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Robertson, Clara Louise, 1908-2004 (MSS 87)

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Clara Louise Robertson was born on Valentine’s Day 1908 to Eugene Beverly Robertson (1866-1957) and Clara Mae (Thomas) Robertson (1884-1974) of Louisville, Kentucky. Residing at 331 Birchwood Avenue, Clara Lou shared her home with her parents and one brother, James Thomas Robertson (b. 1906). After attending Emmet Field Elementary School and George Rogers Clark School, Robertson entered Louisville Girls High School in September 1922. In January 1924, she enrolled in the newly opened J. M. Atherton High School for Girls, from which she graduated in June 1926.

Robertson then attended John B. Stetson University (now Stetson University) in DeLand, Florida from 1926-1929 and was a member of Pi Beta Pi sorority. After a grand tour of Europe (62 days), she completed coursework at the University of Louisville in 1930 and graduated in the spring of 1931. On Labor Day 1931, she met William John “Bill” Keech (1904-1976), a recent graduate of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. After a long-distance courtship of three years by correspondence, they were engaged in June 1934 and married February 21, 1935. Leaving the pastorate in 1943, Bill Keech served the American Baptist Convention on the state and national levels and retired as Director of Missionary Education and Stewardship in 1967. During their marriage, Bill and Clara Lou lived in California, Utah, New York, and Pennsylvania before retiring to North Carolina. Their only child, William Robertson Keech (b. 1939) is a member of the political science faculty at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Nine years after Bill’s death, Clara Lou in 1985 married a beau from her Florida college days, Charles Bernard Yancey. In 1992, they were residing in Durham, North Carolina.

**THE COLLECTION**

An avid reader of Annie Fellows Johnston’s Little Colonel books, Clara Louise Robertson began her diary on May 6, 1920 in a *Little Colonel’s Good Times Book* given to her by her mother. Twelve-year-old Robertson chronicled her daily life, providing detailed depictions of school, church and club activities and amusements in Louisville, Kentucky between May 6, 1920 and January 2, 1923. She vividly described her 1921 family vacation to Washington, D.C., by
automobile, and her impressions of President Warren G. Harding and his dog, Laddie Boy. The volume also includes a birthday record in which Robertson recorded birthdates of family and a preface in which Annie Fellows Johnston encourages young diarists.

**SHELF LIST**

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<th>3 items</th>
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<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Descriptive Inventory, letter and photo</td>
<td>1921, 1991</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<td>Folder 2</td>
<td><em>Little Colonel’s Good Times Book</em> (original)</td>
<td>May 6, 1920-Jan. 2, 1923</td>
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<td>May 6, 1920-Jan. 2, 1923</td>
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**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

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Travel and description – Washington, D.C., 1921
Washington, D.C. – Travel and description, 1921

SEE or SEE ALSO

Yancey, Clara Louise (Robertson) Keech
   See:
      Robertson, Clara Louise

Keech, Clara Louise (Thomas)
   See:
      Robertson, Clara Louise