



# **Preliminary Guide to the Muriel Henderson Papers, 1900-2009**

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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## Summary

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### **Collection Title:**

Muriel Henderson papers, 1900-2009

### **Creator:**

Henderson, Muriel, 1920-2009

### **Abstract:**

Muriel Henderson (1920-2009) and her husband, Lawrence (Larry), were originally from Tacoma, Washington. They served as missionaries to Angola from 1947 to 1969 and eventually retired to Durham in the 1990s. The bulk of the papers relate Muriel Henderson's personal and family history (for the Woods and Henderson families). She lived with her husband Lawrence (Larry) Henderson in Angola doing missionary work from 1947 to 1969 and the collection includes many materials from this time (including journals and letters). Henderson kept in touch with people from Angola throughout the remainder of her life. The collection also includes many materials documenting her family's life in the early 20th century in the Pacific Northwest (mostly in or around Tacoma, Washington), including photographs, diaries, children's drawings and letters, school report cards, diplomas, letters, recollections (many typed) from family members, and ledgers of household expenses. Acquired as part of the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture.

### **Extent:**

18 Linear Feet  
13500 Items

### **Physical Location:**

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

### **Language:**

English

### **Language:**

Material in English

### **Collection ID:**

RL.00531

### **Permalink:**

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/hendersonmuriel/>

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Muriel Henderson Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

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## **Background**

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### **Scope and Content**

The bulk of the papers relate to Muriel Henderson's personal and family history (for the Woods and Henderson families). She lived with her husband Lawrence (Larry) Henderson in Angola doing missionary work from 1947 to 1969. The collection includes many materials from this time (including journals and letters), and she kept in touch with people from Angola throughout the remainder of her life. The collection also includes many materials documenting her and her family's life in the early 20th century in the Pacific Northwest (mostly in or around Tacoma, Washington), including photographs, diaries, children's drawings and letters, school report cards, diplomas, letters, recollections (many typed) from family members, and ledgers of household expenses.

### **Biographical/Historical**

Muriel W. Henderson was born on June 20, 1920 in Tacoma, Washington, and died on June 9, 2009 in Chapel Hill, NC. Her family and friends knew her as Ki. She lived a full and active life with a wonderful will to experience as much as possible. She spent 22 years as a missionary in Angola with her husband Larry, leaving there in 1969 when the colonial war for independence made it hard to continue the work. She and Larry moved to New Jersey where he worked for the mission board in New York and she worked in social services. She loved working with African students at the Africa-America Institute. Ki and Larry finished their careers in Florida, first in Leisure City and then at Sun City Center. From 1985 to 1991 they lived in Portugal, where they had first gone in 1947 to learn Portuguese for their work in Angola. Ki helped Larry research in Portuguese archives for his book on the church in Angola. While there, they reconnected with many old friends from Angola. In 1991 they moved to Durham, NC and became active in the life of Pilgrim United Church of Christ. Ki was a life-long letter writer and corresponded with friends and colleagues all over the world.

Biographical sketch taken from Muriel's obituary, available at: <http://www.cremationsocietync.com/sitemaker/sites/Cremat2/obit.cgi?user=muriel-henderson>.

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## Arrangement

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The collection has not been processed, but materials have been grouped within each box as best as possible for preservation and ease of use.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

## **Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

## **Acquisition Information**

The Muriel Henderson Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 2009.

## **Processing Information**

Accessioned by Angela Diveglia and Meghan Lyon, October 2009

Encoded by Meghan Lyon, October 2009

Materials may not have been ordered and described beyond their original condition.

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## **Names and Subjects**

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- Genealogy
- Missions -- Angola
- Angola
- Tacoma (Wash.)
- Scrapbooks
- Henderson, Muriel
- Henderson, Muriel, 1920-2009
- Henderson, Lawrence

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## **Collection Inventory**

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### **Accession (2009-0227)**

**Physical Description:** 12 boxes and 1 oversize folder

**Scope and Contents note**

The bulk of the papers relate to her personal and family history (for the Woods and Henderson families). She lived with her husband Lawrence (Larry) Henderson in Angola doing missionary work from 1947 to 1969; the collection includes many materials from this time (including journals and letters), and she kept in touch with people from Angola throughout the remainder of her life. The collection also includes many materials documenting her and her family's life in the early 20th century in the Pacific Northwest (mostly in or around Tacoma, Washington), including photographs, diaries, children's drawings and letters, school report cards, diplomas, letters, recollections (many typed) from family members, and ledgers of household expenses.

Personal correspondence	Box 1
Diaries	Box 1
Ledger books	Box 1
Diplomas	Box 1
Memory box with letters, early 20th-century photograph, statue, and wood/metal harmonica	Box 1
Court proceedings for a case between her parents and the hospital where their infant son was burned when he rolled into a radiator	Box 1
Personal correspondence	Box 2
Newspapers	Box 2
Binders of family items, including letters, announcements, clippings, children's artwork, etc. (4)	Box 2
Angola mission work	Box 2
Family photographs	Box 3
Correspondence	Box 3
Calendars	Box 3
Personal notes	Box 3
Family letters box, 1922	Box 3

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Other early letters, 1900s-1920s	Box 3
Ralph Woods memorial book	Box 3
Yearbook	Box 4
Miscellaneous correspondence	Box 4
Family photographs	Box 4
"Memories" folders	Box 4
Newspaper clippings	Box 4
Old passports	Box 4
Notebooks with personal notes and records of letters sent/received	Box 4
Correspondence	Box 4
Newspaper clippings	Box 4
Family photographs	Box 4
Personal correspondence	Box 6
Scrapbook	Box 6
Personal correspondence	Box 7
Address books	Box 7
Newspaper clippings	Box 7
Personal correspondence	Box 8
Newsletters	Box 8
Newspaper clippings	Box 8
Christmas cards	Box 9
Address book	Box 9
Photographs, 1940s	Box 9
Report cards	Box 9

Personal correspondence	Box 9
Personal correspondence	Box 10
News clippings	Box 10
Photographs	Box 10
Autograph books, early 20th century	Box 11
Address books	Box 11
Muriel Henderson's baby book	Box 11
Tintype photograph of male relatives	Box 11
Books and diaries (some books discuss family members; most diaries belong to Muriel)	Box 12
Memorial service materials (including a DVD), 2009	Box 12
Scrapbook pages	Box 12 > Oversize-folder 1

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