

**South Carolina State University Historical Collection
Miller F Whittaker Library
South Carolina State University**

The Papers of Rossie B. Caldwell

The Papers of Rossie B. Caldwell (1917-2004) reflect the educational background and professional career of an African-American librarian from 1954-1983. The majority of the papers date from 1957 to 1983 when Caldwell worked as a Library Science Assistant Professor and then Associate Professor at South Carolina State College.

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Rossie B. Caldwell

Biographical Chronology

- 4 November 1917 Rossie was born in Columbia, South Carolina to Reverend Rossie Lee Brower, Methodist Minister at Wesley Methodist Church in Columbia from 1914-1918, and Henrietta Olivia Irby Brower
- May 1918 Reverend Brower died of influenza, leaving Henrietta to raise six month old Rossie and her older sister
- Circa 1920 Henrietta and her daughters moved to Orangeburg
- Circa 1922 When she was only four years old, Rossie attended classes at Claflin with her older sister
- Circa 1930 Henrietta moved to White Plains, New York for work and left the girls with neighbors in Orangeburg
- Circa Summer 1933 Rossie and her sister joined Henrietta in New York for the summer
- 1934 Rossie was High School Valedictorian at Claflin
- 1934-1937 Rossie attended Claflin College and pursued a Bachelor or Arts degree in English and French
- 1935-1937 Rossie reigned as Miss Claflin
- 1937 Rossie received her Bachelor or Arts degree in English and French from Claflin College and graduated Magna Cum Laudi
- 1937-1939 Rossie worked as a teacher and librarian at Reed Street High School in Anderson, South Carolina
- 1939-1942 Rossie worked as a librarian at Emmett Scott High School in Rock Hill, South Carolina
- 1942-1943 Rossie moved back to Orangeburg and worked as a librarian at Wilkinson High
- 6 August 1943 Rossie married Harlowe Evans Caldwell, who was working to complete dental school at the time
- Summer 1943-1945 Rossie worked as a clerk, stenographer at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama, while Harlowe was in the Army there

- 1945 Rossie returned to her job at Wilkinson High when she and Harlowe moved back to Orangeburg
- 1949 Harlowe and Rossie began caring for Harlowe's two year old niece
- 1950-1952 Rossie attended South Carolina State College and pursued a Master of Science degree
- 1951 Rossie received her Master of Science degree from South Carolina State College
- 1954 Harlowe and Rossie legally adopted the niece that had been living with them since 1949
- 1954-1959 Rossie pursued a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Illinois Champaign, Urbana
- 1957 Rossie began working at South Carolina State College as an assistant and then associate professor in Library Science
- 1959 Rossie received her Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Illinois Champaign, Urbana
- Spring 1968 Rossie's article entitled "Appraisal of Instructional Procedures" was published in Explorations
- Spring 1973 Rossie's article entitled "The Media Concept" was published in Explorations
- 1977 Rossie's article entitled "History of South Carolina Black Library Organization" was published in Handbook of Black Librarianship
- 1978-1986 Rossie was Christian Advocate of the United Methodist Church in South Carolina
- Fall 1979 Rossie's article entitled "Needed: Definitions in Action!" was published in South Carolina Librarian
- 1983 Rossie retired from teaching at South Carolina State College after 26 years of service and later that week her husband Harlowe died of a heart attack
- 1988 Rossie was named to the Scroll of Honor, Lambda Sigma
- 1989 Rossie was the recipient of the presidential citation at Claflin College

- 1994 Rossie was elected Alumnus of the Year at Claflin College
- 1998 Rossie was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Claflin College

Biographical Sketch:

On November 4, 1917, Rossie Brower Caldwell was born to Reverend Rossie Lee Brower and Henrietta Olivia Irby Brower. Rossie was the youngest of two daughters born to the Browsers. Reverend Brower was a Methodist minister at Wesley Methodist Church in Columbia, South Carolina, from 1914 until he died of influenza in 1918. A few years later, Mrs. Brower and her young daughters moved to the Clark Street area of Orangeburg, South Carolina, a "community for retired Methodist ministers and windows of Methodist ministers."

