

South Carolina Political Collections
University of South Carolina

James M. Waddell, Jr.
(1922-2003)
Papers, 1887-1918, 1935-2004

Volume: 3.75 linear feet

Processed: 2006, by Kathryn Graham

Provenance: Donated by the family of Senator Waddell

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Biographical Note:

“He was a man of very great conviction and principle, and he devoted his life to public service. We will surely miss him.” So remarked former Governor Carroll Campbell upon hearing of the death of James Waddell in 2003. An obituary appearing in *The State* claimed that his vision “brought economic development, tax restructuring, coastal and wildlife protection and many personal freedoms to South Carolinians.” Representing Beaufort and Jasper Counties, Waddell served in the South Carolina General Assembly for over thirty-five years before resigning from the Senate in 1992 to serve on the state Tax Commission.

James Madison Waddell, Jr. was born November 1, 1922, in Boydell, Arkansas, to James M. (1893-1963) and Mable Maude Gibson Waddell (1899-1991). He attended elementary school in Greensboro, North Carolina, graduated from the Tennessee Military Institute in 1940 and subsequently entered The Citadel.



In 1943, Waddell was called to active duty in the Army and took basic training from May to October at Fort McClellan, Alabama. From December 1943 to May 1944 he took officer training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He also received training in 1944 at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. From August 1944 to March 1945 he saw active duty in the European Theater as a platoon leader with Cannon Company, the 84th Infantry Division (“The Railsplitters”). In March he was hit in the leg by a shell fragment and was a patient in various hospitals from that time until October. In 1946 he was placed on the inactive list. Waddell received numerous military decorations including the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the EAME Ribbon and two battle stars.

He married Natalie Phyllis Lavis of Buffalo, New York, on January 2, 1946. They had three sons: James M., Michael G., and John S. Waddell. He later married Glenda Gail Roberts, a native of Anderson, South Carolina. Waddell graduated from The Citadel in 1947, worked briefly as a civil engineer, and then began a lifelong career in the insurance business. He served as a general agent with Pilot Life Insurance Company and as president of Landmark Insurance Group in Beaufort.

Waddell began his public service when he was elected to the South Carolina House as a Democrat in 1954. He served until 1958, when he left to manage the successful gubernatorial campaign of Ernest F. “Fritz” Hollings. In 1960 Waddell was elected to the state Senate and served there until 1992. Among the many committees on which he served were Agriculture, 1965-1975; Education, 1967-1984; Finance, 1967-1992, chair, 1988-1992; Fish, Game, and Forestry, 1967-1992, chair, 1976-1986; Rules, 1967-1975, 1981-1992; and Transportation, 1976-

1992. He also served as chairman of the Joint Committee on Water Resources, chairman of the Joint Legislative Tax Commission, chairman of the Governor's Joint Committee on Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee of Financing and Budgeting.

During his time in the General Assembly, Waddell's power and influence grew steadily. Important legislation with which he is associated includes the Heritage Trust Act of 1976 and Coastal Zone Management Act of 1977. He was founder and chairman of the South Carolina Coastal Council (now the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management). He was also a major force in creating the Sea Grant Consortium on South Carolina and establishing the Waddell Mariculture Research and Development Center near Hilton Head Island. In 1979 President Jimmy Carter appointed Waddell to the National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere.



Waddell resigned from the Senate on January 14, 1992, to accept an appointment by Governor Carroll Campbell as one of three members of the South Carolina Tax Commission. At that time he was second in seniority in the Senate, after Marshall Williams of Orangeburg. Before his resignation, it was widely believed that he was on the verge of announcing his intention to become a Republican. Waddell retired February 1, 1995, when the Tax Commission was eliminated as part of government restructuring that resulted in the creation of the South Carolina Department of Revenue. He registered shortly thereafter as a lobbyist and worked for the beer, shrimp, video poker and other interests between 1995 and 2002.

Waddell was a close associate of Fritz Hollings and John C. West. In addition to Hollings' 1958 gubernatorial campaign, Waddell managed his 1962 U.S. Senate campaign. Waddell also managed West's 1970 gubernatorial campaign.

