

ALICE WALWORTH GRAHAM PAPERS

(Mss. 4295)

Inventory

Compiled by

Kate James
2003

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Revised 2009

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Use of manuscript materials. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please fill out a call slip specifying the materials you wish to see. Consult the Container List for location information needed on the call slip.

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Proper acknowledgment of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

SUMMARY

- Size.** 5.3 linear feet (7 boxes; 3 ms. vols.; and 2 OS folders)
- Geographic locations.** New Orleans, Louisiana; and Natchez, Mississippi.
- Inclusive dates.** 1884-1992, undated
- Bulk dates.** 1922-1975
- Languages.** English, French and Danish.
- Summary.** Correspondence, literary manuscripts, scrapbooks and printed and graphic materials related to the personal and professional affairs of novelist Alice Walworth Graham. Also included is the correspondence of her mother, Lela Gordon Walworth, and her sister, Mary Walworth Whitaker.
- Organization.** The papers are divided into two major subgroups: Professional papers and Personal and family papers. Professional papers are divided into series. Series are arranged chronologically except for literary manuscripts, which are arranged chronologically by work, and then by completeness. Personal and family papers are divided into series. The correspondence series contains three subseries, which are arranged by correspondent then chronologically. Other personal and family papers are arranged by type, then chronologically.
- Access.** Manuscripts in vault too fragile to be accessed. Use photocopies within collection.
- Copyright.** Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators of the materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
- Related Collections.** Walworth and Gordon Family papers (Mss. 2471, 2499)
Samuel A. Cartwright and Family papers (Mss. 2471, 2499)
Lemuel P. Connor and Family papers (Mss. 81).
- Source.** Gift: March 11, 1990 and August 23, 2002
- Citation.** Alice Walworth Graham Papers, Mss. 4295, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
- Stack location.** 106:2-106:4; OS:G; J:25; Vault:73

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Alice Walworth Graham was born February 24, 1905, in Natchez, Mississippi, to John Periander and Marian Alice (Lela) Gordon Walworth. She had two sisters, Mary and Madeleine, and a brother, Gordon. Madeline and Gordon both died of yellow fever before Alice was born. Her grandfather, Douglas Walworth, served as a major in the Confederate army and later became editor of the Natchez newspaper, *The Natchez Democrat*. His second wife, Jeanette Hadermann, was a journalist and novelist.

Alice graduated from Natchez High School and St. Joseph's Convent. From 1922-1925, Graham attended Mississippi State College for Women and wrote for the school paper, *The Spectator*. She later attended a writing class by Robert Penn Warren at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La. In 1936, she married Richard Norwood Graham, a civil engineer. They had one child, Richard Norwood, Jr, also known as Dick.

The Grahams lived in Natchez and New Orleans. From 1936-1939 and 1962 on, they resided at the Walworth family home near The Burn , a Greek revival mansion, on Union Street in Natchez, Miss. The Grahams lived in New Orleans from 1939-1962. Alice frequently visited her sister, Mary Walworth Whitaker, who lived in Baton Rouge, La. She gave several book reviews for the Baton Rouge Women's Club there.

Her first published novel is *Lost River* (1938). *Lost River*, along with *The Natchez Woman* (1950), *Romantic Lady* (1952), *Indigo Bend* (1954) and *Cibola* (1962) are romance novels set on Natchez plantations. *Cibola* was originally conceived as a sequel to Hardemann's novel, *Dead Men's Shoes* (1872), but the published version has only a few correlations to *Dead Men's Shoes*. Graham wrote three historical romance novels set in England: *Vows of the Peacock* (1955), *Shield of Honor* (1957), and *The Summer Queen* (1973).

Graham was a member of several literary societies including the Authors' League of America and the English-Speaking Society, and the National League of American Pen Women. She was also a member of the Natchez Historical Society and the Natchez Garden Club.

