

Roanoke Public Libraries
Gainsboro Branch
Dr. Walter Claytor Family Collection

Collection Description

Repository: Gainsboro Branch of Roanoke Public Libraries

Location: A

Title: Dr. Walter Claytor Family Collection

Physical Characteristics: One (1) Record Storage Box

Donated by: Dr. Walter S. Claytor

Arrangement: Items in the collection are arranged hierarchically in six series: Dr. Walter Claytor, Reynolds-Claytor Family Reunion, Photographs, Bound Thesis, and Awards Trophy. Within the first two series folders are arranged in alphabetical order by item-type or subject and items within the folders are arranged chronologically. The photograph series is arranged in the original order received from the collection's creator. **Addendum:** Addendum materials will be added to Series 7 in the order in which they are received.

Creator: Dr. Walter S. Claytor

Reproduction Restrictions: No known restrictions on publication. Gainsboro Library copy fees apply.

Processor: Megan Koehler Mizak, 27 December 2022. **Addendum:** Caylin Wigger, 13 May 2026.

Biographical Note:

Walter Spear Claytor was born 18 December 1925 to Dr. John B. Claytor, Sr. and Roberta Woodfin Claytor in Roanoke, Virginia. He attended Lucy Addison High School, graduating at age 15. From 1942-1944, Dr. Claytor attended Knoxville College and then transferred to Tennessee A&T for two semesters, later transferring to Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry where he received a Doctorate of Dental Surgery in 1948.

Upon returning to Roanoke, he served as a clinician in the Dental Clinic for indigent children at Burrell Memorial Hospital, where his father was a co-founder, and the Roanoke Public Health Department. In 1949, Dr. Claytor opened a private dental practice in the Claytor Memorial Clinic practicing alongside several brothers and his father who also had offices in the building. He continued to practice out of the Clinic until his retirement in 1994.

From 1951 to 1953 he served as Captain in the Alaskan Air Command, putting on hold his dental practice. In the Air Force, Dr. Claytor met Eiko Kimura "Kim," who was an officer in the Air Force Nursing Corps., and the two married on 12 May 1954. They had three children: Kaye Linda, David, and Mark.

From 1957 to 1971, Dr. Claytor served on the Board of the Burrell Memorial Hospital, with five of those years serving as chairman. He was a member of the Old Dominion Dental Society and served as the organization's president in 1961, additionally he served as secretary and treasurer of the Magic City medical Society.

Dr. Claytor was appointed to the Virginia State Board of Dental Examiners in 1970 by then Virginia Governor Linwood Holton, becoming the first African American south of Washington, D.C. to hold the appointment. Dr. Claytor also worked to critique the Dental Licensure Examination in Kentucky and Tennessee and became one of the founders of the Southern Regional Testing Agency.

A member of numerous civic organizations, Dr. Claytor is a life-long member of the NAACP and the Roanoke Chapter of SCLC. He served on the Board for the William A. Hunton Branch YMCA and Goodwill Industries of the Roanoke Valley.

Dr. Claytor has received many awards over his lifetime including the 1991 Business Award from the Roanoke Chapter of the NAACP and the Drum Major for Justice Award from SCLC. In 1998 he was recognized by his alma mater, Meharry Medical College, for his 50 years of service in dentistry. In 2003, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, where Dr. Claytor has been a longtime member, honored him by naming him the church's Man of the Year.

Dr. Claytor was paramount in fighting federal and local urban renewal projects in Roanoke, Virginia which targeted Black neighborhoods. Starting in the 1970s the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) held properties owned by the Claytor family in threat of eminent domain for nearly 30 years. These properties included a medical clinic and gas station owned by the family. The result of this hurt the family's ability to rent out spaces within these properties. In 2001, Dr. Claytor filed a lawsuit against the RRHA for back compensation for the properties. He won the case which resulted in transforming eminent domain law in the state, subsequently allowing legislation to pass that put a five year limit on condemnations.

Dr. Claytor passed on 1 January 2024 at the age of 98.

Publication Note: Family genealogy book:

Woodbury, M. C. & Marsh, R. C. (1994). *Virginia Kaleidoscope: the Claytor family of Roanoke, and some of its kinships, from first families of Virginia and their former slaves*. Published by Margaret C. Woodbury and Ruth C. Marsh.

