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Griffith (Ada Lee) Papers, 1893-1969

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Ada Lee Griffith Family Papers, 1893-1969

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Griffith Family
Title:	Ada Lee Griffith Family Papers
Dates:	1893-1969
Creator	Ada Lee Girand Griffith (1876-1965) was an active member of the
Abstract:	Texas Democratic Party as well as a number of civic, historical, and social organizations.
Content	Correspondence, planning documents, printed material, and
Abstract:	photographs gathered and produced in connection with civic, political, organizational, historical research, and personal activities are contained in the Ada Lee Griffith Family Papers.
Identification:	Col 914
Extent:	6 Document boxes, 3 oversize boxes, 2 artifacts boxes
Language:	Materials are in English.
Repository:	DRT Collection at Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Biographical Note

Ada Lee Girand was born on January 14, 1876 in Austin, Texas, to Major Francis Washington Girand and Ann Barton Crozier. She received her college education at St. Mary's College in Dallas, majoring in music and history, and did post-graduate work at Boston University and Columbia University in Poetry and Biblical Literature.

Ada Lee Girand married Thomas Bond Griffith (1857-1955) in 1895. They were the parents of two children, Francis Edward Griffith and Mary Lavinia Griffith. The family lived in Terrell and Dallas.

Mrs. Griffith was active in the Texas Democratic Party most of her adult life, and was a frequent delegate to state and national conventions. She also served as one of the first women on the State Democratic Executive Committee, representing the Sixth Senatorial District.

Mrs. Griffith was also active in a number of civic, historical, and social organizations. She was appointed to the Texas Centennial Commission in 1934, and was involved in planning the 1936 celebration. A 50-year member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Mrs. Griffith served as Poet Laureate of the DRT from 1945-1947. She was involved with numerous other organizations until her death, February 22, 1965.

Mary Lavinia Griffith, the youngest child of Ada Lee and Thomas B. Griffith, was born June 25, 1906 in Terrell, and attended St. Mary's College in Dallas, and the Arizona College of Music. She was married in 1930 to Benjamin B. Sanders.

Mrs. Sanders was involved in ranching activities on family property in Bastrop County. She was also a member of numerous organizations, including the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She died in 1993.

Scope and Content Note

Correspondence, planning documents, printed material, and photographs gathered and produced in connection with civic, political, organizational, historical research, and personal activities are contained in the Ada Lee Griffith Family Papers.

The papers have been divided into five subgroups, according to the activities of family members, the bulk of the material connected with the activities of Ada Lee Griffith. The Civic Activities subgroup consists entirely of the material related to Mrs. Griffith's service on the Board of Directors of the Texas Centennial Commission, the group charged with planning and operating the 1936 celebration of Texas independence. Included is correspondence among members of the commission, along with unofficial correspondence concerning the event; planning material; minutes of commission meetings; proposals from cities interested in hosting the Centennial Exposition; a detailed series of press releases on Centennial events, and on events in Texas history; printed material; and ephemera.

A second significant subgroup consists of material related to political activities. Of particular significance are papers related to the Democratic Party, at the state and national levels. Included are letters concerning party activities and political news; programs and invitations connected with party events; and booklets and pamphlets. Smaller amounts of material are related to other specific political organizations. Also significant is the general political material, which includes letters concerning political events in general; material produced by a variety of political groups; ephemera; and publications. The issue of race relations in the South is often noted in this material. Most of the political material is connected with Mrs. Griffith, an active member of the Democratic Party.

The Organizational Activities subgroup includes small amounts of material from a number of different bodies, most of it scattered and not inclusive. Again, most of the material is

related to Mrs. Griffith, though some is connected to her husband, T.B. Griffith, and her daughter, Lavinia Sanders.

Historical Organizations and Activities gathers letters and printed material related to historical research and preservation, most of it in connection with Texas history.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No restrictions. The collection is open for research.

Usage Restrictions

Please be advised that the library does not hold the copyright to most of the material in its archival collections. It is the responsibility of the researcher to secure those rights when needed. Permission to reproduce does not constitute permission to publish. The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming to the laws of copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Ada Lee Griffith Family Papers, 1893-1969, Col 914, DRT Collection at Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

Acquisition Information

Donated by Mrs. Lavinia Sanders

Processing Information

Processed by Warren Stricker, 1991

Edited by Rebeka Delgado, 2020 June.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Ada Lee Griffith Family Papers, 1893-1969

Personal Papers are organized into series by document type, consisting primarily of printed material.