Graham died in 1994.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers record the personal and professional life of Alice Walworth Graham as well as that of her family members including her mother, Lela Gordon Walworth and her sister, Mary Walworth Whitaker. Professional papers (1936-1992, undated) include correspondence, literary manuscripts, printed items, publicity and speeches (typescripts) and scrapbooks that document the literary career of Graham. Correspondence discusses the editing, publishing, and publicizing of Graham's novels; financial matters; and discussion of the publishing world in general. There are complete manuscripts of three of her novels: *Lost River*, *Cibola*, and *The Summer Queen*. *The Natchez Woman*, *Romantic Lady*, *Shield of Honor*, and several unpublished works are represented by manuscript fragments. Printed items and scrapbooks both contain literary reviews of Graham's novels and articles about her. There are texts of Graham's speeches and typescripts of media publicity. "The Young Neophyte" by Mary Walworth Whitaker describes Graham's childhood and the development of her first novel.

Personal and family papers (1884-1900, undated) are correspondence, manuscript volumes, printed items, graphic materials and school report cards of members of the Walworth and Gordon families, especially Graham. Personal and family correspondence contains three subseries: Graham, Lela Gordon Walworth and Mary Walworth Whitaker. Manuscript volumes are M.C. Gordon's (believed to be Graham's maternal grandmother) European travel diary and a childhood scrapbook and diary of Graham, which reflects her personal and family life, early writing achievements, and drawings. Printed items and graphic materials contain cards; family photographs; and local newspaper clippings about the family. Mary and Alice's school report cards form Series IV.

LIST OF SUBGROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES**Subgroup 1. Professional Papers, 1936-1992, undated**

Series I. Correspondence, 1936-1992, undated

Series II. Literary Manuscripts, 1936-1972, undated

Series III. Printed items, 1938-1984, undated

Series IV. Publicity and speeches (typescripts), 1957-1969, undated

Series V. Scrapbooks, 1938-1991, undated

Subgroup 2. Personal and Family Papers, 1884-1990, undated

Series I. Correspondence, 1904-1990

Subseries 1. Alice Walworth Graham, 1922-1990, undated

Subseries 2. Lela Gordon Walworth, 1905-1909

Subseries 3. Mary Walworth Whitaker, 1904-1976, undated

Series II. Manuscript volumes, 1884-1928

Series III. Printed items and graphic materials, 1933-1975, undated

Series IV. School report cards, 1911-1924, undated

SUBGROUP, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES DESCRIPTIONS**Subgroup 1. Professional papers, 1936-1992, undated**

The correspondence, literary manuscripts, printed items, scrapbooks, publicity items and speeches that record Graham's literary career comprise Subgroup 1. Professional papers. Organized into series.

Series I. Correspondence, 1936-1992, undated

Correspondence between Graham and her publishers, editors and agents primarily concerns the content and layout of her novels, earnings from her novels including royalties and advances, book contracts, publicity and some personal information. The bulk of the correspondence is from Lee Barker, Graham's editor at Doubleday. Other professional correspondents include librarians, various Doubleday employees, and employees of Mississippi State College for Women.

Correspondence between Graham and her sister, Mary Walworth Whitaker, discusses both personal and professional matters, as her sister often served as her unofficial editor, and is located in Subgroup 2, Series I, Subseries 1. Letters from Cicely Dodd are also located there and sometimes discuss Graham's research for her British historical novels. Arranged chronologically.

Series II. Literary Manuscripts, ca. 1936-1972, undated

There are various manuscript versions of Graham's published and unpublished works, including research notes and composition books. Materials published are *Lost River*, *Natchez Woman*, *Romantic Lady*, *Shield of Honor*, *Cibola*, and *The Summer Queen*. Unpublished works include *Swamp Fever*, "The Stranger Tree," *The Brazen Yoke*, *The Creole Baroness*, several short stories and a sequel to *Romantic Lady*. There are also several fragments of unidentified material, presumably written by Graham. Several poems by other authors such as John Milton and Lord Alfred Tennyson were rewritten, presumably by Graham, to include references to purple cows.

