MS-429, Gladys Chaney Wessels Papers

Collection Number: MS-429

Title: Gladys Chaney Wessels Papers

Dates: 1927-2009 (Bulk 1940s-1970s)

Creator: Gladys Chaney Wessels, Judith Ezekiel

Summary/Abstract:
The Gladys Chaney Wessels Papers are comprised of documents, photographs, scrapbooks, correspondence, and audiovisual materials, all relating to the life and work of Gladys Chaney Wessels, a prominent educator and social activist in the Dayton, Ohio area. The papers include items from her personal life as well as the numerous institutions and women's rights groups of which she has been a part.

Quantity/Physical Description: 6 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:
Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:
Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation:
(Box Number, Folder Number), MS-429, Gladys Chaney Wessels Papers, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition:
Wright State Special Collections and Archives accessioned the Gladys Chaney Wessels Papers in 2009.

Custodial History:
Approximately 3 linear feet of material in this collection was collected by Professor Judith Ezekiel as part of her research and oral history interviews with Gladys Chaney Wessels. Professor Ezekiel's assistance was instrumental in facilitating the donation of this collection.

Separated Material:
6 audio-cassette tapes, 1 8mm film reel, 2 seven inch reels, and 1 U-Matic Videocassette are stored in the Special Collections and Archives Film Storage Area located in the basement of the Medical Sciences Building

Related Material:
MS-176: Women, Inc. Scrapbooks
MS-249: Yellow Springs League of Women Voters Records
MS-40: The League of Women Voters

Processed by: Elizabeth Koch, March 2011

Arrangement:
The collection is arranged into seven series:

Series I: Personal
Series II: Correspondence
Series III: Employment
Series IV: Organizations
Series V: Social and Political Issues
Series VI: Audio-visual Materials
Series VII: Scrapbooks

Biographical/Historical Note:
Gladys Chaney Wessels was born on September 28, 1922 to Newton and Elsie Chaney in the town of Hillsboro, Ohio. After attending Limestone College for two years, Gladys obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education with minors in Art and English from the University of Cincinnati. She continued on to receive a M.L.S degree from Florida State University. Gladys married a Dutch man, Captain Philip Wessels, on October 10, 1952, in Yokohama, Japan, but divorced him in July of 1953. Her son, Kim, was born in 1954.

Gladys joined the military as the Director of Special Services during the Korean War, living in and traveling to many places around the globe, including Germany, Japan, and the P.O.W. Camp #1 in Koje-Do, Korea. After her time in the military, Gladys spent many years as an educator in both high schools and universities. From 1956 to 1958, she taught English, physical education and speech for two small high schools in Ohio, and from 1958 to 1963 she organized and directed the Pasadena, Gulfport, and Azelea Elementary Learning Centers in Pinellas County, Florida. In 1963 Gladys became the Director of the Instructional Materials Center at Wilmington High School in Wilmington, Ohio. She began to work in the Library Resources Center at Wright State University as an assistant professor and organizer of Instructional Services in 1968. After teaching in the library department for a few years, Gladys spearheaded the women's studies department with her seminar course entitled "Women in the 1970s." As part of this course, she brought to Wright State the founder of *Ms.* Magazine, Gloria Steinem. This guest speaker brought much attention to Wright State, and, in particular, the up-and-coming women's studies department.

In the 1970s Gladys became very active in the feminist movement, on both the local and national levels. She was on the Fairborn, Ohio, committee for the National Organization for Women and was a founding member of the Miami Valley Women's Political Caucus. She served on the State Board of the Ohio Women's Political Caucus and was a Board Member of the Ohio Women's Coalition for the E.R.A. Gladys also served on multiple professional committees at Wright State University and in state and national organizations.

In 1975, Gladys Chaney Wessels filed a $2.7 million lawsuit against Wright State University, claiming that her denial of tenure was based on sexual discrimination. She lost the case three years later.

After her years at Wright State, Gladys became a librarian for the Yellow Springs school district. While working there, she directed and produced a film for the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act about the changing job roles in the future, especially for those who would choose a technical position over attending college. In the late 1970s, Gladys taught at Morgan Middle School. She also ran for Village Council in the city of Yellow Springs.