Waddell was a member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans Association, the Citadel Alumni Association, and Freemasons (Port Royal Lodge No. 242). He was a member and Elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Beaufort. Waddell served as chairman of the Board of Trustees, a life member and Trustee Emeritus of Clemson University. He was awarded honorary doctorate degrees from The Citadel (1972), Clemson (1983), MUSC (1985), and the University of South Carolina (1986). He was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor David Beasley in 1995. Waddell passed away January 15, 2003, and was buried in Beaufort National Cemetery.

Scope and Content Note:

The James M. Waddell, Jr. Papers consist of 3.75 linear feet of material documenting the public service and personal life of Waddell. The collection is arranged in four series: Public Papers, Personal Papers, Audiovisual Material, and Clippings and Scrapbooks.

Public Papers include the 1998 Final Report of the Subcommittee to Investigate the Special Capital Gains Tax Provision. The report relates to an investigation into the controversial passage of a capital gains proviso in 1988 by the S.C. Senate, and Waddell gave testimony before the subcommittee. A



separate folder relates to his resignation from the Senate to become a member of the South Carolina Tax Commission. Lobbyist Disclosure Statements, a Coastal Council Debate Book, and speeches also are filed with Public Papers.

The bulk of the Personal Papers is composed of general correspondence and other materials arranged chronologically. These include a number of letters he wrote to his parents from the Tennessee Military

Institute, The Citadel, and during his wartime military service. The letters reveal a young man eager to experience life yet close to his parents and keenly interested in news from home. Waddell was an avid hunter and mentions hunting frequently. Major topical files relate to the 84th Infantry Division, the Mariculture Institute, and the South Carolina Youth Challenge Academy.

Audiovisual Material includes drawings of Waddell, photographs, and videocassettes. Among the photographs are several of South Carolina's political notables. These include Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., W. J. Bryan Dorn, James B. Edwards, Ernest F. "Fritz" Hollings, Olin D. Johnston, Harriet H. Keyserling, Richard W. "Dick" Riley, George Bell Timmerman, and John C. West. Some videocassettes illustrate Waddell's interest in coastal issues; and particularly the impact of Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Many videos document the latter years of Waddell's political life and include five appearances on the SCETV program *Capital View* from 1987 to 1991. *Memories*, on DVD and VHS cassette, is a compilation of family home movie reels dating from 1957 to 1959. The label information from these reels is listed in an addendum on page nine.



The bulk of the clippings are from a variety of newspapers and magazines from the years 1988 to

1991 and cover issues important to Senator Waddell, especially the environment. Also included are clippings on Beaufort, Hilton Head, and Jasper County. Of note is a folder on "Operation Lost Trust," a 1990 undercover investigation of vote-selling in state government. Clippings filed under James M. Waddell, Jr., document his heated 1988 campaign against Republican challenger J. Patrick Vanderhoof. Scrapbooks contain clippings and ephemera from 1971 to Feb. 1982.

Waddell Timeline

- 1922 born in Boydeell, Arkansas to James M. and Mable Maude Gibson Waddell; attended schools in Greensboro, N.C.
- 1940 graduated from Tennessee Military Institute (Sweetwater, TN); enrolled at The Citadel
- 1942 joined Organized Reserve Corps at the Citadel
- 1943 called to active duty; Army training and service with 84th Infantry Division
- 1945 wounded in Germany
- 1946 married Natalie Phyllis Lavis; placed on inactive list with rank of Captain
- 1947 graduated from The Citadel with degree in civil engineering
- 1954 elected to South Carolina House as a Democrat, served to 1958
- 1960 elected to South Carolina Senate, served to 1992
- 1992 resigned from Senate to serve on South Carolina Tax Commission
- 1995 retired from South Carolina Tax Commission and registered as lobbyist; awarded Order of the Palmetto
- 2003 died in Columbia; buried Beaufort National Cemetery



Collection Inventory

Public Papers

Box 1

- General, 1964-2002
- Coastal Council Debate Book
- Lobbyist Disclosure Statements
- Retirement [Tax Commission appointment]
- Special Capital Gains Tax Provision, Subcommittee to Investigate, Final Report, July 13, 1998
- Speeches

