Barbara Moxon
(1921-2011)

Papers, 1964-2006

Volume: 4 linear ft.
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Biographical Note:

Barbara Wischan Moxon was born May 2, 1921, in Philadelphia, PA. She was raised in Drexel Hill, part of Philadelphia, and completed her high school education at Upper Darby High School in Upper Darby, PA. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Pennsylvania, where she received her B.A. in Psychology in 1942 and her M.S. in Education in 1943. In 1944, she married Dr. Robert K. Moxon, and they moved around the U.S. as his assignments with the U.S. Navy changed. They lived in Portsmouth, VA, Annapolis, MD, and Honolulu, HI, before settling in South Carolina in 1963, by which time they had three children, Peter, Christopher, and Laurel.

Moxon’s first job as an executive secretary for the Alumni Association of the University of Pennsylvania from 1942 to 1943 was a reflection of her appreciation for education. Working as a social caseworker for Family Service of Main Line Federation of Churches in Ardmore, PA, from 1943 to 1947, she began a career dedicated to issues affecting women and children that would continue through her lifetime of commitment to civic and political organizations. Moxon was involved in and held positions in organizations and campaigns such as Advocates for Comprehensive Health Education (ACHE), SC Division of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Common Cause of SC, Constitutional Convention Repeal Campaign, Equal Rights Amendment of SC (ERASC), SC Advocates for Women on Boards and Commissions, League of Women Voters of SC, Planned Parenthood of SC, SC Commission on Women, SC Coalition for Choice, and the SC Christian Action Council. As a Sunday school officer and teacher, choir member and leader, and president of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Women, Mrs. Moxon was an extremely active member within her church, as well.

Speaker, motivator, mentor, recruiter and leader, Moxon dedicated her life to service. She knew citizen groups could accomplish their goals through cooperation, hard work, and perseverance. In 1987-88, Moxon spearheaded the organization of a coalition of 57 diverse groups to publicly support and lobby for passage of the Comprehensive Health Education Act. It passed in May 1988. When bills to weaken or repeal the Act came before the General Assembly in 1998, she testified in its defense before a SC House committee and alerted supporters to contact their legislators.

Moxon has received numerous awards for her efforts. In 1999, Governor Hodges presented her with the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor bestowed by South Carolina, for her leadership in many civic organizations and activities at the local, state, and national levels. The same year, the state chapter of the AAUW named for her a national AAUW Educational Foundation Endowment, and the South Carolina Education Association awarded her their Retired Distinguished Service Award.

Moxon passed away on October 7, 2011.

Laurel Moxon Suggs has continued her mother’s tradition of service through leadership in the League of Women Voters of SC, records held by SCPC.
Description:

The Barbara Moxon Papers consist of 4 linear feet of material, 1964 to 2006, arranged in six series: General, Biographical, Topical Files, Speeches, Clippings, and Audiovisual. Much of the information in this collection is related to different organizations in which Mrs. Moxon participated. Documents provide information on the organizations’ missions and members, and include newsletters, supportive literature, meeting minutes, and letters requesting support of the designated organization’s cause.

Biographical files consist of résumés, Who’s Who award literature, and letters about her Newberry College honorary doctorate. The résumés give a detailed look at Moxon’s roles within the different organizations.

Topical Files form the bulk of the collection and touch on each of the primary organizations and causes in which Moxon was involved. The Advocates for Comprehensive Health Education files include House and Senate Journals, mailing lists of recruited supporters, activities logs, and letters to and from politicians such as Senators Strom Thurmond and Ernest F. Hollings. SC Coalition for Choice contains newsletters, fliers of related events, and meeting minutes. One flier advertises, “Learn the Truth about Reproductive Choice,” with guest speaker Judith Widdicombe, founder of Reproductive Health Services in St. Louis, Missouri.

A substantial portion of the topical files is comprised of papers relating to Equal Rights Amendment SC. ERASC files contain papers detailing the group’s strategies and actions, correspondence with legislators on the issue, meeting minutes, newsletters, brochures, bumper stickers, and other materials.

Most of Moxon’s speeches are filed under the relevant topical headings; however, the remainder are included in the folder “Speeches, 1973-1999.” This folder includes drafts of speeches that provide insight into some of Moxon’s views on Christianity, as well as her commitment to increasing people’s involvement in the democratic process and supporting the causes she believed in.

The clippings include folders containing items about the organizations with which Moxon was involved. There are, in particular, a number of items relating to the Equal Rights Amendment. Other
folders in this series contain items discussing broader, topical issues, such as abortion, education, sexual harassment, and feminism.

The audiovisual series is comprised of photographs, videocassettes, and film. There are three photographs in the collection: a posed photograph of Barbara Moxon and Mrs. Stondemayer holding an ERA sticker; a candid photo of Governor McNair at his desk proclaiming “League of Women Voters Week” in 1969 alongside Deborah Page, State P.R. Director, Barbara Moxon, State Organization Chair, and Keller Bumgardner, State President of the League of Women Voters; and finally, a 1917 shot of the Equal Suffrage League of Aiken County conducting the first suffrage parade held in South Carolina.