Literary manuscripts are arranged chronologically by title. Within each title, drafts are arranged by degrees of completeness. Chapter divisions may be according to those in the published version rather than those appearing on the manuscript.

Series III. Printed items, 1938-1984, undated

Newspaper clippings, flyers, advertisement proofs and broadsides document Graham's literary career, including book reviews and personal appearances at literary events. Issues of *Register*, a Baton Rouge society journal, contain articles on Graham's speaking engagements there. Book club serials contain reviews of Graham's novels. The final galley sheets for her last novel, *The Summer Queen*, are also included. Broadsides are advertisements for *Vows of the Peacock* and *Shield of Honor*. Arranged chronologically.

Series IV. Publicity and speeches (typescripts), 1957-1969, undated

Transcripts are of radio and television interviews with Alice publicizing *Shield of Honor* and *Cibola*. Typescripts of literary reviews later published in newspapers are included. Most topics of Graham's speeches are personal: her childhood, novels, and Natchez. However, one speech discusses Eleanor of Aquitaine. In a short essay, "The Young Neophyte," Mary Walworth Whitaker describes Alice's childhood and how she began writing her first novel, *Lost River*, while attending Robert Penn Warren's writing class at LSU. Arranged by type, then chronologically.

Series V. Scrapbooks, 1938-1991, undated

Two scrapbook volumes contain newspaper clippings, correspondence, press releases, and various printed ephemera reflecting Graham's literary career. Newspaper clippings consist mainly of book reviews and articles about Graham's personal appearances. Graham's role in the play *Southern Exposure*, performed in Natchez, is also reflected in the clippings. Printed ephemera items include a book cover for *Vows of the Peacock*, a canceled check from Whitney National Bank of New Orleans, and a napkin with "The Natchez Woman" embossed on it. Scrapbooks 1 and 2 have been disbound. All newspaper clippings from the scrapbooks are photocopies. The original order of attached items within the scrapbooks has been preserved, and loose items organized

chronologically. Peacock feathers were removed from Volume 2 due to their organic content.

Subgroup 2. Personal and Family Papers, 1884-1990, n.d

Correspondence, school report cards, newspaper clippings, photographs, diaries and scrapbooks document the personal lives of Alice Walworth Graham and the Walworth and Gordon families. Organized into series.

Series I. Correspondence, 1904-1990, undated

Family papers correspondence consists of the personal correspondence of Alice Walworth Graham, Lela Gordon Walworth and Mary Walworth Whitaker. Divided into subseries and organized by correspondent, then chronologically.

Subseries 1. Alice Walworth Graham, 1923-1990, undated

Personal correspondence of Graham reflects her family life, financial matters, travels, readership of her works, and research for her novels. Letters to Graham are from her mother, Lela Walworth, her sister, Mary Whitaker, her friend, Cicely Dodd, and various other friends, family members, and fans. Letters written by Graham are to Mary, Lela, her son, Richard, and his wife Adele, and various other friends and family members. Letters from Dodd often contain discussions of English history, which Graham researched for her books. Correspondence between Mary and Alice often includes a discussion of her literary manuscripts and finances as well as personal and family matters.

Subseries 2. Lela Gordon Walworth, 1905-1909.

Correspondence between Lela and her brothers, Leslie and William, discusses the Gordon and Walworth families; farming in Chatawa (Miss.); yellow fever, especially relating to Lela's children's deaths; and Leslie's headaches. There is also a card from "Bunny-Rabbit" to "Mamma" with drawings. Correspondence with Alice is located in Subseries 1 and correspondence with Mary is located in Subseries 3.

Subseries 3. Mary Walworth Whitaker, 1904-1976, undated

Correspondence of Mary Walworth Whitaker reflects her personal life, her sister's literary career, her own writings, and events in Natchez and Baton Rouge. Principal correspondents are Lela Walworth and Mary's husband, Edwin Whitaker. The letters between Edwin and Mary document their courtship before marriage. All correspondence between Mary and Alice Graham is located in Subseries 1.