Scope and Content:

The Dr. Walter Family Collection consists of one record storage box. Items in the collection were collected by Dr. Walter S. Claytor and include documents, correspondences, news clippings,

photographs, slides, a bound thesis, and an awards trophy. Items in the collection relate to the life of Dr. Walter Claytor, his immediate family, and his extended family.

There are 200 photographs in the collection dating circa 1900 until the early 2000s. While some of the collection contains original photographs, many of the photographs in the collection are reproduction prints.

Addendum: Materials are added to Series 7: Addendum in the order in which they are received and added to the collection.

Container List:

Box 1 of 1

Series 1: Dr. Walter Claytor

Folder 1: Biographical Information, curriculum vitae, accolades

Folder 2: Burrell Memorial Hospital

Folder 3: Burrell Memorial Hospital Financial Resume of Service

Folder 4: Claytor Clinic

Folder 5: Correspondences

Folder 6: Joyce A. Bolden, retirement program, speech

Folder 7: News Clippings, articles regarding Dr. Walter Claytor

Folder 8: News Clippings, articles regarding Roanoke family

Folder 9: News Clippings, articles regarding out-of-state family

Series 2: Reynolds-Claytor Family Reunion

Folder 10: Constitution and By-Laws

Folder 11: Documents, newsletter, worship/memorial Service, Dr. Mary Claytor Scholarship

Folder 12: Programs

Series 4: Photographs

Folder 13: WCF 01 - WCF 24

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| WCF 01 | Dr. Walter Claytor in military uniform. |
| WCF 02 | Dr. Walter Claytor in his office. |
| WCF 03 | Dr. Walter Claytor. |

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| WCF 04 | Claywood Ezzo Service Station, with the William A. Hunton YMCA in the background. |
| WCF 05 | Old Dominion Dental Society. Dr. Walter Claytor, front row sixth from right. May 1961. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 06 | William A. Hunton YMCA children's group portrait. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 07 | Lucy Addison High School. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 08 | "W. (?)'s daughters, Dorinda Charlton, Carie Hairston, Eura Hopkins." June 1955. |
| WCF 09 | Left to Right: Davide Claytor, Kaye Claytor, Ruth Claytor Marsh, unknown girl, Margaret Woodbury. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 10 | Unknown children. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 11 | Postcard print of unknown toddler. |
| WCF 12 | Roberta Morris Woodfin Claytor and Bernice Claytor or Frank William Claytor. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 13 | Unknown woman and three children. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 14 | Unknown infant. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 15 - WCF 16 | Unknown group portrait. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 17 - WCF 18 | "Family reunion, Wagon Wheel Picnic, Roanoke, VA, Claytors, McAdoo, Cowans, Woodfins." Reproduction print. |
| WCF 19 | Unknown group portrait. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 20 - 21 | Unknown group portrait. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 22 | "Claytor Family - Aunt Carrie's wedding, Homestead, Copper Hill, VA." Reproduction print. |
| WCF 23 | Unknown wedding portrait. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 24 | "Carrie's wedding." Reproduction print. |

Folder 14: WCF 25 - WCF 51

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| WCF 25 | Shields Family. Reproduction print. |
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| WCF 26 | “Curtis and (?) Ida Claytor.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 27 - WCF 28 | Unknown group portrait at a 100th birthday party. Reproduction print. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 29 | Left to Right: Loretta Board, Gloria “Bessie” Board, Terry Campbell, Fannie Board (Finney). Reproduction print. |
| WCF 30 - WCF 31 | Left to Right: Leon Render, Joseph Harvey, Edwina Young Harvey, unknown man. Knoxville College. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 32 | Attorney Carl Alfred Cowan, Knoxville, Tennessee. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 33 | “Katie Fern, Charles McGinnis and Clifford Ross, Knoxville, Tennessee.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 34 | “Margaret, Bernice, Ruth, Roberta.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 35 - WCF 36 | “Claytor brothers: Frank Wm., John B(?) Jr., Ralph Vernon, Walter S. Claytor.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 37 | Winfred Beale and Grace Claytor Beale. |
| WCF 38 | “Mark Woodfin Claytor, Kaye Linda Claytor, David Wayland Claytor.” |
| WCF 39 | “Mark W. Claytor, Eiko “Kim” Claytor, David W. Claytor.” |
| WCF 40 | “Mark W. Claytor and Kaye Linda Claytor.” |
| WCF 41 | Dr. Walter Claytor gardening. |
| WCF 42 - WCF 44 | Mark Claytor. |
| WCF 45 | Left to Right: David Wayland Claytor, Mark Woodfin Claytor, Walter S. Claytor. |
| WCF 46 | “David W. Claytor, Mark W. Claytor, Kaye L. Claytor.” |
| WCF 47 - WCF 50 | “Congregation moving from First Baptist Church to Wells Ave. NW.” |
| WCF 51 | “Rev. Kenneth Wright, Pastor, moving from First Baptist Church to Wells Ave. NW.” |