Subgroup/Series/Subseries Outline

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Box	Folder	
		Texas Centennial Commission
		Correspondence
1	1	1932-1934, 24 items.
1	2	1935-1936, n.d., 15 items.
		Minutes
1	3	Texas Centennial Commission, 1934-1936, 8 items.
1	4	Texas Centennial Historical and Cultural Planning Committee, 1935, 1 item.
1	5	Texas Centennial Supervising Authority for Historical and Cultural Celebrations, 1935, 1 item.
		Planning Material
1	6	Plan of Operation and Schedule of Appropriations, ca. 1934, 1 item.
		Reports
1	7	"Selling the Texas Centennial to Texas: A Report on the Activity of the Publicity Committee, July 6, 1934 to September 8, 1934," 1 item.
1	8	"Commemorating a Hundred Years of Texas History," ca. 1934, 2 items.
1	9	"Report of Secretary of Texas Centennial Commission," 1935, 1 item.
		Proposals-Texas Centennial Exposition
1	10	Austin, Recommendations pertaining to State buildings, grounds, and institutions, 1934, 1 item. American Legion Texas Centennial Committee, recommendation concerning Texas State Memorial Museum in Austin, 1934, 1 item.

Box	Folder	
1	11	Dallas, "Address of the City of Dallas to the Texas Centennial Commission Tendering Financial Support for the Central Centennial Exposition," 1934, 1 item.
1	12	Houston, Specifications of bid for Centennial Central Exposition, 2 items.
1	13	San Antonio, Centennial exposition, 1934, 1 item.
1	14	Legislation S.B. No. 22, "An Act to provide for holding a Texas Centennial Celebration or Celebrations in 1936," 1934, 1 item. Senate Journal, February 27, 1934, contains S.B. No. 22, 1 item.
1	15	Speeches and Addresses Addresses Before the Texas Centennial Commission, 1934, 1 item. Dale Miller, address over WOAI, n.d., 1 item.
1	16	Press Releases January 4-17, 1935, 42 items.
2	17	January 19-31, 1935, 43 items.
2	18	February 1-14, 1935, 52 items.
2	19	February 15-28, 1935, 47 items.
2	20	March 1-13, 1935, 41 items.
2	21	March 14-28, 1935, 33 items.
2	22	April 1-15, 1935, 34 items.
2	23	April 16-30, 1935, 21 items.
2	24	May 1935, 4 items.
2	25	Not Dated, 1 item
Box 7 (Oversize)		Broadside "The Centennial Contest," San Antonio Centennial Committee, ca. 1934, 1 item.

Box	Folder	
2	26	Periodicals <i>Texas Centennial News</i> July 31, 1934 (incomplete) August 14, 1934 August 21, 1934 August 28, 1934 September 4, 1934
2	27	<i>Texas Press Centennial News</i> July 31, 1934
2	28	<i>Texas Centennial Special Train News</i> March 12, 1935 March 27, 1935 May 1, 1935 March 30, 1936
2	29	<i>Texas Centennial Review</i> February 5, 1936 February 26, 1936 April 1, 1936 April 8, 1936 May 6, 1936
2	30	<i>Centennial News</i> February 1, 1936
2	31	Resolutions 1934, 2 items.
2	32	Booklets and Pamphlets 1934, n.d., 6 items.
2	33	Invitations 1934, 1936, 2 items.
2	34	Clippings 1934, 1935, n.d., 8 items.

Box	Folder	
2	35	<p>Miscellaneous Material</p> <p>Itinerary, Texas Centennial Commission, October 13, [?], 1 item.</p> <p>"Suggestions to County Chairmen, Texas Centennial Committee," n.d., 1 item.</p> <p>Tribute to Margie Neal, n.d., 1 item.</p>

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Box	Folder	
3	36	<p>Democratic Party</p> <p>Correspondence</p> <p>1932-1934, 1936, 1938-1940, 1942, 1946, 1948, 1956, 1957, 1964, n.d., 31 items.</p>
3	37	<p>Rosters</p> <p>State Democratic Executive Committee, 1938, 1940, 2 items.</p>
3	38	<p>Proposal</p> <p>Mineral Wells Chamber of Commerce, proposal for location of 1940 Texas Democratic Convention, n.d., 1 item.</p>
3	39	<p>Booklets and Pamphlets</p> <p><i>Delegates and Alternates to the Democratic National Convention</i>, 1936, 1 item.</p> <p><i>State Democratic Executive Committee Bulletin: Procedure</i>, 1939, 1 item.</p>
3	40	<p><i>Texas Democratic Organizations 1940</i>, 1 item.</p> <p>Texas Democrats: How to Prepare for and What to do in Democratic Precinct Conventions, 1944, 1 item.</p>
3	41	<p>Newsletters</p> <p>Texas Democratic Newsletter, February 20, 1959, 1 item.</p>
3	42	<p>Clippings</p> <p>General, 1952, 1956, n.d., 9 items.</p>
3	43	<p>Ada Lee Griffith, 1940, 1952, n.d., 8 items.</p>
3	44	<p>Programs</p> <p>Democratic National Convention, 1932, 1 item.</p>
3	45	<p>Banquet in honor of John Nance Garner and James A. Farley, 1933, 1 item.</p>

