

# Guide to the Mary Walton Livingston papers, 1956-2018 C0321

Mary Walton Livingston papers  
1950s-2018



## Title Statement

Guide to the Mary Walton Livingston papers, 1956-2018 C0321

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

C0321

**Unit ID**

/repositories/2/resources/555

**Unit Date**

1950s-2018

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

The Mary Walton Livingston papers contain materials related to Livingston's work largely dealing with the desegregation of schools in Alexandria, VA and Northern Virginia in the 1950s and early 1960s. It includes newsclippings, notes, correspondence, and programs.

**Creator**

Livingston, Mary Walton, 1914-2007

**Extent**

0.5 linear ft. (2 boxes)

**Repository**

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

There are no access restrictions.

**Use Restrictions**

The copyright and related rights status of this collection have not been evaluated (See <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/>)

**Acquisition Information**

Donated by Mary Livingston Petersen (Mary Walton Livingston's daughter) on April 2, 2019.

**Processing Information**

Processing completed by Jared Nistler in July 2019. EAD markup completed by Jared Nistler in August 2019.

**Preferred Citation**

Mary Walton Livingston papers, C0321, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries.

## Biographical Note

Mary Walton Livingston was an archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), a founding member of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill in Alexandria, and a community advocate for integration and equal education for African-American students.

Livingston was born in Fairfax, VA in 1914 and attended Fairfax County public schools throughout most of her childhood before graduating from the National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C., and heading off to Sweet Briar College at age 17. After her college graduation, Livingston returned to Fairfax to work for the county's Chamber of Commerce and then joined NARA. At age 23, she became president of the local chapter of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

Livingston married the late Schuyler Livingston in 1939 and they had three children. Committed to the idea of integration and equal education for African-American students, Livingston worked on biracial church and PTA groups to keep the public schools operating during the period of resistance to court-ordered desegregation in the late 1950s. In 1951, she was honored by the Fairfax branch of the NAACP with a certificate for her efforts.

In 1962, Livingston returned to NARA to work on oral histories from the Johnson administration and to organize other presidential libraries. Later, she worked on authenticating the claims of Japanese internees after they were awarded reparations by the federal government in 1988.

As a founding member of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill in Alexandria, Livingston served as a Sunday-school superintendent and teacher for many years.

Livingston died on March 23, 2007 at Goodwin House in Alexandria. She was 92 and had Alzheimer's disease.

## Scope and Content

This collection documents Livingston's work advocating for the desegregation of schools in Alexandria, VA and Northern Virginia, mostly from the 1950s and early 1960s. Materials in the collection include newsclippings, correspondence, notes, and programs.

The collection consists of two boxes with 18 folders that generally fall into four categories: Fairfax County NAACP, Desegregation Decisions and Plans, School Affairs Committee and Parent-Teacher Association, and Virginia Council of United Church Women.

## Related Material

The Special Collections Research Center also holds other material related to race during the time period of desegregation in Virginia. These collections include the [Reston Black Focus records](#) and the [Roger Wilkins papers](#).

## Keywords

School integration  
Virginia, Northern  
Education -- Virginia  
Desegregation in education  
Education -- Political aspects -- Virginia  
Virginia -- History  
Education -- Virginia -- Fairfax County  
Education -- Political aspects -- United States  
Educational change  
Virginia -- History -- 19th century

## Bibliography

Virginia General Assembly, Celebrating the life of Mary Walton McCandlish Livingston. HJ597ER. 2008 Session. Passed by House and Senate March 8, 2008. <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?081+ful+HJ597ER+pdf>

## Arrangement

This collection is currently arranged in one series of two boxes. Folders generally fall into four subject categories that were originally created by Mary Walton Livingston. Papers within these categories are arranged by date.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### **Fairfax County NAACP (Folder 1 of 1)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136559

**Unit Date** August 1963 - November 1972

**box** 1

**Container** 1 (Folder)

### **Desegregation Decisions and Plans (Folder 1 of 6)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136560

**Unit Date** January 1956 - January 1958

**box** 1

**Container** 2 (Folder)

### **Desegregation Decisions and Plans (Folder 2 of 6)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136561

**Unit Date** February-September 1958

**box** 1

**Container** 3 (Folder)

### **Desegregation Decisions and Plans (Folder 3 of 6)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136562

**Unit Date** October 1958

**box 1**

**Container 4** (Folder)

**Desegregation Decisions and Plans (Folder 4 of 6)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136563

**Unit Date** January-February 1959

**box 1**

**Container 5** (Folder)

**Desegregation Decisions and Plans (Folder 5 of 6)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136564

**Unit Date** March-April 1959

**box 1**

**Container 6** (Folder)

**Desegregation Decisions and Plans (Folder 6 of 6)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136565

**Unit Date** 1960, 1965, 1971, 1988, 2004

**box 1**

**Container 7** (Folder)

**School Affairs Committee and Parent-Teacher Association (Folder 1 of 3)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136566

**Unit Date** January-October 1957

**box 1**

**Container 8** (Folder)

**School Affairs Committee and Parent-Teacher Association (Folder 2 of 3)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136567

**Unit Date** January-October 1958

**box 1**

**Container 9** (Folder)

**School Affairs Committee and Parent-Teacher Association (Folder 3 of 3)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136568

**Unit Date** January 1959- May 1961

**box 1**

**Container 10** (Folder)

**Virginia Council of United Church Women (Folder 1 of 7)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136569

**Unit Date** 1952, 1954-1956

**box 2**

**Container 1** (Folder)

**Virginia Council of United Church Women (Folder 2 of 7)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136570

**Unit Date** February-September 1957

**box 2**

**Container 2** (Folder)

**Virginia Council of United Church Women (Folder 3 of 7)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136571

**Unit Date** February-November 1958

**box** 2

**Container** 3 (Folder)

**Virginia Council of United Church Women (Folder 4 of 7)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136572

**Unit Date** February-December 1959

**box** 2

**Container** 4 (Folder)

**Virginia Council of United Church Women (Folder 5 of 7)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136573

**Unit Date** April 1960-December 1961

**box** 2

**Container** 5 (Folder)

**Virginia Council of United Church Women (Folder 6 of 7)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136574

**Unit Date** January-May 1962

**box** 2

**Container** 6 (Folder)

**Virginia Council of United Church Women (Folder 7 of 7)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136575

**Unit Date** February-March 1989

**box** 2

**Container** 7 (Folder)

**Pamphelt, Notes, Newspaper Clippings (Folder 1 of 1)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/136576

**Unit Date** 1959-1961, 2018

**box** 2

**Container** 8 (Folder)