Series II. Manuscript volumes, 1884-1928

The travel diary (May 27-June 4, 1884) of M.C. Gordon describes her trip to Europe,

including the scenery in Switzerland and northern Italy and the gondoliers in Venice singing and rowing their gondolas at night. Gordon writes the account to her two “dear children.” M.C. Gordon is probably Mary Cartwright Gordon,¹ Alice Graham’s maternal grandmother. Her traveling companion “Willie” is probably her son, who would have been about twenty, rather than her husband, William, because she mentions being away from “papa” to her children.

Graham’s scrapbook (1917-1928) contains colored pencil drawings of flowers; a *Natchez Democrat* newspaper clipping (1921) of Graham’s prize-winning essay; a newspaper clipping and program for Graham’s graduation from Natchez High School; clippings and letters from *The Copy Editor* (1928) and *The St. Nicholas League* (1921) regarding Graham’s literary accolades; and a letter (1928) from Lela to Alice at MSCW.

Graham’s diary (Jan. 1-May 4, 1920) lists her 1919 Christmas presents, describes her school and family life, and expresses her general observations and feelings. The second half of the diary contains poems and early prose fiction about a girl named “Rolande.”

Organized chronologically.

Series III. Printed items and graphic materials, 1933-1975, undated

Photographs illustrate the wedding reception (1936) of Alice and Richard Graham at the Walworth family home (near The Burn), a trip (1933) by Mary and Alice to Savoy, France, and an undated portrait of Alice in her 20s or 30s. Newspaper clippings contain wedding announcements for Alice and Richard Graham and Adele and Richard Graham, Jr. Other newspaper clippings are a photograph of the 50-year reunion of the Natchez High School Class of 1922, an article (1972) about the Walworth family home, and a column (1975) by James W. Lambert about Postmaster John Walworth. Organized by type, then chronologically.

Series IV. School report cards, 1911-1924, undated

Report cards for Mary and Alice Walworth from St. Joseph’s School in Natchez show their primary school grades and are signed by their mother. Academic reports from Mississippi State College for Women in Columbus, Miss., reflect Graham’s freshman and sophomore years there. Organized chronologically.

¹ This assumption is based on handwriting comparisons between the diary and Mary Cartwright Gordon’s letters in the Samuel A. Cartwright and Family Papers (Mss. 2471, 2499). In the letters she also refers to her son as “Willie” and her husband as “William.”