Box	Folder	
3	46	Dallas Jackson Day Dinner, 1936, 1 item. First State Institute of Government, 1941, 1 item. Annual Jackson Day Dinner of Texas, 1941, 1 item. Democratic Victory Dinner, 1967, 1 item.
3	47	Campaign fliers 1940, 1948, n.d., 7 items.
3	48	Invitations 1936, 1952, 1967, 3 items.
3	49	Miscellaneous ephemera 1940, 1 item.
Box 9		Artifacts Name tag, State Democratic Convention, 1938, 1 item.
3	50	Young Democratic Clubs of Texas Correspondence 1938-1939, 1955, 6 items.
3	51	Printed Material 1939, n.d., 3 items.
3	52	Republican Party Correspondence 1954, 1 item.
3	52	Pamphlet School of Politics for Precinct Workers, ca. 1954, 1 item.
3	53	Democratic Woman's Luncheon Club/Public Affairs Luncheon Club 1941-1942, 1943, 1945, 1954, 1956-1957, 6 items.
3	54	League of Women Voters Newsletter, June 1952, 1 item. Rosters, 1951, 1952, 3 items.
3	55	General Political Material Correspondence 1938, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1946, 1957, 1958, n.d., 15 items.
3	56	Speeches and Addresses Congressional Record reprints, 1930, 1935, 1936, 1938, 1939, 1943, 1946, 1956, 8 items.

Box	Folder	
3	57	1940, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1948, n.d., 8 items.
3	58	Newsletters "Closer-Ups" of the Week's Trends, December 10, 1945, 1 item. Texas Political Survey, August [1943?], 1 item Human Events, April 20, 1957, 1 item.
3	59	Handbills 1952, 1962, n.d., 6 items.
3	60	Rosters Texas Congressional delegation, n.d., 1 item. Texas Senate, n.d., 1 item. Texas House, n.d., 1 item.
3	61	Essays, papers, etc. n.d., 2 items.
4	62	Reprints Garland, R.C., "Racial Equality and Elections," The Southern Weekly, July 29, 1944, 1 item.
4	63	Clippings General, 1940, 1942, 1950, 1952, 1953, 1967, n.d., 17 items.
Box 7 (Oversize)		Race relations, 1943, 1956, 1957, n.d., 4 items.
4	64	Programs Texas Inauguration, 1953, 1 item. Texas Inauguration, 1957, 1 item.
4	65	Texas Inauguration, 1967, 1 item.
4	66	Texas Inauguration, 1969, 1 item.
4	67	Invitations 1935, 1949, 1961, 1967, 4 items.
4	68	Miscellaneous Printed Material 1936, 1952, 2 items.
		Booklets (see separation sheets)

Box	Folder	
4	69	Periodicals <i>American Forum of the Air</i> , 1944-1945, 22 items. <i>The Southern Weekly</i> (see separation sheets)

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Box	Folder	
5	70	The American Woman's League 1911, 1 item.
5	71	Daughters of the Republic of Texas Correspondence, 1945-1947, 6 items.
5	72	Minutes, 1946, 1947, 3 items.
5	73	Report, 1946, 1 item.
5	74	Certificate, 1935, 1 item.
5	75	Programs, 1938, 1945, 1967, n.d., 4 items.
5	76	Yearbooks, proceedings, pamphlets, 1936, 1938, 1945-1946, 1957-1958, n.d., 6 items.
5	77	Miscellaneous, 1905, 1944, 1947, 3 items.
Box 9		Artifacts Name tag, 1950, 1 item.
5	78	Descendants of the Signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence 1940, n.d., 3 items.
5	79	Federation of Women's Clubs of Kaufman County, Texas Directory, 1938-1939, 1 item.
5	80	Kaufman Chamber of Commerce 1943, ca. 1946, n.d., 3 items.
5	81	Pan American Round Table Letter, 1943, 1 item. Newsletter, December 1957, 1 item. Pamphlet, n.d., 1 item. Resolutions, n.d., 3 items.
5	82	Yearbooks, 1948-1949, 1951-1952, 2 items (clippings attached).

