Inventory of the
Miriam DeCosta Seabrook and Herbert U. Seabrook Papers, 1882 - 1995
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Miriam DeCosta Seabrook and Herbert U. Seabrook Papers,

Dates: 1882 - 1995

Creator: Seabrook, Herbert U., Sr., 1884-1941; Seabrook, Miriam DeCosta, 1896-1992

Abstract: Miriam DeCosta Seabrook (1896-1992) was an African-American educator born in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1923, she married Dr. Herbert U. Seabrook (1884-1941), an African American physician who practiced medicine in Charleston. They had one son, Herbert U. Seabrook, Jr., who also became a physician.

The collection includes correspondence, certificates, photographs, and other materials related to Miriam DeCosta Seabrook's education at Avery Institute and elsewhere, teaching career, and civic involvement; correspondence, speeches, and reports related to Dr. Herbert Seabrook, Sr.'s community and fraternal affiliations and to his medical career as a private practitioner and director of the Hospital and Training School for Nurses; and correspondence, memorabilia, and financial documents related to the marriage of Miriam and Herbert Seabrook. The collection contains correspondence, photographs, and other materials related to their son, Dr. Herbert Seabrook, Jr. Amerinthia Alston Seabrook, Kenneth Seabrook, and other Seabrook family members are represented. The collection also contains scrapbooks and photographs of Miriam DeCosta Seabrook's relatives, the DeCosta family of Charleston, South Carolina.

Extent: 4.0 linear feet (8 archival boxes, 2 oversize boxes)

Repository: Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston

Call Number: AMN 1094

Language of Material: Material in English

Biographical Note

Miriam Fiorella DeCosta was an African American educator born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1896, the fifth of eleven children born to Benjamin and Anna DeCosta. She graduated from the Avery Normal Institute in 1914. In 1923, Miriam married Dr. Herbert Ulysses Seabrook, an African American physician practicing medicine in Charleston. After the death of her husband, Miriam returned to school and in 1946 received a Bachelor of Science degree from State Teachers College in Montgomery, Alabama. In 1953, she received a Master of Arts from State Agricultural and Mechanical College, Orangeburg, South Carolina. She taught school for the Charleston Negro School District, and later Charleston County District 20. Miriam retired from teaching in 1961, but was rehired for one additional year from 1963-1964.

Miriam DeCosta Seabrook was active in community organizations and clubs, including the Centenary United Methodist Church; the Charleston Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Auxiliary; Entre Nous Bridge Club; Future Teachers of America; and Links, Inc. She died in 1992.
Herbert U. Seabrook was born in Charleston, South Carolina. He was the son of William Seabrook (died circa 1890) and Amerintha Alston Seabrook (1852-1922). Amerintha was the daughter of the Alston Plantation's owner's son and Dinah Alston Drayton (born circa 1838), a slave on the Alston Plantation in Georgia. Dinah and Amerintha moved to Charleston after the Civil War where Dinah married Abadiah Drayton, a freed slave from the Drayton Plantation.

Herbert was sent to live with an aunt in Georgia after financial concerns caused Amerintha to move to New York. Eventually, Herbert joined his mother and siblings in New York where he graduated from public school. He then attended South Carolina State College in Orangeburg and Shaw University for medical school. He earned his medical degree from the University of West Tennessee's Medical College. Herbert began his private practice in 1919 on Spring Street in Charleston. He also worked as the director for the Hospital and Training School for Nurses. Dr. Herbert U. Seabrook, Sr., died in 1941.

Miriam and Hebert Seabrook had one child, Herbert Ulysses Seabrook, Jr., who was was born in Charleston in 1924. He was a graduate of Avery Institute and then Talledega College. He joined the Navy after World War II and served as a swimming instructor. In 1953, Herbert Seabrook, Jr. earned his medical degree from Meharry Medical School. He eventually moved to Dayton, Ohio with his wife, Virginia, and there, he opened a practice as a pediatrician. He had one son, Kenneth Seabrook (1966) with Dorothy Morgan. Dr. Herbert U. Seabrook, Jr., died in 1970.

Collection Overview

The collection includes correspondence, certificates, photographs, and other materials related to Miriam DeCosta Seabrook's education at Avery Institute and elsewhere, teaching career, and civic involvement; correspondence, speeches, and reports related to Dr. Herbert Seabrook, Sr.'s community and fraternal affiliations and to his medical career as a private practitioner and director of the Hospital and Training School for Nurses; and correspondence, memorabilia, and financial documents related to the marriage of Miriam and Herbert Seabrook. The collection contains correspondence, photographs, and other materials related to their son, Dr. Herbert Seabrook, Jr. Amerintha Alston Seabrook, Kenneth Seabrook, and other Seabrook family members are represented. The collection also contains scrapbooks and photographs of Miriam DeCosta Seabrook's relatives, the DeCosta family of Charleston, South Carolina.