INDEX TERMS

Barker, Lee.	1:I
Baton Rouge (La.)—Social life and customs—20 th century.	1:III, V; 2:I
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Doubleday and Company, inc.	1:I-V
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Galley proofs.	1:III
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Graham, Alice Walworth—The Natchez Woman.	1:I-III, V; 2:I
Graham, Alice Walworth—Shield of Honor.	1:I-V; 2:I
Graham, Alice Walworth—The Summer Queen.	1:I-III, V; 2:I
Graham, Alice Walworth—Vows of the Peacock.	1:I, III, V; 2:I
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CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Subgroup 1. Professional Papers, 1936-1992, undated			
Series I. Correspondence, 1936-1992, undated			
106:2	1	1-13	*1936-1992, undated
OS:G		1	Publisher's Contracts, 1950-1954
Series II. Literary Manuscripts, ca. 1936-1972, undated			
106:2	1	14	<i>Swamp Fever</i> , ca. 1936
		15	* <i>Lost River</i> —Version 1—Cover, 1937
		16-20	<i>Lost River</i> —Version 1—Chapters 1-29, 1937
		21-23	<i>Lost River</i> —Version 2—Chapters 1-15, 1937
		24	<i>Lost River</i> —Version 2—Chapters 16, 18, 19, 20/21, 1937
		25	<i>Lost River</i> —Version 2—Chapters 21/22-25, 1937
		26	<i>Lost River</i> —Version 3—Chapters 14 (incomplete), 15-17, 19-20, 21 (incomplete), 22, 23 (incomplete), 24 (2 copies, 1 incomplete), 1937
		27	<i>Lost River</i> —Miscellaneous fragments, 1937
		28	* <i>The Brazen Yoke</i> , ca. 1938
106:2	2	1-6	<i>Natchez Pilgrimage</i> —Version 1—Chapters 1-47, ca. 1949
		7-11	<i>Natchez Pilgrimage</i> —Version 2—Chapters 1-48, ca. 1949
		12	* <i>Natchez Pilgrimage</i> —Version 3—Chapters [1-3] (all incomplete), ca. 1949
		13	* <i>Natchez Pilgrimage</i> —Version 3—Chapters [4-6], ca. 1949
		14	* <i>Natchez Pilgrimage</i> —Version 3—Chapters [7-9], ca. 1949
		15	* <i>Natchez Pilgrimage</i> —Version 3—Chapters [10-20], ca. 1949
		16	* <i>Natchez Pilgrimage</i> —Version 4 (incomplete), ca. 1949
		17	* <i>Natchez Pilgrimage</i> —Miscellaneous fragments, ca. 1949
		19	<i>Natchez Woman</i> —page 95, ca. 1949
		19	* <i>Romantic Lady</i> —Miscellaneous fragments, ca. 1951
		20	"The Stranger Tree," 1955
		21-24	<i>Shield of Honor (Vale of Evesham)</i> —pages 1-463, ca. 1956
		25	<i>Shield of Honor (Vale of Evesham)</i> —pages 512-518, ca. 1956
		26	<i>Shield of Honor (Vale of Evesham)</i> —pages 524-644, ca. 1956
		27	<i>Shield of Honor (Vale of Evesham)</i> —Miscellaneous fragments, ca. 1956
		28	<i>The Creole Baroness</i> , ca. 1957
106:3	3	1	<i>Cibola (Dark Earth, Deep River)</i> —Map of setting, undated
		2-7	<i>Cibola (Dark Earth, Deep River)</i> —Setting copy—Title page, chapters 1-24, 1961
		8	<i>Cibola (Dark Earth, Deep River)</i> —Version 1—Chapters 1-[4] (incomplete), ca. 1960

1884-1992, undated

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|-------|-------|-----|--|
| | 9 | | <i>Cibola (Dark Earth, Deep River)</i> —Version 1—Chapters [5] (incomplete)-[7] , ca. 1960 |
| | 10 | | <i>Cibola (Dark Earth, Deep River)</i> —Version 1—Chapters [8] (pages 250-373), ca. 1960 |
| | 11-13 | | <i>Cibola (Dark Earth, Deep River)</i> —Mixed versions—Chapters 1-15, [between 1957-1961] |
| | 14-15 | | <i>Cibola (Dark Earth, Deep River)</i> —Mixed versions—Chapters 17-24, [between 1957-1961] |
| | 16 | | <i>Cibola (Dark Earth, Deep River)</i> —Unidentified material, [between 1957-1961] |
| | 17 | | <i>The Summer Queen</i> —Handwritten pages, undated |
| | 18 | | * <i>The Summer Queen</i> —Research and editing notes, undated |
| | 19 | | <i>The Summer Queen</i> —Setting copy—Style sheet, title page, chapters 1-5, July 1972 |
| | 20-23 | | <i>The Summer Queen</i> —Setting copy—Chapters 6-25, July 1972 |
| | 24 | | <i>The Summer Queen</i> — Setting copy—Chapters 26-30, editor’s note, July 1972 |
| | 25-30 | | <i>The Summer Queen</i> — Version 1—Chapters 1-30, editor’s note, Dec. 1971 |
| 106:3 | 4 | 1-5 | * <i>The Summer Queen</i> — Mixed versions—Chapters 1-30, [between 1963-1971] |
| | | 6-7 | * <i>The Summer Queen</i> —Unidentified material, [between 1963-1971] |
| | | 8 | “The Box,” undated |
| | | 9 | “Dieu d’Amour,” undated |
| | | 10 | “The Natchez Trace,” undated |
| | | 11 | *“Prologue—The Hunt in the Forest,” undated |
| | | 12 | “The Street,” undated |
| | | 13 | Rewritten poems of other authors, undated |
| | | 14 | Composition books, undated |
| | | 15 | Unidentified material—Courtly love story, undated |
| | | 16 | *Unidentified material—Sequel to <i>Romantic Lady</i> , undated |
| | | 17 | *Unidentified material—Miscellaneous fragments, undated |