Box	Folder	
5	83	The Pioneer Club Yearbooks, 1945-1946, 1951-1952, 2 items.
5	84	Poetry Society of Texas 1949, n.d., 2 items.
5	85	Sons of the Republic of Texas 1936, 1941, 1942, 1952, 4 items.
5	86	Terrell State Hospital 1941, n.d., 3 items.
		Texas Woman's Press Association (see separation sheets)
5	87	Woman's Benefit Association The Woman's Benefit Association Review, November 1951, 1 item.

HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Box	Folder	
		General Historical Material
		Correspondence
5	88	Old cemetery, Dallas, 1948-1950, 5 items.
5	89	Normann painting, 1939, 3 items (including photograph).
5	90	General, 1908, 1935, 1939, 1955, 1956, 5 items.
		Periodicals (see separation sheets)
5	91	Histories and Reminiscences Adair, W.S., "When the Steamer Sallie Docked at Dallas," n.d., 1 item. Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce, "The Old Stone Fort," n.d., 1 item.
5	92	Photographs Sam Houston home, Independence, Texas, 1897, 1 item.
5	93	Booklets and Pamphlets 1907, 1936, 1948, n.d., 11 items. (see also separation sheets)

Box	Folder	
5	94	Clippings General, 1937, 1944, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1965, n.d., 13 items.
Box 7 (Oversize)		General-Oversize, 1931, 1932, 1934, 1963, n.d., 6 items.
5	95	Programs 1937, 1939, 3 items.
5	96	Handbills One hundred third anniversary, signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence, 1939, 8 items.
5	97	Invitations 1939, n.d., 2 items.
5	98	Advertisements n.d., 2 items.
5	99	Texas State Historical Survey Committee 1956, 1963, n.d., 3 items.

PERSONAL PAPERS

Box	Folder	
6	100	Correspondence General 1908, 1933, 1934, 1940, 1941, 1947, 1958, 1959, 9 items.
6	101	n.d., 1 item (includes photograph of Hilda Weinert).
6	102	Family n.d., 1 item.
6	103	House remodelling 1934, 1935, 4 items (includes specifications and estimates).
6	104	Resolution Texas House Concurrent Resolution, inviting Mrs. T.B. Griffith to San Jacinto Day exercises, n.d., 1 item.
6	105	Photographs 1907, 1939, n.d., 4 items.

Box	Folder	
Box 7 (Oversize)		<p>Newspapers</p> <p>Brenham <i>Banner-Press</i>, March 2, 1936.</p> <p>Terrell Index, January 26, 1951.</p> <p>Terrell Morning Index, July 13, 1951.</p>
6	106	<p>Periodicals</p> <p><i>S.M.U. News-Digest</i>, March 21, 1944, 1 item.</p> <p><i>St. Matthew's Cathedral Bulletin</i>, February 17, 1952, 1 item.</p> <p><i>Bible Society Record</i>, May 1952, 1 item.</p> <p><i>Town North</i>, June 1952, 1 item.</p> <p><i>Pathfinder</i>, ca. 1952, 1 item.</p> <p><i>Town Journal</i>, November 1955, 1 item.</p>
6	107	<p><i>Down Home in Dixie</i>, Summer 1957, 1 item.</p> <p><i>Weekly Unity</i>, 1957, 2 items.</p> <p><i>Texas Forests and Texans</i>, March-April 1962, 1 item.</p> <p><i>Texas Forest News</i>, October-November-December 1962, 1 item.</p> <p><i>Captain Billy's Whiz Bang</i>, n.d., 1 item.</p> <p>(see also separation sheets)</p>
6	108	<p>Books and Pamphlets</p> <p><i>The World's Columbian Exposition</i>, 1893, 1 item.</p> <p>Jordon, Maggie Olive, <i>Scattered Rose Leaves</i>, 1903, 1 item.</p> <p><i>Utah and Her People</i>, ca. 1903, 1 item.</p> <p><i>Reminiscences of the Oldest Hotel in America</i>, 1907, 1 item.</p>
6	109	<p><i>The Pacific Northwest Welcomes the American Legion</i>, 1932, 1 item.</p> <p>Retzek, Rev. Henry, <i>"Food" for Thought</i>, 1945, 1 item.</p> <p><i>Beautiful Nacogdoches</i>, n.d., 2 items.</p> <p><i>The Chummy Book of Little Ships</i>, n.d., 1 item.</p> <p><i>Ration Guide and Shipping List</i>, n.d., 1 item.</p> <p>Kaufman County Episcopal churches, ca. 1948, 1 item.</p> <p>(see also separation sheets)</p>
6	110	<p>Reminiscences</p> <p>n.d., 3 items.</p>