When Rossie was only four years old, she attended first grade classes at Claflin Methodist School with her older sister. Due to financial difficulties caused by the Great Depression, Mrs. Brower moved to White Plains, New York, in 1930 in hopes of finding work to support her family. The young Brower girls, however, stayed with neighbors in Orangeburg in order to remain in school at Clafin, and it was not until around 1933 that the girls joined their mother in New York. The girls worked during that summer in order to pay for the upcoming school year back in Orangeburg. In 1934, Caldwell graduated from Claflin's high school as Valedictorian and went on to attend Claflin College from 1934 until 1937. Rossie reigned as Miss Claflin from 1935 until 1937 and graduated Magna Cum Laudi with degrees in English and French.

After Rossie graduated from Claflin College at the age of nineteen, she accepted her first position working as a teacher and librarian at Reed Street High School in Anderson, South Carolina. She remained in Anderson until 1939, when she was offered a position at Emmett Scott High School in Rock Hill, South Carolina. After working at Emmett Scott for almost four years, Rossie once again returned to her childhood home of Orangeburg and accepted a position in 1942 working as a librarian at Wilkinson High.

On August 6, 1943, Rossie married Harlow Evans Caldwell, who was working to complete dental school at the time. Harlowe was stationed as an army dentist at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama, after he finished dental school in 1943. During that time, Rossie worked as the secretary to the quarter master and transportation clerk at the air field. The Caldwells moved back to Orangeburg in 1945, and Rossie returned to her job at Wilkinson High.

In 1949, the Caldwells began caring for Harlowe's two year old niece, Rossie Laverne. In 1954, the Caldwells adopted Rossie Laverne, who was at the time seven years old.

Meanwhile Rossie began pursuing her Master of Science degree from South Carolina State College and graduated in 1951. In 1954, Rossie furthered her education and pursued a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Illinois Champaign, Urbana. While pursuing this degree, Rossie also worked at South Carolina State College as an assistant and then associate professor in Library Science. Rossie received her Master of Library and Information Science degree in 1959 and continued working at South Carolina State College until she retired in 1983.

Unfortunately, Rossie's retirement celebration was cut short when Harlowe died of a heart attack later that same week.

Rossie contributed greatly to the library profession during her career through her involvement in professional organizations and her many published works. Rossie was an active member of the American Library Association, the American Association of University Women, and the American Association of University Professors. Rossie also published many articles including "The Challenge of Librarianship: A personal Assessment," which was published in the *Palmetto Education Association Journal* in 1961, and "Emphasis on Newer Media: Challenge to Librarians with Particular Reference to School Librarians," which was published in the same journal in 1963. Moreover, Rossie helped compile and edit the "Profile of Librarians: A Directory of Negro Librarians with Brief Sketches" in 1964. In the spring of 1968, Rossie's article entitled "Appraisal of Instructional Procedures" was published in *Explorations*, and her article entitled "The Media Concept" was published in the spring of 1973 in the same publication. In 1977, Rossie's "History of South Carolina Black Library Organization" was published in the *Handbook of Black Librarianship*, and the *South Carolina Librarian* published Rossie's article entitled "Needed: Definition in Action!" in the fall issue of 1979.

In addition to her published accomplishments, Rossie was named to the Lambda Sigma Scroll of Honor in 1988 and was the recipient of the Claflin College Presidential Citation in 1989. In 1994, Rossie was elected Alumnus of the Year at Claflin College and was inducted into the college's Hall of Fame in 1998.

Sources Consulted in Biographical Chronology:

Brown, Thomas. "After Four Decades of Teaching, 'I Can't See Myself Just Sitting Down'." *Times and Democrat*. December 9, 1999.

Caldwell, Rossie. Interview conducted by Deborah Clanton on April 11, 2000.

Lee, Joel M. *Who's Who in Library and Information Services*. American Library Association: Washington, D.C., 1982.

Who's Who in the South and Southwest 1997-1998. Marquis: New Jersey, 1997.

Scope and Content:

The papers of Rossie B. Caldwell (1954-1983) consist of about 1.5 cubic feet of materials that serve to document her educational background, her involvement in the library profession, and her instruction and involvement in the Library Science Department at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, South Carolina. The papers span from 1954-1983 and are divided into the following series groups: (1) Coursework, (2) Course Instruction, (3) Faculty Activities, (4) Library Materials, (5) Miscellaneous, (6) Miscellaneous Publications and Writings, (7) Personal Correspondence, (8) Photographs, (9) Professional Organizations and Meetings, (10) Projects, and (11) Writings and Research.