Collection Arrangement

1. Miriam Fiorella DeCosta Seabrook, 1882-1992
2. Hebert Ulysses Seabrook, Sr., 1913-1976
3. Miriam DeCosta Seabrook and Herbert Ulysses Seabrook, 1892-1977
4. Herbert Ulysses Seabrook, Jr., 1932-1973
5. Seabrook Family, 1922-1985

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

This collection has restrictions to access. For more information, please read the collection inventory or contact the Avery Research Center: (843) 953-7609.

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Subject Headings

African Americans -- South Carolina -- History -- 20th century.
African American physicians -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
African American teachers -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Avery Normal Institute -- Alumni and alumnae.
DeCosta family.
Hospital and Training School for Nurses (Charleston, S.C.) -- History.
Hospital and Training School for Nurses (Charleston, S.C.) -- Officials and employees.
Physicians -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Seabrook, Amerintha Alston, 1852-1922.
Seabrook family.
Seabrook, Herbert U., Jr., 1924-1970.
Seabrook, Herbert U., Sr., 1884-1941.
Seabrook, Kenneth.
Teachers -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Miriam DeCosta Seabrook and Herbert U. Seabrook Papers, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

Processing Information

Processed by Melissa Bronheim, April 2010
Encoded by Melissa Bronheim, May 2010
Edited by Amanda Ross, May 2010
Funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources supported the collection processing and encoding of this finding aid.
# Detailed Description of the Collection

## 1. Miriam Fiorella DeCosta Seabrook, 1882-1992

### 1.1. Personal

<p>| Box 1 Folder 1 | Birth Certificate, 1896 |
| Box 1 Folder 2-7 | Education, 1911-1953 |
|                 | Charleston Colored Industrial School, 1911 |
|                 | Avery Institute, 1914, 1943 |
|                 | Charleston Summer School, 1922 |
|                 | State Teacher's College, 1945-1946 |
|                 | State Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1951-1953 |
|                 | South Carolina State College, 1953 |
|                 | Civic Involvement, 1926-1987 |
| Box 1 Folder 8-11 | Community and Cultural Organizations, 1933-1987 |
|                   | Young Women's Christian Association, 1933-1985 |
|                   | The Links, Incorporated, 1952-1987(also OPF1/Oversized drawer 10) |
|                   | Women's Auxiliary to the Palmetto Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association of South Carolina, 1957-1981 |
|                   | The Phyllis Wheatley Club, undated |
| Box 1 Folder 12-13 | Sororities: Delta Sigma Theta, 1946-1965 |
| Oversize Paper Folder 1094-OPF/1 | Sororities: Delta Sigma Theta, 1946-1965 |
| Box 1 Folder 14 | Religious Organizations, 1977 and 1988 |
|                 | Centenary United Methodist Church, 1977 and 1988 |
| Box 1 Folder 15-16 | Other Affiliations, 1926-1953 |
|                 | Miscellaneous, 1926-1979 |
|                 | Entre Nous Bridge Club, 1964-1980 |
| Box 1 Folder 17 | Correspondence: Anna Harrenburg DeCosta, 1923-1927 |
| Box 1 Folder 18 | Correspondence: Others, 1928-1959 |
| Box 1 Folder 19 | Correspondence: Miriam DeCosta-Willis, 1955-1992 |
| Box 1 Folder 20-21 | Travel: Itinerary, Scrapbook and Photographs, 1957 |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 22-25</th>
<th>Correspondence and Ephemera: Mixed, 1882-1946 and undated</th>
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<td>Includes wedding invitations, Avery Normal Institute commencement programs, funeral cards, and book covers with inscriptions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2 Folder 26</td>
<td>Receipts, 1922 and 1946</td>
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<td>Box 2 Folder 27</td>
<td>Expenditure and Task Lists, 1946-1980</td>
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<td>Box 2 Folder 28</td>
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<td>Box 2 Folder 29</td>
<td>Estate, Funeral and Memorial, 1964-1993</td>
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<td>Box 8</td>
<td>Estate and Legal Documents</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The estate information closed for research. Please contact the repository for more information.</td>
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<td>Box 2 Folder 30</td>
<td>Newspaper Clippings, undated</td>
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<td>Box 2 Folder 31</td>
<td>Certificates and Examinations, 1922-1960</td>
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<td>Box 2 Folder 32</td>
<td>Letters of Application and Employment, 1946-1950</td>
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<td>Box 2 Folder 33</td>
<td>Retirement, 1952-1963</td>
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<td>Box 2 Folder 34</td>
<td>School Photograph and Ephemera, 1957 and undated</td>
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<td>Box 2 Folder 35</td>
<td>Organizations, 1959-1966</td>
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<td>Future Teachers of America, 1959-1963</td>
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<td>Palmetto Education Association, 1963-1966</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Hebert Ulysses Seabrook, Sr., 1913-1976</td>
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<td>2.1. Personal</td>
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<td>Box 2 Folder 36</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Shaw University, 1913-1937</td>
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<td>Box 2 Folder 37-39</td>
<td>Community and Cultural Organizations, 1923-1944</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Boy Scouts of America, circa 1923-1942</td>
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<td></td>
<td>National Council of the Young Men's Christian Association, 1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unity and Friendship Society, 1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2 Folder 40-41</td>
<td>Fraternal Organizations, 1919-1926</td>
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Knights of Pythias, 1919
Freemasonry, 1922-1926