Series III. Printed items, 1938-1984, undated

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|-------|---|-------|---|
| 106:3 | 4 | 18-20 | 1938-1984, undated |
| OS:G | | 2 | Advertisements, ca. 1955-1957 |
| OS:G | 1 | 1 | <i>The Summer Queen</i> —Final Galley, 1973 |

Series IV. Publicity and speeches (typescripts), 1957-1969, undated

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|-------|---|----|-------------------------------|
| 106:3 | 4 | 21 | Media—1957-1969 |
| | | 22 | *Speeches, undated |
| | | 23 | “The Young Neophyte,” undated |

Series V. Scrapbooks, 1938-1991, undated

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|-------|---|----|--|
| 106:3 | 4 | 24 | Volume 1, 1938-1952 |
| | | 25 | Volume 1—Loose items, 1943-1956, undated |

ALICE WALWORTH GRAHAM PAPERS

1884-1992, undated

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- 26-27 Volume 2, 1938-1956
- 28 Volume 2—Loose items, 1938-1991, undated

Subgroup 2. Personal and family papers, 1884-1990, undated**Series I. Correspondence, 1904-1990, undated****Subseries 1. Alice Walworth Graham, 1922-1990, undated**

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|---|
| 106:4 | 5 | 1 | Miscellaneous correspondence, ca. 1938-1978 |
| | | 2 | From Cicely Dodd to Alice and Richard, 1958-1967 |
| | | 3 | From Cicely Dodd to Alice—Photograph, 1965 |
| | | 4-7 | From Cicely Dodd to Alice, 1971-1990, undated |
| | | | |
| 106:4 | 6 | 1-2 | From Lela to Alice, 1922-24 |
| | | 3-11 | From Mary to Alice, 1922-1966 |
| | | 12 | Cards from Mary to Alice, 1966, undated |
| | | 13-17 | From Mary to Alice, 1967-1968, undated |
| | | 18 | To Mary from Alice, 1936-1961, undated |
| | | 19 | To Richard Jr. and Adele from Alice, 1962-1963, undated |

Subgroup 2. Lela Gordon Walworth, 1905-1909

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|-------|---|----|--------------------|
| 106:4 | 6 | 20 | 1905-1909, undated |
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Subgroup 3. Mary Walworth Whitaker, 1904-1976, undated

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|-------|---|-------|--|
| 106:4 | 6 | 21-23 | From Edwin to Mary, 1926-1927 |
| | | 24-43 | From Lela to Mary, 1927-1931, undated |
| | | 44 | To Lela from Mary, 1904-1919, undated |
| | | 45 | Miscellaneous correspondence, 1920-1976, undated |

Series II. Manuscript volumes, 1884-1928

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|------|--|
| J:25 | M.C. Gordon Diary, May 27-June 4, 1884 |
| J:25 | Graham Scrapbook, 1917-1928 |
| J:25 | Graham Diary, Jan. 1-May 4, 1920 |

Series III. Printed items and graphic materials, 1933-1975, undated

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|-------|---|----|---|
| 106:4 | 6 | 46 | Cards, undated |
| | | 47 | Newspaper clippings, 1936-1975 |
| | | 48 | Photographs—Alice and Mary in Savoy, 1933 |
| | | 49 | Photographs—Wedding reception of Alice and Richard Graham, 1936 |
| | | 50 | Photographs—Portrait of Alice Walworth Graham, undated |

Series IV. School Report Cards, 1911-1924, undated

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|-------|---|----|--|
| 106:4 | 6 | 51 | St. Joseph's School, 1911-1916, undated |
| | | 52 | Mississippi State College for Women, 1923-1924 |

Appendix A: Partial Genealogy of the Walworth Family