Scope and Content:
This collection contains various media concerning the life of Gladys Chaney Wessels. A majority of the items are paper documents, but there are also photographs, films, books and scrapbooks. A large majority of the documents are from the years 1947 to 1980. The collection is arranged in seven series.

Series I, Personal Papers, includes items from the childhood and young adult years of Gladys Chaney Wessels, such as report cards, programs, and piano certificates. It also includes the passports she owned from the years 1953 to 1994 and her identification card from the War Department. Multiple drafts of Wessels' resume from throughout her life are located in this series, as well as the copies of her manuscripts and excerpts of drafts of these writings.

Series II, Correspondence, is comprised mainly of letters written by Gladys to her mother, Elsie Chaney, between 1947 and 1953. There are also letters written by Elsie to Gladys. Letters from her ex-husband, Phillip Wessels, are included, as well as some letters from Philip to Elsie. Lastly, there are a number of general personal and professional letters that have no apparent connection with other series. Undated letters, as well as excerpts from letters that cannot be reconciled with their other parts, are also included in this series.

Series III, Employment, is comprised of anything relating to the jobs that Gladys Chaney Wessels had throughout her life. A small amount of documents from her days in the military are included. The large majority of this series comes from her years at Wright State University. These items include forms, pamphlets, student papers and evaluations, correspondence, newspaper articles, and information about courses. There are also documents regarding her lawsuit, ranging from trial expenses, to correspondence to and from her attorney and from supporters, to pieces of evidence for the trial. From her years in the Yellow Springs School District, there is quite a bit of information regarding the film project that she produced, including budget sheets, correspondence, schedules, scripts, and documents. There is also a group of

folders containing the small bit of information about the other jobs she had. These include correspondence, different forms and documents.

Series IV, Organizations, contains papers from both women's organizations and general organizations. This includes the local, state and national women's organizations of which Gladys was a part, such as the National Organization for Women, Ohio Women, Inc., the Miami Valley Women's Political Caucus, the Ohio Women's Political Caucus, the National Women's Political Caucus, and state and national groups for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The general organizations folders hold documents relating to the professional organizations to which Gladys belonged, such as the American Association for University Professors, as well as different projects around the Dayton area, including the Greene County Home Commission, the Miami Valley Manpower Consortium, and the Prison Illiteracy Program at Lebanon Correctional Facility. This series includes various pieces of ephemera relating to these organizations, including pamphlets, minutes, newsletters, correspondence, writings, newspaper articles, bylaws, and information about workshops.

Series V, Social and Political Issues, is comprised of informational papers relating to the different topics that Gladys studied. Most of these topics relate to politics and women's rights. These include sexual assault, abortion, child welfare, and women in the workplace. Also included are various pieces of literature about politics in the state of Ohio. There are three books in this series relating to women's rights and a small box of political pins.

Series VI, Audiovisual Materials, includes one videotape, an 8mm film and two magnetic film reels, as well as three 16mm films and six audiocassettes. There are also some photographs, ranging from the 1940s to the 1970s. These are nearly all personal photographs, but some relate to the aforementioned women's organizations. This series is being housed in the Special Collections and Archives Film Storage Area in the basement of the Medical Sciences Building.

Series VII, Scrapbooks, contains the seventeen scrapbooks in this collection. The materials inside these scrapbooks range from photographs to newspaper articles to correspondence and other small paper ephemera. The scrapbooks in box 11 were deconstructed and their contents were placed in acid-free folders. Others were unable to be deconstructed safely, so they are housed whole in boxes twelve and thirteen.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Wessels, Gladys Chaney 1922-

Organizations/Corporate Names

Ohio National Organization for Women
National Women's Political Caucus (U.S.)
National Women's Political Caucus (Ohio)
National Women's Political Caucus (Miami Valley)
Ohio Women, Inc.
Wright State University

Places

Yellow Springs (Ohio)
Dayton (Ohio)

Subjects (General)

Women's Rights-- United States--1950-1980

Material Types

Correspondence
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Audiovisual
Books
Magazines