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Governmental Groups, 1928
City of Charleston: Housing Committee, 1928

Box 2 Folder 43
Other Affiliations, 1939-1942
National Travel Club, 1939-1942

Box 2 Folder 44
Correspondence, 1914-1940

Box 2 Folder 45
Correspondence: Herbert U. Seabrook, Jr., 1942 and undated

Box 2 Folder 46
Hebert U. Seabrook: Funeral and Memorial, 1942

Box 2 Folder 47
McClenann-Banks Memorial Hospital Fund, 1976

Box 2 Folder 48
Wallet, undated
Contains photos, receipts, medical information and other miscellaneous items.

2.2. Professional

Box 2 Folder 50
Professional Correspondence, 1919-1941

Box 3 Folder 51-52
Medical Practice, 1920s-1942

Prescription Pad
Physicians' Monthly Call List
Receipt Books, 1925-1942

Hospital and Training School for Nurses

Box 3 Folder 53
Budget and Correspondence, 1929-1939

Box 8
Medical Records, 1941-1942
These medical records contain diagnostic and patient information and, as a result, are closed to research until 2060. Please contact the repository for more information.

Box 3 Folder 54
Speeches, circa 1930s
Includes speeches, reports, and other papers written by Dr. Herbert Seabrook, Sr., on medical topics, public health issues, physicians, and more philosophical statements on the relationship between man and health.

Box 3 Folder 55
Speeches: State Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1938-1941

Box 3 Folder 59
Affiliations, 1935-1937
John A. Andrew Clinical Society, 1935

Box 3 Folder 61 Army: Correspondence and Registration

obox 1094-OBX/1 Army: Awards, 1941-1942 and undated

Box 3 Folder 60 Selective Service System: Physical Examination Regulations, 1941

3. Miriam DeCosta Seabrook and Herbert Ulysses Seabrook, 1892-1977

Box 3 Folder 63 Property and Real Estate: Titles and Deeds, 1892-1936

Box 3 Folder 64-65 Property and Real Estate: Property Information, 1923-1983

  37 Ashe Street
  6 Poinsette Street
  23 Westcott Court
  Lincolnville, South Carolina
  Maryville, South Carolina
  Maryville, South Carolina

Box 3-4 Folder 66-67 Correspondence, 1917-1937

  Includes letters and cards between Herbert and Miriam Seabrook.

Box 4 Folder 68-73 Financial Material, 1918-1977

  Includes stocks, cancelled checks and stubs, and tax receipts.

Box 5-7 Folder Photographs and Scrapbooks, circa 1894-1993

  Includes family and friends in Charleston, South Carolina as well as other locations.

Box 5-7 Folder Peters Family, 1960s-1970s

obox 1094-OSB/1 Wedding: Marriage Certificate, 1923

obox 1094-OSB/2 Wedding: Gown Bodice

Box 4 Folder 74 Wedding: Correspondence and Newspaper Announcement, 1923

Box 4 Folder 75 Insurance Policies, 1942-1946

Box 4 Folder 76 Herbert U. Seabrook, Sr. Estate, 1942-1947

  Includes correspondence to Miriam D. Seabrook as estate executrix.

4. Herbert Ulysses Seabrook, Jr., 1932-1973

  4.1. Personal
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Life Insurance Policies, 1932-1947

Correspondence: Miriam DeCosta Seabrook, 1933-1970

Correspondence: Other, 1941 and undated

Education, 1941-1951
Avery Institute, 1941
Talladega College, 1941-1946
Meharry Medical College Yearbook, 1949-1951

The Unity and Friendship Society Membership Certificate, 1942-1943

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Photographs: Herbert Seabrook, Jr., 1923-1940s

Photographs: Herbert Seabrook Jr. and Virginia Seabrook, 1940s-1968

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4.2. Professional

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5. Seabrook Family, 1922-1985

5.1. Amerintha Alston Seabrook, 1922-1939

Funeral Arrangements: Receipts and Lists, 1922

Estate: Correspondence, 1922

Estate Finances: Carolina Savings Bank Checks, 1922-1926

Estate Finances: Charleston County Tax Receipts, 1922-1941

Estate: Property Repair Receipts, 1926-1934

Estate: Home Insurance Policy, 1939

5.2. Kenneth Seabrook, 1977-1985

Correspondence: Miriam DeCosta Seabrook, 1977-1981

Box 5 Folder 98  Education: Report Card and Commencement Program, 1980
Box 5 Folder 98  Photographs, 1980s

5.3. Other Seabrook Family Members, 1985-1993
Box 5 Folder 99  "A Historical Account of the Seabrook Family of Charleston, South Carolina" by Mary Williams Stewart, 1985
Box 5 Folder 99  Photocopied Photographs, 1993
Box 5 Folder 99  Correspondence: Miriam DeCosta-Willis and Mark G. Barksdale, 1993
Box 5 Folder 99  Opal Florence Seabrook Dodery: History, 1993