

Guide to the Mary Louise Hancock Papers, 1926-2018, bulk 1970-2016

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Mary Louise Hancock Papers, 1926-2018, bulk 1970-2016

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

2019.082

Author of Finding Aid:

Sandra L. Wheeler

Creator:

Hancock, Mary Louise, 1920-2017

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

5 boxes ; 2.09 linear feet

Abstract:

Mary Louise Hancock (1920-2017) spent her entire life in New Hampshire, where she worked in the State Planning Office for over thirty years, including as director from 1960-1976, and was elected State Senator representing the Concord district in 1975. She also served on commissions and committees having to do with environmental and recreational issues. She was an important participant in local and national Democratic Party campaigns. Her papers document those activities but not her personal life. She was a friend of New Hampshire artist and illustrator Alice Cosgrove (1909-1971) and her papers include information about Cosgrove and a small collection of pamphlets she illustrated.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Mary Louise Hancock Papers were a gift of the Estate of Mary Louise Hancock on February 28, 2018.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Sandra L. Wheeler in October 2020. The finding aid was written by Sandra L. Wheeler in October 2020. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The majority of materials in this collection are on paper and have no special technical requirements for use.

Other media in this collection includes sound cassettes, video cassettes, and compact discs. These require the use of a cassette player, a CD player, and a VHS player with a television. Please contact the library to make an appointment to use these materials.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Mary Louise Hancock Papers, 2019.082. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Known as the “Grand Dame” of New Hampshire politics, Mary Louise Hancock was born in Franklin, NH, on July 5, 1920 to Herbert and Amanda (Lambert) Hancock and lived her entire life in New Hampshire. She had three brothers: Parker, William, and Stuart. The family moved to Concord, NH, when she was eight years old, where her father owned Hancock’s Drug Store.

She graduated from Concord High School in 1937 and then from the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor’s in English in 1942. After working as a research librarian, Hancock joined the New Hampshire State Planning Office, where she worked for over 30 years. She was Director of the office from 1960 to 1976, the first woman to hold such a position in the country.

In 1975, she was elected to the New Hampshire Senate, representing the Concord district as the first woman and first democrat elected from that district. After serving as New Hampshire Senator from 1975 to 1979, she went on to work for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development until 1981.

Mary Louise Hancock was active in Democratic Party politics, becoming a stopping point for many presidential nominees before the first-in-the-nation primary. She was invited to Jimmy Carter's White House in 1980, where she attended a State Dinner and slept in the Lincoln Bedroom, highlights of her life. She also worked on the New Hampshire gubernatorial campaign of John Lynch and the presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton.

She served on a number of committees and boards throughout her life, including on the Concord School Board, Concord Hospital Board of Trustees, Downtown Concord Revitalization Corporation Advisory Committee, governing board of the New Hampshire Council for the Humanities, and New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women. She also received a number of awards, including the Robert Frost Contemporary American Award, the Granite State Award for Outstanding Public Service, and the Meritorious Service Award from the University of New Hampshire. In 2000, New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen proclaimed July 5th as Mary Louise Hancock Day.

Mary Louise Hancock died December 4, 2017 at the age of 97 after a period of declining health.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Mary Louise Hancock Papers contain scattered and incomplete documentation of her professional work in the New Hampshire State Planning Office and activities relating to recreation, the environment, and tourism in the state. She was an ardent Democrat and worked on campaigns for candidates from that party both nationally and locally. She was invited to visit President Jimmy Carter at the White House in 1980 in recognition of those contributions, which continued through the presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Hancock was a friend of noted New Hampshire artist and illustrator Alice Cosgrove (1909-1971) and her papers include a small collection of pamphlets and brochures illustrated by Cosgrove as well as photographs of Cosgrove's work.

The collection contains nothing about her personal life or service on the many voluntary organization boards and committees with which she was involved.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are divided into five series:

Series 1. Mary Louise Hancock personal papers, 1928-2018

Series 2. Mary Louise Hancock and New Hampshire, 1928-2017

Series 3. Alice Cosgrove, 1930-2014

Series 4. Photographs, 1940-2007, undated

Series 5. Media, 1986-2010, undated

Contents List

Series 1. Mary Louise Hancock personal papers, 1928-2018

Extent: 21 folders

Scope and Content: This series contains accounts of the awards Mary Louise Hancock received, a small amount of correspondence, Christmas cards she sent, ephemera, memorabilia from her 1980 trip to the White House, some printed matter she saved, and research papers sent to her. Photographs of her trip to the White House event are in Series 4. Outgoing letters from her work as Director of New Hampshire Planning Office and Senator are in Series 2. This series is arranged by topic and then chronologically.

