

South Carolina Political Collections
University of South Carolina

Samuel P. Manning
(1926-1999)

Papers, 1937-1996

Volume: 1 linear foot

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Biographical Note:

“You are honest and dedicated and want to render a real service to your people.” So wrote legendary Speaker Sol Blatt of House member Sam Manning [10 Jan. 1972]. In recommending the young Manning for a Rhodes Scholarship, South Carolina Poet Laureate Archibald Rutledge described Manning thusly, “He has superior mental attainments, is morally sound, makes and keeps friends, and is of a winsome disposition. . . . I really should not know where to find a more desirable representative for America to send to England.” Manning represented Spartanburg County in the South Carolina House for sixteen years, 1967 to 1982. Manning had a great love of history and was a major advocate of commemorating South Carolina’s history. He was particularly successful in gaining recognition for the Battle of Cowpens as a pivotal event in the American Revolution and helping establish Cowpens National Battlefield as a national park.



Samuel Phillips Manning was born 21 June 1926 in Spartanburg to Andrew Adger and Virginia Maxwell Manning. He graduated from Spartanburg High School, attended Wofford College in 1944, received his A.B. degree from the University of North Carolina in 1949, and graduated from the U.S.C. Law School in 1954. He served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific during World War II and in the Korean War. After graduating from law school, Manning worked as an Assistant U.S. District Attorney for the Western District of

South Carolina from 1954 to January, 1956, when he resigned to associate with his father’s law firm in Spartanburg. He was elected to the South Carolina General Assembly in 1966 and served in that body from 1967 to 1982.

Manning married Anne Royal Carter of Chapel Hill, N.C. in 1966. They had two children. He was active in a wide variety of civic organizations, including the Boy Scouts, March of Dimes, and Red Cross. He was a Mason and a Shriner. An ardent student of history, Manning was Vice-chair of South Carolina’s American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. The Commission began its work in the late 1960s, just before the celebration of the state’s Tricentennial. Manning worked to ensure that not only South Carolina, but the nation, would gain a new and clearer appreciation for South Carolina’s role in the founding of the nation. “There were 130 major battles fought in South Carolina during the Revolution, and most of those sites are either undeveloped or worse, unmarked.” [*The Columbia Record*, 23 Dec. 1969]

Later in life, Manning became a vocal advocate of increased environmental regulation. He was particularly concerned with the volume of high and low level nuclear waste coming to South Carolina and the inherent health dangers.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection consists of 1.25 ft. of papers, 1937 to 1996 & n.d., arranged in 5 series: General; Topical; Appointment Books; Photographs and Clippings.

General papers consist chiefly of correspondence and contain political and other personal material. As a member of the Spartanburg YMCA Board of Directors, Manning was copied with an 18 June 1968 letter from the Bi-racial Committee of Spartanburg asking the YMCA to “justly process all new membership applications without regard to race or color.” In a news release of 7 Nov. 1982, Manning called attention to the dangers of hazardous waste, and noted his success in amending the state appropriations bill to require insurance for the protection of the public from low-level nuclear waste. He concluded, “If no corrective action is taken, many South Carolinians may suffer in future years. The problem could be more severe than the one presented at Love Canal.”

Topical files include material on subjects of particular interest to Manning. Under ‘American Revolution, General’ are records relating to Manning’s service as chair of the legislative study committee, the ‘Spirit of 1776 Committee,’ c.1969-1971, and the American Revolution Bicentennial of South Carolina Committee and the Bicentennial Council of the Thirteen Original States. The General file contains the first and second reports of the “Spirit” committee, issued in 1970 and 1971 respectively. Files on the battles of Cowpens and Eutaw Springs document the efforts to commemorate those events. ‘American Revolution, Notes’ contains writings of Manning and others and other notes on events of the Revolution.

The topical file on the South Carolina State Museum chiefly relates to Manning’s work as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Charles H. Townes Science Center, 1984 to 1987. Manning also served on the Museum Foundation’s Board.

The ‘Writings’ topical file contains articles by Manning and notes for speeches or articles. Included are “Our Endangered State,” on the danger of nuclear waste; a review of Roy Smith’s biography of Vardry McBee; and an article on the Palmetto Landfill.



Charles H. Townes (right) at the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia

COLLECTION INVENTORY

General:

1940-1950s
1960s
1970-1975
1976-1979
1980s
1990s
n.d.

Topical Files:

American Revolution:

General:

1969-1970
1971-1972
1973-1975
1976-1981 & n.d.

Cowpens, Battle of:

1968, 1971
1972
1973
1974-1995
n.d.

Eutaw Springs, Battle of, 1973-1981 & n.d.

Notes [2 f.]

Biographical Information

South Carolina State Museum, 1984-1996 & n.d.

Writings

Appointment Books, 1937; 1971; 1972; 1973; 1974; 1979

Photographs

Clippings:

1954-1960s
1970s
1980s
1992-1996 & n.d.