Inventory of the
Rosslee Tenetha Green Douglas Papers, 1934 - 2005
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Rosslee Tenetha Green Douglas Papers, 1934 - 2005

Dates 1934-2005

Bulk 1981-2002

Creator: Douglas, Rosslee Tenetha Green.

Abstract: Rosslee Tenetha Green Douglas, (1928-2011) was an African-American nurse, health administrator, and two-time presidential appointee during the Ronald Reagan Presidential Administration. Green Douglas attended Avery Institute, Class of 1947; Lincoln School for Nurses (1952) and was the first African-American graduate from the College of Nursing, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston (M.U.S.C) in 1972. She served as an administrator for the Franklin Fetter Family Health Center, and served on the South Carolina Industrial Commission, also becoming the first African-American to serve in that capacity. Green Douglas was selected as the Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, United States Department of Energy, (1981), becoming the first African-American female appointee under the Reagan Administration.


Extent: 0.5 linear foot(1 archival box)

Repository: Avery Research Center

Call Number: AMN 1132

Language of Material: Material is in English

Biographical Note

Rosslee Tenetha Green Douglas (1928-2011) was born to Rozenia and Anglin Green in Florence County, South Carolina. Green's youth was spent in Charleston, South Carolina, with her education at the Buist School and the Avery Institute, (high school division). Green initially focused on a nursing career, completing her training at Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana in 1948, and the Lincoln School for Nurses, New York. During her time at Lincoln, she met and married Earl Walton Douglas in 1952. After graduation, Green Douglas worked as a nurse at the New York City Department of Hospitals, and as a Visiting Nurse and Supervisor of Nursing at Brookdale and Bedford Hospitals in Brooklyn, New York.

Green Douglas returned to South Carolina in 1969 and graduated with honors from the College of Nursing, Medical University of South Carolina (M.U.S.C) in 1972, becoming the first African-American graduate. She served as an administrator for the Franklin Fetter Family Health Center, where she established the regulations to license home health care agencies in South Carolina. Green Douglas was appointed by South Carolina
Governor James B. Edwards to the State Industrial Commission in 1978, also becoming the first African-American to serve in that capacity.

Douglas was sworn in as Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, United States Department of Energy (DOE), on May 29, 1981. She became the Ronald Reagan Administration's first African-American female appointee, responsible for implementation of Executive Order 12320 signed on September 15, 1981, title "Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)." The order required federal agencies to significantly increase HBCU participation in federally sponsored programs. As director, Green Douglas helped establish a minority bank development program and provided financial aid to African-American colleges and universities. In 1984, President Reagan appointed her to serve on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, established to plan the January 1986 celebration. In 1985, Green Douglas was appointed by the Secretary of Energy to serve on the Health and Human Services Family Violence Committee. She returned to Charleston in 1986 and served as a volunteer nurse at a clinic for the homeless and eventually as an administrator for the Women's Information Children's Program, established by the Department of Health and Environmental Control.

In recognition of her lifetime achievements, Green Douglas was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1985. Dr. Green Douglas passed away November 27, 2011 in Walterboro, South Carolina.

SOURCES:

University of South Carolina Libraries, "Rosslee Tenetha Green Douglas papers, 1938-2001.", accessed 21 May 2014

Waring Historical Library. "Opening Doors: Rosslee Tenetha Green Douglas, R.N., Women at the Medical University of South Carolina.", accessed 21 May 2014

Collection Overview

The collection is divided into two series:

1. **Biographical Materials** contains brief personal and professional materials relating to Douglas including resumes, professional biographical sketches, correspondence and documents regarding the Avery Institute Class of 1947 Reunion. Of note are letters from written to Green Douglas by Senator Strom Thurmond and former South Carolina Governor James B. Edwards as outgoing Secretary of the Department of Energy; and a United States Senate Hearing journal holding the nomination of Green Douglas as Director of of the Department of Energy's Office of Minority Economic Impact (OMEI).

