

JACK AYERS COLLECTION
PP0002

Descriptive Summary

Creator Ayers, Jack, 1923-2003

Title Jack Ayers Collection

Accession Number PP0002

Physical Description Two small archival boxes of letters to/from the Mr. Ayers and his wife.

Inclusive Dates 1942-1956

Language Note English

Administrative Information

Repository

Mercer University Library
Archives and Digital Initiatives
1501 Mercer University Dr.
Macon, Georgia 31207
478-301-2968
archives@mercer.edu

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Jack Ayers Collection. Archives and Digital Initiatives, Mercer University Library, Macon, GA.

Acquisition

Gift of Bunny Ayers, second wife and widow, 2004

Processing note

Inventory prepared by Rachel Lukavsky and Kathryn Wright (2020)

Restrictions on access

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

Jack Ayers was born on September 7, 1923 in Akron, OH. At some point in his early life, Mr. Ayers moved from Akron to Evans County, Georgia.

Mr. Ayers was baptized at Evans Baptist Church in Evans County in August 1934. He attended Evans High School. He began his formal education at Brewton-Parker Junior College and attended from 1940-1942. There is no record of him receiving a degree from the school. He then attended Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, from 1942-1947, where he received an A.B. degree. During his time at Furman, Mr. Ayers also served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Force from 1943-1945. He also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas from 1947-1952, where he earned a B.D.

Mr. Ayers was ordained at Harmony Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, on June 1, 1948. He went on to pastor Baptist churches in Georgia, South Carolina, and Texas. He served as the Director of Missions for the Dodge County Baptist Association (1966-1972) and the Central Georgia Area of the Georgia Baptist Convention (1972-1989).

Mr. Ayers was married to Daphne Kirkland from November 11, 1945, until her death in 1984. The couple had 4 children. Mr. Ayers was married to Marion “Bunny” Martin from 1985 until his death on August 17, 2003.

Scope and Content Note

Most of the letters in this collection relate to a member of “The Greatest Generation” and “The Girl He Left Behind”—but later married. This collection contains many letters between Mr. Ayers to his wife, Daphne, as well as from family members and friends. There are also copies of Mr. Ayers’ Veterans Administration Financial Records, photographs, mixed materials, notebooks, eyeglasses, lists, booklets, and cards.

Subjects

Ayers, Jack (1923-2003)
Baptists – Georgia – Clergy
Brewton-Parker Junior College
Dodge County Baptist Association
Furman University
Georgia Baptist Convention
Harmony Baptist Church (Fort Worth, Tx.)
Missions
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
U.S. Army Air Force

Related Material

None

Container List

SERIES 1: Correspondence: Jack Ayers to Daphne Kirkland, 1942-1945 (Box 1)

SERIES 2: Correspondence: To the Ayers (Box 2)

Folder 2/1: 1945, miscellaneous to Daphne Kirkland

Folder 2/2: 1946-1949

Folder 2/3: 1950

Folder 2/4: 1951

Folder 2/5: 1952

Folder 2/6: 1953

Folder 2/7: undated

SERIES 3: Pamphlets and notebooks (Folder 2/8)

SERIES 4: Personal effects (Folder 2/9)

SERIES 5: Photographs (Folder 2/10)