Occupations

Librarian
Professor

Collection Inventory

Series I: Personal			
Box	File	Description	Date
1	1	Childhood/Young Adult	1926-1945, Undated
	2	Travel Memorabilia	1944-1962, Undated
	3	Drafts of Resume	Undated
	4	Financial Papers	1962-1974, 2000
	5	Bibliographies and Research	Undated
		Writings	
	6	"It's A Dog's Life" Excerpts	Undated
	7	"It's A Dog's Life" Pg. 1-54, pg. 8-54	Undated
	8	Various Story Excerpts	1963, 1978, Undated
	9	Notes from Stenographer's Notebooks	1947, Undated
2	1	"The Black Shack" Pg. 1-183	Undated
	2	"The Black Shack" Pg. 25-183	Undated
	3	"The Black Shack" Excerpts	Undated
	4	"The Black Shack" Drafts- Preface to Chapter 6	Undated
	5	"The Black Shack" Drafts- Chapter 7 to the End	Undated

Series II: Correspondence			
Box	File	Description	Date
3	1	Correspondence Between Philip and Gladys Wessels	1952-1953
	2	Correspondence from Philip Wessels to Elsie Chaney	1953
	3	Correspondence to Donna Leonard	1979
	4	Correspondence to Mother- Excerpts	1947, Undated
	5	Correspondence to Mother	Undated
	6	Correspondence to Mother	1947
	7	Correspondence to Mother	1948
	8	Correspondence to Mother	1950
	9	Correspondence to Mother	Jan-Apr 1951
	10	Correspondence to Mother	May-Dec 1951
	11	Correspondence to Mother	1952
	12	Correspondence to Mother	1953
	13	Correspondence From Mother to Gladys	1941-1942, 1953
	14	Personal Correspondence	1942-2009, Undated
	15	General Correspondence	1942-1949
Series III: Employment			
Box	File	Description	Date
4	1	Wright State University- General	1968-1974
	2	Wright State University- Child Development Center	1972, 1974
	3	Wright State University- “Women in the 1970s”	1971-1974, Undated
	4	Wright State University- Gloria Steinem Visit	1972
	5	Women’s Studies Conferences	1972, 1973, Undated
	6	Wright State University- Library/Media	1970-1973, Undated
	7	Non-Wright State University Library/Media	1971, 1979, Undated
	8	Library/Media Conferences	1969-1975
	9	Wright State University- Student Course Evaluations	Undated
	10	Wright State University Tenure Process	1971-1974, Undated
	11	Wright State University Trial- Attorney Lorine M. Reid	1974-1979, Undated
	12	Wright State University Trial- Plaintiff Exhibits	1969-1974, Undated
	13	Wright State University Trial- Trial Expenses	1976-1979, Undated
	14	Wright State University Trial- Press	1974-1979, Undated
	15	Yellow Springs School District	1978
	16	Yellow Springs CETA Film Project- General	1978, Undated
	17	Yellow Springs CETA Film Project- Memos	Feb-Aug 1978, Undated
	18	Yellow Springs CETA Film Project- Meeting Minutes	Feb-May 1978
	19	Yellow Springs CETA Film Project- Release Forms	May-Aug 1978

	20	Yellow Springs CETA Film Project- Employee Self-Evaluations	Undated
	21	Yellow Springs CETA Film Project- Script Drafts	1978, Undated
	22	Yellow Springs CETA Film Project- Proposal Drafts	1978, Undated
	23	Other Employment	1944-1985
Series IV: Organizations			
Box	File	Description	Date
5	1	Unidentified Meeting Notes	Undated
	2	Miami Valley Manpower Consortium	June 21, 1974
	3	Prison Illiteracy Program- Lebanon Correctional	Undated
	4	Greene County Home Committee	1975-1976, Undated
	5	Dayton Police- Disabled Persons Police Employment	July, 1974
	6	Ohio Democratic Party Political Leadership Manual	Undated
	7	American Association of University Professors	1972-1973, Undated
	8	American Association of University Professors- Committee W	1971-1973, Undated
	9	Dayton Area Women's Rights Programs	1974, 1978, 1995
	10	Ohio Commission on the Status of Women	1972, 1977, Undated
	11	Ohio Democratic Women's Forum	1973
	12	League of Women Voters of Ohio	1972
	13	Ohio Civil Rights Council	October 25, 1975
	14	Ohio Women, Inc.	1976-1980, Undated
	15	National Women's Political Caucus	1972-1973, Undated
	16	Ohio Women's Political Caucus	1971-1972, Undated
	17	Miami Valley Women's Political Caucus	1972, Undated
	18	Local Chapters- National Women's Political Caucus	1972-1973, Undated
	19	Gay and Lesbian Advocacy Groups	1974-1975, 1979
	20	SUNY- Clearinghouse on Women's Studies	1972
	21	President's Task Force on Women's Rights and Responsibilities	Undated
6	1	ERA- National	1970-1978
	2	ERA Rally- Chicago	1980
	3	ERA- Ohio	1972-1975, Undated
	4	NOW- National	1974, Undated
	5	NOW- National Newsletters	1974-1975
	6	NOW- Conferences	1974-1975
	7	NOW- Ohio Chapter	1974-1975, Undated
	8	NOW- State of Ohio Bylaws	1974-1975, Undated
	9	NOW- Fairborn Chapter	1974-1975, Undated
	10	NOW Fairborn- Miami Valley Career Education for Women	April 1975