Box	Folder	
6	111	Prayers 1942, 1 item.
6	112	Clippings General, 1905, 1916, 1927, 1938, 1945-1951, 1956, 1957, 29 items.
Box 7 (Oversize)		General-Oversize, 1941, 3 items.
6	113	Griffith Family, 1926, 1936, 1953, 1955, 15 items.
6	114	Programs 1930, 1964, 1968, 4 items.
6	115	Invitations 1923, 1935, 3 items.
Box 7 (Oversize)		1923, 1 item.
6	116	Christmas Cards 1955, n.d., 4 items.
6	117	Handbills n.d., 2 items.
6	118	Miscellaneous ephemera 1896, 1897, 1903, n.d., 7 items.
6	119	Notes n.d., 5 items.
6	120	Miscellaneous Material 1918, 1956, n.d., 7 items.
Box 8		Artifacts Dress Cloth Lace
Box 9		Military insignia, n.d., 3 items. Ribbon, n.d., 1 item.

Separation Sheet

Subgroup: CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Series/Subseries: Texas Centennial Commission

Items	New Location
Proof: Texas Invites you to her State Wide Centennial Celebrations	Poster and print collection

Subgroup: POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Series/Subseries: General Political Material

Items	New Location
Hicks, Wilson, ed. <i>This is Ike: The Picture Story of the Man</i> . New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1952.	923.1 E36h
<i>The Men Who Lead Texas</i> (from <i>Texas Parade</i> , January 1962).	Vertical Files
<i>Revised Primary and General Election Laws of Texas</i> . Houston: Clarke and Courts, 1938.	342.07 T355r 1938

Subgroup: POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Series/Subseries: General Political Material/Publications

Items	New Location
<i>The Southern Weekly</i>	Periodicals
Vol. 44, no. 44, November 4, 1944	
Vol. 44, no. 45, November 11, 1944	
Vol. 44, no 51, December 23, 1944	
Vol. 44, no. 52, December 30, 1944	
Vol. 45, no. 1, January 6, 1945	
Vol. 45, no. 11, March 17, 1945	
Vol. 45, no. 12, March 24, 1945	
Vol. 45, no. 13, March 31, 1945	
Vol. 45, no. 22, June 6, 1945	
Vol. 45, no. 24, June 20, 1945	
Vol. 45, no. 25, June 27, 1945	
Vol. 45, no. 26, July 4, 1945	
Vol. 45, no. 27, July 11, 1945	
Vol. 45, no. 29, July 25, 1945	
Vol. 45, no. 43, December 12, 1945	
Vol. 46, no. 21, May 22, 1946	
Vol. 48, no. 29, July 28, 1948	
Vol. 49, no. 13, March 20, 1949	

Subgroup: ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Series/Subseries: Texas Woman's Press Association

Items	New Location
<i>Fourteenth Annual Convention of the Texas Woman's Press Association, San Antonio, Texas, May 7 and 8, 1907. 50 pp.</i>	Vertical files

Subgroup: HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES**Series/Subseries: General Historical Material/Publications**

Items	New Location
<i>Texas Field and National Guardsman</i> . Vol. XIV, no. 5, May 1912 (on the restoration of the Alamo.	Periodicals
Blount, Eugene H. <i>San Jacinto's Place in History</i> . 1926. 15 pp.	Vertical files

Subgroup: PERSONAL PAPERS

Items	New Location
<i>Texas Bar Journal</i> . Vol. 18, No. 4. April 22, 1955.	
Gaston, Mrs. Edwin. <i>Life Story of a Sweet Girl Graduate</i> . Dallas: Art Printing Co., 1925	813.52 G256l
Giles, Bascomb. <i>Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office 1938-1940</i> . Austin, Texas: Van Boeckmann-Jones Co, 1940.	333.106 T355r
Mayfield, John S. <i>The Treasurer's Report</i> . Austin, Texas: A.C. Baldwin and Sons, 1928.	811.52 M468t
Rosenfield, John, Jr. <i>Texas History Movies</i> . Dallas: The Southwest Press, 1926.	976.4 T355hm
<i>St. Matthew's, 1857-1947</i> . n.p., n.d.	Oversize 283.7642812 M821s
Texas Highway Department. <i>Official Map</i> . Austin, 1946.	Oversize Map 912.764 T355t 1946
Texas Highway Department. <i>Official Map</i> . Austin, 1947.	Oversize Map 912.764 T355t 1947