Series I-Coursework:

Series I includes coursework materials that Caldwell used to complete her library education. These materials include syllabi, lecture notes, bibliographies, and assignments and papers completed by Caldwell for course credit. The series includes course materials for the History of Children's Literature as well as materials for Educational Technology.

Series II-Course Instruction:

Series II consists of instructional materials that Caldwell used in the library courses that she taught. These materials include syllabi, lecture notes, bibliographies, and workshop outlines. Assignments and papers completed by her students for course credit are also included in this series. The series consists of such materials from the following courses: Library Guidance for Teachers, Children's Literature, Administration of School Libraries, Books and Related Materials for Young People, Elementary School Library Service, School Library Materials, Organization of School Library Materials, and Evaluation and Utilization of Reference Materials.

Series III-Faculty Activities:

Series III consists of correspondence concerning courses Caldwell taught, professional workshops and meetings Caldwell attended, and faculty events Caldwell participated in. This series also includes faculty agenda, meeting minutes, and policies as well as Caldwell's teaching loads, teacher evaluations, leave of absence and travel expense forms.

Series IV-Library Materials:

Series IV contains library vendor catalogs, book promotions and brochures, and publishers' book and price lists. The Bulletin of the Center of Children's Books, the Calendar, and Highsmith Library Supplies and School Bound Books are included in these items. The series also consists of requests for materials, book and supply invoices, and correspondence with vendors.

Series V-Miscellaneous:

Series V contains materials collected by Caldwell that does not necessarily relate to the other series, such as campus flyers, requisition forms, student evaluations, and Sun-uma course development procedures.

Series VI-Miscellaneous Publications and Writings:

Series VI consists of publications from various sources that Caldwell collected that do not relate in topic. The types of publications in this series include journal articles, news clippings, newsletters, papers and speeches presented at professional meetings, and a copy of the Wilkinsonian yearbook of 1946.

Series VII-Personal Correspondence:

Series VII consists of personal postcards, Christmas cards, and letters that Caldwell received from friends and colleagues during her career.

Series VIII-Photographs:

Series VIII consists of both color and black and white photographs of Caldwell. The photographs are not labeled or dated. However, the photographs appear to have been taken at a celebration, perhaps Caldwell's retirement.

Series IX-Professional Organizations and Meetings:

Series IX consists of professional organization information, professional meeting agendas, and hotel information as well as papers and speeches presented at such meetings. Also included in this series are awards and certificates of recognition for professional librarianship. Examples of items included in this series are Caldwell's Marquis Who's Who nomination, the Southern Association standards, and the report of the Recognitions Committee of the South Carolina Association of School Librarians. In addition, this series contains information from the Association of Educational and Communications Technology meeting of 1971 and 1975, the Conference on Group Dynamics of 1963, the NDEA Institute for School Personnel Workshop of 1966, the Palmetto Association Meeting of 1965, and The South Carolina Department of Higher Education meeting of 1970.

Series X-Projects:

Series X contains information about the projects that Caldwell worked on during her teaching career at South Carolina State College, including the Reading Group for Wilkinson's In-service Training Program and the School Library Development Project of 1961.

Series XI-Writings and Research:

Series XI contains Caldwell's article manuscripts, speeches, proposals, research, and publications that she worked on during her professional career. Caldwell's 1963 address about National Library Week, her 1968 speech titled "Launching this Library into the Main Stream of the School, and her 1970 address titled the Explorations in Education are included in this series. Also included in this series along with other manuscripts of her work is the information used to compile the Profile of Librarians Directory.

Description of Series:

I. Coursework

Summer 1954-26 April 1975

Box 1, Folders 1-5

Arranged alphabetically by sub-series: Educational Technology 626; Library Science 403; Library Science 441-history of Children's Literature; Library Service 185/290; and Library Service Syllabi. Arranged chronologically within sub-series.

II. Course Instruction

1957-22 June 1968

Box 1, Folders 6-18

Arranged alphabetically by sub-series: Bulletin Board Display Assignments; Audio Visual Aids; Library Service 202/306-Library Guidance for Teachers; Library Service 204-Children's Literature; Library Service 301/302 Bibliography and Reference; Library Service 401-Administration of School Libraries; Library Service 403-Books and Related Materials for Young People; Library Service 501-Workshop on Elementary School Library Service; Library Service 503-Workshop on School Library Materials; Library Service 504-Workshop on the Organization of School Library Materials; Library Service 505-Workshop on the Evaluation and Utilization of Reference Material; Library Service Syllabi; and Miscellaneous. Arranged chronologically within sub-series.