Box 1

- Folder 1 Donations and resume/curriculum vitae, circa 1978, 2013-2018
- Folder 2 Articles about her, 1963, 1965, 2016
- Folder 3 Awards received, 1973-2017, undated
- Folder 4 Birthday celebrations, 2005, 2015
- Folder 5 Christmas letters and cards, outgoing, 2001-2014, undated
- Folder 6 Correspondence, incoming, 1949-2015
- Folder 7 Correspondence, outgoing, 1947-1949, undated
- Folder 8 Ephemera: calling cards, letterhead, undated
- Folder 9 Ephemera: advertising blotters, postcards, 1948, 1959, undated
- Folder 10 Justice of the Peace appointments, 1984, 1988, 1993
- Folder 11 "Trip to the White House:" diary, notes, correspondence, 1980
- Folder 12 "Trip to the White House:" Ephemera, 1979-1980
- Folder 13 "Trip to the White House:" Ephemera, 1978-1981
- Folder 14 Printed matter, 1928, undated
 - New Hampshire telephone directory, 1928
 - Pamphlet of forms suggested for telegraph messages, undated
- Folder 15 Printed matter, 1937, 1942
 - Literary Digest*, February 20, 1937
 - Christmas Carol Songbook*, 1942
 - On This Coast* [photographs of Isles of Shoals], undated
- Folder 16 Printed matter, 1956-1990
 - Time* Magazines with covers of Sherman Adams (1956), the US Bicentennial (1989), Judge David Souter (1990)
- Folder 17 Printed matter, 1998
 - Annette B. Cottrell's memoir, *Off We Go*
- Folder 18 Research reports, 1944, 1961
 - Philip M. Marston, "New Hampshire" typescript, 1944
 - William Wallace, "Merrimac Valley Manufacturing Past and Present"
Economic Geography, October 1961
- Folder 19 Research reports, 2000
 - Laura Pope, prospectus and synopsis of proposed book *Not Even Whispered: Portsmouth Women 1650-1950*
 - Kate Ford, chapter for above book, "Ellen and Helen Gerrish, 1835-1940: Forgotten Sailors"

Box 2

- Folder 1 Research reports, 2000
 Chapters for proposed book above:
 Kathleen Shea, “Bridget Cutt Daniel Graffort, Portsmouth’s Widow Philanthropist”
 Denise Wheeler, “Mary Carey Dondero 1894-1960, An End to Politics as Usual”
- Folder 2 Writings, notes, undated

Series 2. Mary Louise Hancock and New Hampshire, 1928-2017

Extent: 22 folders

Scope and Content: This series contains Mary Louise Hancock’s correspondence, papers, pamphlets, and reports about her various activities in New Hampshire public institutions, committees, commissions, and political events. Materials about her work at the State Planning Office are sparse, though there is a small run of correspondence in the “Letter Books” of June-November 1973. Also included is correspondence and newspaper clippings from a 1972 controversy about whether she had a conflict of interest. Her tenure as Senator is even more poorly documented, with only a few items about legislation she worked on or sponsored. Other materials include correspondence regarding accepting the nomination to the Board of Directors of the University of New Hampshire Alumni Association and class notes, as she was class secretary. The materials in this series are arranged by topic and then chronologically.

- Folder 3 New Hampshire Fish and Game Department: Retirement of Bernard Corson, 1975-1977
- Folder 4 New Hampshire politics: Clinton, Hillary campaign materials, 2007-2016
- Folder 5 New Hampshire politics: Clinton, Hillary campaign correspondence, 2008-2016
- Folder 6 New Hampshire politics: Clinton, Hillary campaign newspaper clippings. 2007-2008
- Folder 7 New Hampshire politics: Lynch, John campaign, 2004
- Folder 8 New Hampshire politics: Lynch, John campaign newspaper clippings, 2004
- Folder 9 New Hampshire politics: Swett, Katrina campaign, 2010
- Folder 10 New Hampshire politics: various, 1978-2000, undated
- Folder 11 New Hampshire politics: newspaper clippings about Mary Louise Hancock, 1968, 1978, 2016
- Folder 12 New Hampshire Senate term, 1978-1979, 1992
- Folder 13 New Hampshire State Parks, 1966-1971
 1968 Proclamations establishing Lady Bird Park, Leonard R. Frost Dam, J. Murray Devine Park and Scenic Area, Russell B. Tobey Park
 1971 report of Fort Dearborn State Park (author unidentified)
- Folder 14 New Hampshire State Planning Office: controversy re whether Mary Louise Hancock had a conflict of interest, 1972
- Folder 15 New Hampshire State Planning Office: “Letter Book,” 1973 June-July
- Folder 16 New Hampshire State Planning Office: “Letter Book,” 1973 August
- Folder 17 New Hampshire State Planning Office: “Letter Book,” 1973 September
- Folder 18 New Hampshire State Planning Office: “Letter Book,” 1973 October-November
- Folder 19 New Hampshire State Planning Office reports by Mary Louise Hancock, 1945-1971