2. **Photographic Material** holds a small collection of black and white and color photographs from Green Douglas family and childhood; political career and White House functions; and prints from the Avery Institute Class of 1947 Reunion. Of note is a color photograph with Green Douglas shaking President Reagan's hand. The print is autographed by Reagan

Collection Arrangement


2. Photographic Material, 1934-2002, and undated

Restrictions

**Access Restrictions**

No Restrictions
Copyright Notice

The nature of the Avery Research Center's archival holdings means that copyright or other information about restrictions may be difficult or even impossible to determine despite reasonable efforts. The Avery Research Center claims only physical ownership of most archival materials.

The materials from our collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study, pursuant to U.S. copyright law. The user must assume full responsibility for any use of the materials, including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced materials. Any materials used for academic research or otherwise should be fully credited with the source.

Related Material

A larger collection entitled "Rosslee Tenetha Green Douglas Papers," is located at the South Caroliniana Library, The University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina.

The Avery Research Center holds Rosslee Green Douglas husband's papers, Walter Earl Douglas Papers, AMN 1127.

Subject Headings

Douglas, Rosslee Tenetha Green , 1928-2011
Douglas, Walter Earl, 1923-1979
Edwards, James B., 1927-
Reagan, Ronald W., President, 1911-2004
Thurmond, Strom, 1902-2003
Avery Normal Institute--Alumni and alumnae.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Rosslee Tenetha Green Douglas Papers, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisition Note

Papers donated by Rosslee Green Douglas, 4 April 2005

Processing Information

Reprocessed by Georgette Mayo, May 2014
Edited by Aaron Spelbring, April 2014
Encoded by Aaron Spelbring, April 2014
## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1961-2005, and undated

Contains personal and professional materials relating to Green Douglas including resumes, professional biographical sketches, correspondence and documents regarding the Avery Institute Class of 1947 Reunion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 1</th>
<th>Resumes and Biographical Sketches, 1961, 1983, 1985, 2001, and undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Also includes interview with Green Douglas from &quot;Women in Energy: a Newsletter of the DOE Federal Women's Program,&quot; (1983); and a biographical sketch on her husband, Walter Earl Douglas (1961)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 2</th>
<th>Published United States Senate Hearing, 13 May, 1981</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains the nomination for Green Douglas's position as Director of of the Department of Energy's Office of Minority Economic Impact (OMEI). Includes brochure regarding &quot;Assistance for Minorities&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 3</th>
<th>Correspondence, 1982, 1984, 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains letters written to Green Douglas by Senator Strom Thurmond and James B. Edwards as outgoing director of the Department of Energy. Also includes a invitation to the Ronald Reagan Commemorative Stamp Dedication (2005)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 4</th>
<th>Journal: The University South Caroliniana Society, Sixty-eighth Annual Meeting, 24 April, 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Features Green Douglas's collection donation to the Library, with an extended biography (p.35-39). Also includes partial folder listing from the South Caroliniana Library finding aid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 5</th>
<th>Avery Institute Class of 1947 Reunion Materials, 2002, 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains listing of attendees and photocopies of photographs (Color prints are located in Folder 8). Also includes funeral program of Juliabelle E. Marshall, an alum from the Avery Class of 1947.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Series 2: Photographic Material, 1934-2002 and undated

Contains black and white and color photographs from Green Douglas' family and childhood; political career and White House functions; and prints from the Avery Institute Class of 1947 Reunion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 6</th>
<th>Photographs: Childhood and Family, 1934 and undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes prints of Tenetha Green and younger sister sitting in a chair, sepia 8 1/2 x 11 (1934); and color print of her parents and brother, Rozenia and Anglin Green, Sr. and Jr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 7</th>
<th>Photographs: Career and White House Function, 1981, 1984</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Box 1 Folder 8 | Photographs: Avery Institute Class of 1947 Reunion, circa 1947, 2002 |
Color prints from reunion events and black and white photographs of Avery Institute students, circa 1947