III. Faculty Activities

12 April 1958-4 May 1978

Box 1, Folders 19-27

Arranged alphabetically by sub-series: Correspondence; Evaluation of Academic Instruction; Faculty Institute Agendas; Faculty Senate; Faculty Study and Evaluation Committee; Leaves of Absence and Traveling Expense Forms; Memos, Notices, and Policies; Teaching Load; and Visiting Committee. Arranged chronologically within sub-series.

IV. Library Materials

1960-20 July 1970

Box 1, Folders 28-30

Arranged alphabetically by sub-series: Catalogs, Brochures, and Listings; Invoices; and Requests for Materials and Correspondence with Vendors. Arranged chronologically within sub-series.

V. Miscellaneous

1962-19 January 1969; Not Dated

Box 1, Folder 31

Miscellaneous materials arranged chronologically with materials not dated following. Items including two biographical sketches of professional librarians; an evaluation form of a student filled out by Rossie; handwritten notes and citations; and numerous other unrelated materials that could not be grouped together in a sub-series.

VI. Miscellaneous Publications and Writings

1946-2 February 1995

Box 1, Folders 32-36

Arranged alphabetically by sub-series: Journal Articles; News Clippings, Newsletters, Papers and Speeches Presented at Meetings; and The Wilkinson. Arranged chronologically within sub-series.

VII. Personal Correspondence

February 1966-24 June 1968

Box 1, Folder 37

Arranged chronologically within series.

VIII. Photographs

Not Dated

Box 1, Folder 38

Photographs that are not dated and not identified so could not be arranged.

IX. Professional Organizations and Meetings

1960-18 April 1975

Box 1, Folders 39-46

Arranged alphabetically by sub-series: Association of Educational and Communications Technology Meeting (2 folders arranged chronologically); Brochures and Information Materials; Conference on Group Dynamics; Miscellaneous; NDEA Institute for School Personnel Workshop; Palmetto Education Association; and South Carolina Department of Higher Education. Arranged chronologically within sub-series.

X. Projects

1955-May 1961

Box 1, Folders 47 and 48

Arranged alphabetically by sub-series: Reading Group for Wilkinson's In-service Training Program and School Library Development Project. Arranged chronologically within sub-series.

XI. Writings and Research

January 1959-1 September 1970

Box 2, Folders 49-61

Arranged alphabetically by sub-series: A Critical Report: An Example of a Survey; Address about National Library Week; An Appraisal of Instrumental Procedures for Teaching the Use of Selected Reference Tools on Elementary and Secondary School Levels (Proposal); An Appraisal of Instrumental Procedures for Teaching the Use of Selected Reference Tools on Elementary and Secondary School Levels (Final Report); Explorations in Education; Implementing the New School Library Standards: An Interpretative Study of Selected Reports; Launching this Library into the Main Stream of the School; and Manuscripts Articles. Arranged chronologically within sub-series.

Folder Level Container List:

Series I-Coursework:

Box #	Folder #	Sub-series	# of Items	Date
1	1	Educational Technology 626	3	14 April 1975- 26 April 1975
1	2	Library Science 403	10	15 June 1958- January 1959
1	3	Library Science 441 History of Children's Literature	29	Not Dated
1	4	Library Service 185/290	11	1958-1960
1	5	Library Service Syllabi	6	Summer 1954- 1959; 1973

Series II-Course Instruction:

Box #	Folder #	Sub-series	# of Items	Date
1	6	Bulletin Board Display Assignments	9	July 1967
1	7	Audio Visual Aids	7	Not Dated
1	8	Library Service 202/306 Library Guidance for Teachers	22	Not Dated
1	9	Library Service 204 Children's Literature	10	Not Dated
1	10	Library Service 301/302 Bibliography and Reference	63	Not Dated
1	11	Library Service 401 Administration of School Libraries	17	1965
1	12	Library Service 403 Books and Related Materials for Young People	14	1957-1963

1	13	Library Service 501 Workshop on Elementary School Library Service	13	11 June 1963- 23 July 1963
1	14	Library Service 503 Workshop on School Library Materials	28	Not Dated
1	15	Library Service 504 Workshop on the Organization of School Library Materials	27	30 May 1967- 20 June 1967
1	16	Library Service 505 Workshop on the Evaluation and Utilization of Reference Material	18	11 June 1968- 22 June 1968
1	17	Library Service Syllabi	3	17 June 1963- 7 August 1963 Not Dated
1	18	Miscellaneous	67	Not Dated