There are two VHS tapes in the collection, “One Woman One Vote,” and “In Search of the Savannah River Plantations,” as well as a ¾” videocassette titled “A Simple Matter of Justice with Jean Stapleton.” A film, titled “How We Got the Vote” is also present, and appears to have been used by ERASC.

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Box List:

General (2 folders)  
Biographical Papers:  
  Newberry College Honorary Doctorate  
  Résumés  
  Who’s Who  
Correspondence with Legislators  
Topical Files:  
  Abortion:  
    General  
    Booklets  
    Correspondence  
    Lobbying Efforts and Legislative History  
Advocates for Comprehensive Health Education (ACHE):  
  General:  
    1986  
    1987:  
      Jan.-Aug.  
      Sept.-Dec.  
    1988:  
      Jan.-Feb.  
      Mar.-Dec.  
    1989-98 and no date  
Advisory Committee to Local School Boards for Comprehensive Health Education Act, Potential Members, 1988  
Correspondence  
Finances, 1987-88
“The Front Lines of Sexuality Education,” 1984 (guide)
Mailing Lists, SC Superintendents and Other Endorsers
SC House & Senate Journals, 1988 (2 folders)
Speeches
Agency for International Development (AID) and Family Planning, Correspondence
American Association of University Women (AAUW):
   General, 1972-2003
   Congratulatory Letters
   Meeting Minutes, Sept 1995-May 1998
   Speeches, 1981-1999
Campaign Finance Reform, 1986-1999:
   General
   Correspondence
Common Cause of South Carolina:
   General:
      1985-1988
      1989
   Phone Outreach Records, 1985-1989

Constitutional Convention Repeal Campaign, 1984-1994

Elections
Equal Rights Amendment South Carolina (ERASC):
   General:
      1972, 1975-1977
      1978-82 and no date (3 folders)
   Abstract, “Opposition to the ERA: The Role of American Extremists”
   Brochures (2 folders)
   Literature from Other Organizations (2 folders)
   Lobbying Efforts and Legislative History:
      1972-74
      1975, 1977
      1978-1983, 1999, and no date
   Correspondence
Mailing Lists
Minutes, 1981-1982
Newsletters, 1977-82
People of Faith for ERA
Press Releases, 1977-1982
“South Carolina and the ERA: An Analysis of an Interest Group,” MA Thesis by EnaShea Bramblett Kohler, USC, 1999 (bound)
Speeches:
   1976-1978
   1980-1982, 2002, and no date
Stickers
Family Medical Leave Act, Correspondence
Family Planning (Title X):
  General
  Correspondence
Judicial
League of Women Voters of Columbia, SC
National Organization for Women (Columbia Chapter), 1983
Planned Parenthood, 1975
Report of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women’s Year
Shepherd’s Center, 1991
South Carolina Advocates for Women on Boards and Commissions:
  Board Briefings and Associated Materials
  Brochures and Programs
  Bylaws, 1992
  Correspondence:
    Internal
    Keds Corp. Settlement Funds
    To Women Interested in Serving on a Board or Commission
Daily Logs:
  1994-1996 (bound log)
  1996-1998 (from notebook)
  1998-2004 (from notebook)
Editorials and Letters to the Editor
Lobbying Efforts and Legislative History
Meeting Agendas and Minutes (2 folders)
Membership Materials
Newsletters and Associated Materials:
Press Releases
Speeches
South Carolina Coalition for Choice:
  General:
    1983-1990 (2 folders)
    1991-1998 and no date
Minutes:
1985-1989
1990-1992 and no date

South Carolina Commission on Women: 
General:
   1993, 2004-2005
Newsletters:
   Summer 1980-Spring 1986
   Summer 1986-Summer/Fall 1989, Spring 1990-Fall 1991
Speeches, 1980-1985
South Carolina International Women’s Year Committee, Final Report of the State Meeting,
   “The South Carolina Woman: Heritage to Horizons,” June 1977
South Carolina International Women’s Year Conference
Women’s History Month
Speeches, 1973-99
Clippings:
Abortion
American Association of University Women, Families and Work Project
Biographical
Christian Materials
Common Cause
Comprehensive Health Education (CHE)
Constitutional Convention Repeal Campaign
Education
Equal Rights Amendment
Feminism
Human Life Bill
League of Women Voters
Male-Only Draft
Political Cartoons – Miscellaneous
Reagan Administration
Sexual Discrimination and Sexual Equality
Sexual Harassment
South Carolina Advocates for Women on Boards and Commissions
South Carolina Black Women for Action Inc.
South Carolina Political Appointments
Audiovisual:
Photographs (3 photos)
VHS:
   “One Woman One Vote”
   “In Search of the Savannah River Plantations”
¾” Videocassette, “A Simple Matter of Justice with Jean Stapleton”
Film, “How We Got the Vote”