Personal Papers

- General:
 - 1935, 1939
 - 1940
 - 1941
 - 1943
 - 1944
 - 1945
 - 1946, 1948
 - 1960, 1962, 1965
 - 1970, 1972-1973, 1982-1983, 1986
 - 1992, 1994-1995, 1997-1998, 2000
- Education:
 - Citadel
 - Tennessee Military Institute
- Mariculture Center
- Military Service:
 - General
 - 84th Infantry Division
 - Veteran's Affairs
- South Carolina Youth Challenge Academy
- Waddell:
 - James M. and Mable Gibson [parents]
 - James M., Jr.:
 - General
 - Death of

Audiovisual Material

- Drawings
- Photographs:
 - General
 - Committees
 - Keyserling, Harriet H.
 - Portraits
 - Publicity Shots
 - Riley, Richard W. "Dick"
 - State House Activities
 - Waddell, James M. and Mable Gibson [parents]:
 - General
 - Portraits
 - West, John Carl

DVD: *Memories* [see addendum, p.8]

Box 2

Videocassettes:

- Beta, "Estill-Fitz"

VHS:

Campaign [generally poor video quality]:
 "Sen. Waddell Campaign Video"
 "Waddell Campaign Interview, 1988"
 "Waddell for State Senate, Oct. 21, 1988"
 Ridgeland, SC, Event
Capital View, SCETV:
 1987, March 10
 1988, April 27
 1990, January 30
 1991:
 May 9
 August 14 – *Round Table: The Budget* [with Earle Morris, John Warren, JMW, and Fred Monk]
 Coastal Issues:
 Hurricane Hugo:
 Hurricane Hugo: Clemson Meets the Challenge
 Hurricane Hugo: UPDATE, footage from Gov. Campbell Tour
 S.C. Coastal Council PSA, JMW, Oct. 19, 1987
 "Waddell Mariculture Research and Development Center," SCETV
 "Waddell Mariculture Center," S.C. Wildlife Department, aired on *Carolina Journal*
 Who Owns the Beach? SCETV
FOCUS Profile, Jan. 1988
Journal: Senator Waddell
Low Country Alive! Feb. 4 & 11, 1986
Memories [see addendum, p. 9]
Profile, Sen. Waddell: Beaufort, SCETV
 Reception honoring JMW
 Speech, JMW Retirement from State Senate [in Senate Chamber]

Clippings

Box 3

General:
 1988
 1989
 1990
 1991
 Accommodations Tax, 1988
 Beaufort:
 1988
 1991
 Budget:
 1990
 1991
 Clemson University, 1988
 Environment:
 1988
 1989
 1990
 1991
 Hilton Head:
 1988
 1991
 Jasper County:
 1988
 1991
 Joint Planning Commission, 1988
 Operation Lost Trust, 1990-1991

Reapportionment, 1991
Senate Finance Committee:
1988
1991

Waddell:
Family, 1919-1991
James M., Jr.:
1947-1985
1988
1989
1991
1992
2003

Scrapbooks

1971
1973
1974
1977:
Jan.-Nov.
Dec.
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982, Jan.-Feb.

Addendum

Memories [DVD, VHS]

Compiled from 25 reels of home video labeled as follows:

1. "BLANK (Cobia May 57)"
2. "Water Festival 57"
3. "Homecoming The Citadel Nov 57"
4. "Army & Navy 57 Dec"
5. "Washington July 57"
6. "Washington & NY Dec 1957"
7. "Washing[ton] trip Dec 57," "Spring 58"
8. "Bozemoore 58," "Pool 58," "Water Festival 58"
9. "Water Festival 1958," "Pool 58"
10. "Swimming Pool," "Washington Aug 58"
11. "Jay's Birth[day] 58," "John Birth[day] 58"
12. "Washington" "Phil. Aug 58"
13. "Snow Dec 58," "Xmas Parade 58"
14. "Xmas 58"
15. "New Year 1959," "Mikes 5th Birth[day] 1959," "Easter 1959," "Natalie's Mother,"
"Choral Pictures"
16. "Mrs. Lavis," "Fort Sumter July 59," "Children," "Swimming Pool"
17. "Water Fest 1959," "Kitty Hawk 1959"
18. [no information]
19. [no information]
20. "May 57," "Cobia," "Children and fishing"
21. [no information]
22. [no information]
23. "Calif.," "Disneyland"
24. "Aunt Edna '57," "Children," "Mike & John"
25. "Kitty Hawk Aug 59"