Series III-Faculty Activities:

Box #	Folder #	Sub-series	# of Items	Date
1	19	Correspondence	133	6 December 1955-4 May 1978
1	20	Evaluation of Academic Instruction	6	14 February 1964-16 November 1966
1	21	Faculty Institute Agendas	4	1960-1962
1	22	Faculty Senate	3	8 September 1969-6 October 1969
1	23	Faculty Study and Evaluation Committee	5	1959-17 October 1961
1	24	Leaves of Absence and Traveling Expense Forms	15	2 November 1961-4 October 1974

1	25	Memos, Notices, and Policies	16	21 September 1959- 4 September 1964; 15 August 1974
1	26	Teaching Load	12	22 April 1964- January 1970
1	27	Visiting Committee	4	12 April 1955-29 April 1958

Series IV-Library Materials:

Box #	Folder #	Sub-series	# of Items	Date
1	28	Catalogs, Brochures, and Listings	17	January 1960-1968
1	29	Invoices	6	27 May 1965-24 October 1969
1	30	Requests for Materials and Correspondence with Vendors	39	12 May 1968-20 July 1970

Series V-Miscellaneous:

Box #	Folder #	Sub-series	# of Items	Date
1	31	Miscellaneous	25	1962-19 January 1969; Not Dated

Series VI-Miscellaneous Publications and Writings:

Box #	Folder #	Sub-series	# of Items	Date
1	32	Journal Articles	7	1960-September 1967
1	33	News Clippings	11	1967-2 February 1995
1	34	Newsletters	7	May 1960-November

				1969
1	35	Papers and Speeches Presented at Meetings	6	4 March 1957- January 1960
1	36	The Wilkinson	1	1946

Series VII-Personal Correspondence:

Box #	Folder #	Sub-series	# of Items	Date
1	37	Personal Correspondence	6	February 1966-24 June 1968

Series VII Photographs:

Box #	Folder #	Sub-series	# of Items	Date
1	38	Photographs	25	Not Dated

Series IX-Professional Organizations and Meetings:

Box #	Folder #	Sub-series	# of Items	Date
1	39	Association of Educational and Communications Technology Meeting	11	30 September 1971- 2 October 1971
1	40	Association of Educational and Communications Technology Meeting	13	13 April 1975- 18 April 1975
1	41	Brochures and Information Materials	26	5 November 1967; 26 May 1969-3 July 1975
1	42	Conference on Group Dynamics	12	13 March 1963-13 1963

1	43	Miscellaneous	7	1962-1967
1	44	NDEA Institute for School Personnel Workshop	20	27 June 1966-5 August 1966
1	45	Palmetto Education Association	53	1960-27 April 1965
1	46	South Carolina Department of Higher Education	14	5 October 1970-22 October 1970

Series X-Projects:

Box #	Folder #	Sub-series	# of Items	Date
1	47	Reading Group for Wilkinson's In-service Training Program	6	1955-1957
1	48	School Library Development	9	January 1961-May 1961

Series XI-Writings and Research:

Box #	Folder #	Sub-series	# of Items	Date
2	49	A Critical Report: An Example of a Survey	1	January 1959
2	50	Address about National Library Week	6	25 April 1963
2	51	An Appraisal of institutional Procedures for Teaching the Use of Selected Reference Tools on Elementary and Secondary School Levels (Proposal)	16	1 April 1966
2	52	An Appraisal of institutional Procedures for Teaching the Use of Selected Reference Tools on Elementary and Secondary School Levels (Final Report)	1	June 1967

2	53	Explorations in Education	3	1 September 1970
2	54	Implementing the New School Library Standards: An Interpretative Study of Selected Reports	1	August 1961
2	55	Launching this Library into the Main Stream of the School	5	11 March 1968
2	56	Manuscript Articles	3	Not Dated
2	57	Miscellaneous	8	Not Dated
2	58	New Directions	7	Not Dated [Circa 1970's]
2	59	Pre-College Library Skills of Freshmen Students: A Report Of an Investigation	6	July 1965
2	60	Profile of Librarians	89	22 March 1963- 24 May 1966; Not Dated
2	61	Selected Sources of Audio Visual Aids for Use in a High School: An Annotated List	1	Not Dated