Durham Outboard Boating Club Bank Statements, 1967, 1970-1972, 1980-1983
	Durham Outboard Boating Club Brochures and Clippings, 1966-1987 and undated
	Durham Outboard Boating Club Charter, Constitution, and Rosters 1978-1983 and undated
	Durham Outboard Boating Club Correspondence, 1966-1982 and undated, folder 1 of 2
	Durham Outboard Boating Club Correspondence, 1966-1982 and undated, folder 2 of 2
	Durham Outboard Boating Club Financial Records, 1968, 1978-1985
	Durham Outboard Boating Club Ladies' Night, 1978-1986 and undated
	Durham Outboard Boating Club Member Mailings, 1977-1985 and undated
	Durham Outboard Boating Club Minutes 1966-1967
	Durham Outboard Boating Club Minutes 1968
	Durham Outboard Boating Club Minutes 1970-1972
	Durham Outboard Boating Club Minutes 1972
	Durham Outboard Boating Club Minutes 1974
	Durham Outboard Boating Club Minutes 1974-1975 and undated
	Box 7 Prince Hall Grand Lodge Masons
	Correspondence with and about Grand Master William Parker, 1989-1994
	Prince Hall Grand Lodge Masons Correspondence, folder 1 of 4, 1975-1998
	Prince Hall Grand Lodge Masons Correspondence, folder 2 of 4, 1975-1998
	Prince Hall Grand Lodge Masons Correspondence, folder 3 of 4, 1975-1998
	Prince Hall Grand Lodge Masons Correspondence, folder 4 of 4, 1975-1998
	Box 8 (contains pictorial materials)
	Prince Hall Grand Lodge Masons Financial Records, 1985-1997 and undated
	Prince Hall Grand Lodge Masons Membership Applications, 1994-1996
	Prince Hall Grand Lodge Masons Programs and Publications, folder 1 of 3, 1975-1994 and undated

	Prince Hall Grand Lodge Masons Programs and Publications, folder 2 of 3, 1975-1994 and undated
	Prince Hall Grand Lodge Masons Programs and Publications, folder 3 of 3, 1975-1994 and undated
	Photographs (primarily Prince Hall Grand Lodge Masons)
	Photographs, folder 1 of 5, 1988, 1991, and undated
	Box 9 (contains pictorial materials)
	Photographs, folder 2 of 5, 1988, 1991, and undated
	Photographs, folder 3 of 5, 1988, 1991, and undated
	Photographs, folder 4 of 5, 1988, 1991, and undated
	Photographs, folder 5 of 5, 1988, 1991, and undated
	Oversized folder
	Oversized materials

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