Series V: Social and Political Issues			
Box	File	Description	Date
6	11	"The Women's Book of World Records and Achievements"	1979
7	1	"Up From the Pedestal" Women's Rights Book	1968
	2	"Shoulder to Shoulder" Women's Rights Book	1975
	3	General Women's Rights	2008, Undated
	4	Newspaper Articles on Topics in Women's Rights	1972-1986
	5	Women's Rights Publications	1972-1973, Undated
	6	Unlabeled Women's Studies Notecards	Undated
	7	Women in the Workplace	1971-1978, Undated
	8	Women in Higher Education	1972-1980, Undated
	9	Information on Sexual Assault	1975, 1976
	10	Information on Child Welfare	Undated
	11	Information on Abortion	1971-1972, Undated
	12	Information on Discrimination	Undated
	13	State Government- Ohio	1972-1973, Undated
8		Political Pins/Buttons	1974, 1980, Undated
Series VI: Audiovisual Material			
Box	File	Description	Date
9	1	Audiocassette: ERA-Interviews, Bandshell, Chicago '80	1980
	2	Audiocassette: Speeches- ERA Rally, Chicago	[1980]
	3	Audiocassette: Music for ERA Film	Undated
	4	Audiocassette: Wessels- Women of 70's Course	Undated
	5	Audiocassette: Dayton Battered Women Radio Show	Undated
	6	Audiocassette: Women's March for Washington, '83- The March Goes On!	1983
10	1	U-Matic Videotape- "Choices: Jobs in the 80's" (CETA Film Project for Yellow Springs School District)	August 1978
	2	16mm Film Reel- "Women's Issues. Part 1: Chicago ERA"	Undated
	3	16mm Film Reel- "Women's Issues"	Undated
	4	Film Reels- "8/72- Women in Social Revolt" and "Unedited Reference Works Tape"	1972, Undated

	5	8mm Films- “Women in Defense” and “ERA March-7/8/78”	1978, Undated
	6	General Family Photos (See also Location 52 File 3 for an oversized photo)	1951, Undated
Series VII: Scrapbooks			
Box	File	Description	Date
11	1	Scrapbook- Wessels in the 1940s	1948, Undated
	2	Scrapbook- Kim’s Childhood	Circa 1950-1970
	3	“Hallmark Remembrance Album”	1950-1968
	4	Scrapbook- Correspondence and Women’s Rights	1970-1974
	5	Scrapbook- Media/Library WSU	1969-1972
	6	Scrapbook- WSU Library/Media	1970-1974
	7	Blue Scrapbook- WSU Trial, Women in Art	1974-1979, 2001
	8	Scrapbook- Vacation, ERA Rally	1976, Undated
12	1	Blue Scrapbook-WSU Trial, Women in Art	1974-1979, 2001
	2	Green Scrapbook- WSU, Yellow Springs, Women’s Rights	1978-1980
	3	Red Scrapbook- Library/Media WSU	1972-1973
	4	Black Scrapbook- Women’s Rights WSU- Betty Friedan, Caroline Bird	1972-1973
	5	Orange Scrapbook- Women’s Rights WSU	1966-1972, Undated
	6	Red Scrapbook- Local Women’s Rights	1972, Undated
13	1	Black Scrapbook- Women in the 1970s, Gloria Steinem	1971-1972
	2	Pink Scrapbook- Marriage, Teaching	1952-1954, 1973
	3	Blue Scrapbook- Childhood, College, Teaching Drama Club	1927-1966
	4	Yellow Scrapbook- Army Papers/Photos	1947-1948, 1995