- 1945: "The Contook River"
- 1963: "The Need for a State Planning Agency"
- 1971: "Budget needs of State Planning Office"
- Folder 20 New Hampshire State Planning Office: various, 1935-1976

Box 3

- Folder 1 University of New Hampshire, 1949-2017
- Folder 2 New Hampshire ephemera: tourism pamphlets, 1928, 1930
- Folder 3 New Hampshire ephemera: pamphlets, 1938-1989
 - Edward J. Parshlet for State Planning Commission, "New Hampshire: A Historical Sketch" 1938
 - State Board of Education, "Our New Hampshire" 1946
 - W.F. LaPage, "Long Shadows from a Small Mountain" 1989 [poems]
- Folder 4 New Hampshire ephemera: New Hampshire Bicentennial, 1988, 1990

Series 3. Alice Cosgrove, 1930-2014

Extent: 12 folders

Scope and Content: Alice Cosgrove (1909-1971) was a prominent New Hampshire artist and illustrator and a friend of Hancock's. These are materials about Cosgrove found among Hancock's papers and include lists of paintings exhibited at the University of New Hampshire and a collection of brochures and pamphlets on New Hampshire subjects illustrated by Cosgrove. A number of brochures and books illustrated by Cosgrove were transferred to the library, see "Separated Materials" below for full list of volumes. See Series 4 for images of Cosgrove and her work. The first folder contains miscellaneous material about Cosgrove: a few letters between Mary Louise Hancock and various art dealers and exhibition coordinators about Cosgrove's work; correspondence about memorial donations after Cosgrove's death; pamphlets and brochures about exhibitions. The materials in this series are organized by topic and then chronologically.

- Folder 5 Cosgrove, Alice papers, 1950-2006
- Folder 6 Cosgrove, Alice ephemera: newspaper clippings, 1930-2014
- Folder 7 Cosgrove, Alice illustrated New Hampshire: geology pamphlets, 1939, 1946
 - Geology of Mr. Chocorua Quadrangle* (with map), 1939
 - Geology of Bellows Falls Quadrangle* (with map), 1946
- Folder 8 Cosgrove, Alice illustrated New Hampshire: geology pamphlets, 1949
 - Geology of the Monadnock Quadrangle* (with map), 1949
 - Artesian Wells in New Hampshire*, 1949
 - Mountains of New Hampshire*, 1949
- Folder 9 Cosgrove, Alice illustrated New Hampshire: geology pamphlets. 1950
 - Geology of the Mr. Pawtuckaway Quadrangle* (with map), 1950
 - Geology of the Lovewell Mountain Quadrangle* (with map), 1950
- Folder 10 Cosgrove, Alice illustrated New Hampshire: geology pamphlets, 1951, 1953
 - Geology of New Hampshire Part I: Surface Geology* (with map), 1951
- Folder 11 Cosgrove, Alice illustrated New Hampshire: geology pamphlets, 1956
 - Geology of New Hampshire Part II: Bedrock Geology* (with map), 1956

Box 4

- Folder 1 Cosgrove, Alice illustrated New Hampshire: geology pamphlets, 1958
Geology of the Hanover Quadrangle (map missing), 1958
- Folder 2 Cosgrove, Alice illustrated New Hampshire: geology pamphlets, 1969
Geology of the Seacoast Region (with map), 1969
- Folder 3 Cosgrove, Alice illustrated New Hampshire: tourism brochures, 1960-1969
- Folder 4 Cosgrove, Alice. Illustrated New Hampshire. Tourism brochures. 1970-1972, undated
- Folder 5 Cosgrove, Alice list of works by her owned by the University of New Hampshire, undated

Series 4. Photographs, 1940-2007, undated**Extent:** 12 folders

Scope and Content: This series contains four folders of Alice Cosgrove and her work, with the remainder of the images of Hancock with various political figures (Hillary Clinton, John Lynch, and various others), friends, and workmates, including an image of Hancock with other residents of Congreve Hall at the University of New Hampshire in 1940. Mary Louise Hancock's visit to the White House in 1980 is especially well documented. Negatives are in the last folder and are not sleeved and gloves should be worn when looking at them. The photographs are arranged by topic.

