

Eleanor Creveling House Smith Collection

Overview of the Collection

Repository: South County History Center, 2636 Kingstown Road, Kingston, Rhode Island 02881
Tel: 401.783.1328, website: southcountyhistorycenter.org

Title: Eleanor Creveling House Smith Collection

Dates: 1950-1996 bulk, 1929-2023 inclusive

Media: Manuscripts, Newspaper Clippings, Papers, Personal Objects, Photographs

Quantity: 2 boxes, 2 linear feet

Identification: 2021.012

Language: English

Biographical Note

Eleanor Creveling House Smith (1915-1996) was born in Chatham, Connecticut, to Harold and Ethel E. (Donnellan) House. Harold House was a carpenter and farmer from Pennsylvania, and Ethel came from a family of Connecticut farmers.

When Smith was about 4 or 5 years old her parents purchased a farm on Hillsdale Road in Richmond, Rhode Island. Smith was married to Earl Smith (1909-1982) in 1934. The couple continued to live on Hillsdale Road for the remainder of their lives. Earl Smith worked as a mechanic at the Fred W. Smith Car Dealership (then in the location of today's Chariho Furniture) and a janitor at Richmond school. He also volunteered at the Richmond Fire Department. Both were members of the Richmond Grange and involved with the Washington County Fair following its move to Route 112. The couple had one daughter and four grandchildren.

Smith was a prolific writer on nature, crafting, and farm life. Beginning in the 1940s, she contributed to many local publications including *The Spectator*, *South County Shopper's Guide*, *Stich 'n Sew*, *Popular, Handicraft*, *NewSource* and others. The majority of these writings took place between 1967 and 1987.

Smith had many other interests and hobbies. She sewed clothing and at one time worked as a seamstress. She also tatted, made seashell jewelry, gardened and canned food.

Throughout her life Smith remained active in her community. She was a founding member of the Richmond Historical Society and served as its archivist. She also served on the Richmond Conservation Commission and the Richmond Senior Citizens Commission from the early 1980s until her passing.

Additional biographical information can be found within the collection.

Scope and Content

The records of the Eleanor Creveling House Smith Collection include correspondence, a journal, manuscripts, newspaper clippings and a postal mail log. The majority of the collection was created and compiled by Smith between 1948 and 1996. In 2023 David Smith wrote an article about Smith for *The Westerly Sun*. The article, and the photographs used in it, have been added to the collection.

Administrative Information

Access: Any qualified person doing personal or scholarly research is permitted to utilize materials in the South County History Center collections.

Preferred Citation: Eleanor Creveling House Smith Collection, South County History Center

Provenance: This collection was donated to the South County History Center by Eleanor Smith's grandchildren.

Processed by: Caleb Goodhouse

Subject Terms

Agriculture--Rhode Island; Crafts & decorating; Journalists—Rhode Island; Nature Writing; Richmond (R.I.); Washington County (R.I.)—Agriculture; Washington County (R.I.)—Newspapers

Related Materials

Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult the following sources in the South County History Center holdings:

Archival Collection – materials about agriculture in Washington County and the Washington County Fair

Contents Listing

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	1	Correspondence	1950-1996
1	2	Manuscripts, Farm Journal Bulletin	1950-1960
1	3	Manuscripts, Nature Craft	1960-1970
1	4	Manuscripts, South County Wild Notes	1970-1980
1	5	Manuscripts, South County Wild Notes	1970-1980
1	6	Manuscripts, Miscellaneous	1950-1990
1	7	Newspaper Clippings	1972, 1985-1987, 1996
1	8	Diary/Scrapbook	1981
1	9	Postal Mail Logs	1987-1996
1	10	Autobiography and Photographs	1990-1996
1	11 & 12	“Stich n’ Sew” / “Popular Handicraft” Newspaper Clippings	1960-1970
2		“Outdoor Rambling” Newspaper Clippings	1948-1949
2		South County Wild Notes Newspaper Clippings	1970-1980
2		<i>Driftways into the Past: Local History of the Town of Richmond, RI</i>	1977