- Folder 6 Cosgrove, Alice, 1955-1970, undated
- Folders 7-8 Cosgrove, Alice images of her work, found as-is in an album, undated
- Folder 9 Cosgrove, Alice images of her work, 1953-1970, undated
- Folder 10 Hancock, Mary Louise albums, 1973, 2005
Celebration of MLH's 30 years of service to NH, 1973
Inauguration of Governor John Lynch, 2005
- Folder 11 Hancock, Mary Louise albums: "Trip to White House," 1980
- Folder 12 Hancock, Mary Louise alone, circa 1920-1970, undated
- Folder 13 Hancock, Mary Louise images with politicians, 1958-2007, undated
- Folder 14 Hancock, Mary Louise in unidentified groups, 1970, undated
- Folder 15 Friends and co-workers of Mary Louise Hancock, 1940-1992
Note: this includes several photographs of Alice Cosgrove
- Folder 16 Miscellaneous, 1955, 1969
"Needlelawn", a house, 1955
Squirrel, 1969
- Folder 17 Negatives, 1992, undated
Slide strips "reunion," 1992

Series 5: Media, 1986-2010, undated**Extent:** 13 folders

Scope and Content: This series contains cassettes, VHS tapes, and CDs. The only information about the audiocassettes, compact discs, and video cassettes is what is written on the label, which is quoted in the listing for the item below. None of the items have been tested to see if they work. They include award ceremonies, political events, and interviews. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically by media type.

- Folder 18 Compact discs, 2007

- “Pledge Review Edit 11/20/2007”
 “N.H. Democratic Party Event”
 Folder 19 Compact discs, 2010, undated
 “6/20/2010 MLH 90th Birthday”
 “Christmas with Bill Clinton,” undated

Box 5

- Folder 1 Audio cassette tape, “Mary Louise Roast,” undated
 Folder 2 Audio cassette tape, “Mary Louise Roast. One side did not record,” undated
 Folder 3 Audio cassette tape, “Mary Louise Hancock interviewed about Alice Cosgrove,” undated
 Folder 4 Audio cassette tape, “Ballad of David Souter,” undated
 Folder 5 Audio cassette tape, “WE-VO-AC,” undated
 Folder 6 Video cassette tape, “Interview with Eliza Hobson Channel 11,” 1986 February
 Folder 7 Video cassette tape, “Channel 11 Interview re: Susan B. Anthony Award” & Channel 2 “Speaking of Concord” interview ML Hancock,” 1986 February
 Folder 8 Video cassette tape, “YWCA SBA Dinner 2/15/86,” 1986 February
 Folder 9 Video cassette tape, “MLH – N.H. Notables April 1987”
 Folder 10 Video cassette tape, “Alice Cosgrove UNH Art Gallery Exhibit 1/25-3/13/87,” 1987
 Folder 11 Video cassette tape, “Robert Frost Contemporary American Award honoring Mary Louise Hancock April 25, 1989”

Separated Materials:

The following political posters were moved to the Broadside Collection:

Box 25A, Politics and elections, 1970-1999

- Mondale/Ferraro: for the Family of America, [1984]. 22" x 17"
 Vote Mary Louise Hancock State Senator, undated. 14" x 22"

Box 25B, Politics and elections, miscellaneous, 2008-Present:

- I'm Ready for Hillary, undated. 12" x 22"
 She Wins We Win Vote Hillary Clinton, Maggie Hassan, Ann McLane Kuster, undated. 18" x 24"
 Women for Obama, undated. 11" x 17"

The following poem was moved to the Broadside Collection:

Box 35, Verse, 1881-Present

- Print, “the Old Man’s Story” poem by Will LaPage, signed by author, 1987. 16" x 20"

The following photographs were moved to the Oversized Photograph Collection:

Box A, People A-K

- Mary Louise Hancock and dog, undated. 16.5" x 13"

Drawer 10

- Hugh Gallen, undated. 24" x 20"

The following books were removed to the library:

- Bradley, Duane. *Cappy and the Jet Engine*. J. B. Lippincott, 1957. Signed by author.
- Chapman, Donald H. *Preliminary Report on the Clays of New Hampshire*. Concord, N.H.: New Hampshire State Planning and Development Commission, 1950.
- Cottrell, Annette B. *Hog Back Pond*. Concord, N.H.: New Hampshire Department of Resources & Economic Development, July 1967.
- Foley, Eileen. *The Pleasure is All Mine*. Signed by the author, Mayor of Portsmouth.
- Goldthwait, Lawrence. *Preliminary Report Clay Deposits of Southeastern New Hampshire Part XV Mineral Resource Survey*. Concord, N.H.: New Hampshire State Planning and Development Commission, 1953.
- Gore, Al. *The Future: Six Drivers of Global Change*. New York: Random House, 2013. Inscribed by author: "For my dear friend, Mary Louise Hancock, with deepest respect, gratitude and best wishes, Al Gore 2/6/13."
- Meyers, T. R., and Edward Bradley. *Suburban and Rural Water Supplies in Southeastern New Hampshire*. Concord, N.H.: New Hampshire State Planning and Development Commission, 1960.
- Meyers, T. R. *Foundry Sands of New Hampshire*. Concord, N.H.: New Hampshire State Planning and Development Commission, 1950.
- Moke, Charles B. *The Geology of the Plymouth Quadrangle, New Hampshire*. Concord, N.H.: New Hampshire Planning and Development Commission, 1946.
- New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development Office of Industrial Development. *Industrial New Hampshire*. Concord, N.H.: State of New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, 1977.
- New Hampshire Planning and Development Commission. *Communities, Settlements, and Neighborhood Centers in New Hampshire*. Concord, N.H.: N.H. State Planning and Development Commission, 1954.
- State of New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development. *Directory of New Hampshire Municipal and County Officials*. Concord, N.H.: State of New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, 1964.
- Swift, Charles M. Jr. *Geology of the Averill Quadrangle...Southeast Portion, New Hampshire*. Concord, N.H.: State of New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, 1966.

Subject Terms

People:

Clinton, Hillary Rodham
 Cosgrove, Alice, 1909-1971
 Cottrell, Annette B.
 Hancock, Mary Louise, 1920-2017
 Lantos, Katrina Swett, 1955-
 Lynch, John, 1952-

Organizations:

New Hampshire. Office of State Planning
New Hampshire. State Planning and Development Commission
White House (Washington, D.C.)

Subjects:

Correspondence
Governors--Election
Political campaigns
Politics and government
Presidents--Election
Tourism

Locations:

Concord, NH

Occupations:

Artists
Politicians

Related MaterialsArchives

Alice E. Cosgrove Papers, 1985.052
Bill Finney Photograph Collection, 2014.125
Chippa Granite "Buy NH Products" by Alice Cosgrove, 1986.104.1
Concord's Heritage Trail, 912.778b C744HT
Ephemera Collection – Cosgrove, Alice E.
New Hampshire Legislature, S 2013.032
Ruth E. Whittier Papers, 1991.001
Upper North State Street, Concord, N.H., S 2013.076

Library

Anderson, Leon W. *Old Man of the Mountain: Born in the Creation, Resides in Franconia Notch*. Concord, N.H.: Evans Printing Company, 1970. Call number: 977.8a2 A5479
Cosgrove, Alice E. *Several Articles about Mrs. Alice E. Cosgrove, Artist and Draftswoman*. Call number: 920 C834b
Hancock, Mary Louise. "Alice Ericson Cosgrove: a New Hampshire Artist." Durham, N.H.: University Art Galleries, 1987. Call number: 759.13 C834u
Hancock, Mary Louise. *The Mountains of New Hampshire: a Directory Locating the Mountains and Prominent Elevations*. Concord, N.H.: New Hampshire State Planning and Development Commission, 1949. Call number: 917.78 H234
Johnson, David D. *Adventures in New Hampshire: Annotated Teacher's edition*. Concord, N.H.: Village Press, circa 1968. Call number: 977.8 N532j

Museum

The museum has numerous items donated by Mary Louise Hancock and numerous objects and illustrations by Alice Cosgrove.