Folder 15: WCF 52 - WCF 75

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| WCF 52 | “Dr. Neson Fain and Luther Forrest.” |
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| WCF 53 | “Edgar Hoyd Claytor.” |
| WCF 54 | “Dr. Nelson Fain.” |
| WCF 55 - WCF 56 | Sarah Ann Netherland and Mary Jane Spears. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 57 - WCF 59 | “Hopkins Family, Sontag, VA.” April 1940. |
| WCF 60 | “Vesper Hopkins Edwards.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 61 | “Margaret and Frank Claytor.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 62 | “Elaine Taylor Spencer Neil, Elsie Griffin Fay.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 63 | “Virginia Clark Shovely, Virginia Johnson Board.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 64 | “Grace Claytor Beale.” |
| WCF 65 | “Virginia A. Johnson.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 66 | “Margaret, Ruth, Roberta, Bernice.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 67 | Eloise Downing or Stella Law, Dorothy Charlton, Mildred Paxton. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 68 | “Aaron ?? Young (Jack).” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 69 | “Inza Cordelia Brewer.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 70 | “William Malcolm Brewer.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 71 | “Inza Cordelia Brewer McAdoo.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 72 | “Williams Malcolm Brewer.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 73 | “Ruth Eleanor Claytor, Maryland Gear, Walter Spears Claytor.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 74 | “The Eudaily Family (back) Selton, ____, Fred, Annie, Jennie, (front) Paris, Uncle Phil, Alice, Odessa.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 75 | “(Back) Teresa Elaine Marsh, Faye Ellen Claytor, (font) Lawrence Dewitt Young Jr., Laura Ruth Young.” |

Folder 16: WCF 76 - WCF 100

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| WCF 76 | “David Wayland, Kaye Linda, Ruth Eleanor, Teresa Elaine Marsh, Margaret Jane.” Reproduction print. |
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| WCF 77 | “Mildred Netherland, Maryland Gear.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 78 | Unknown toddlers. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 79 | Unknown children on a horse. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 80 | “Kaye and Ruth.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 81 - WCF 82 | Unknown group of children. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 83 | “Walter, ?, Buddy.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 84 - WCF 85 | Unknown group portrait. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 85 | “Joyce Palmer, Ruth Claytor, Martha Wise (?), John Claytor.” |
| WCF 86 - WCF 87 | Unknown dog. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 88 | Portrait of two unknown women. |
| WCF 89 | “Dr. Archer Adams Claytor, Marce Virginia Walden Claytor, Elinor M(?) Claytor, Carol Ann Claytor.” |
| WCF 90 | Unknown man and woman in a kitchen. |
| WCF 91 | “Ralph Vernon Claytor.” |
| WCF 92 | “Christmas 1954, Loving greetings from Sharon, Helen, Judith and BL (?).” |
| WCF 93 | “J.J. Brooks, Kaye L. Claytor, Charlene Harris Chambers.” December 1956. |
| WCF 94 | “Elinor, Archer, Marie, Carol Ann.” |
| WCF 95 | “Kim, Big Ed Davis.” |
| WCF 96 | “Evelyn B(?) Charlton, James Red Charlton, Joyce Bolden.” |
| WCF 97 | “Standing: Roberta C. Palmer, Ralph V. Claytor, Nina Charlton. Sitting: John Palmer, Marion (?), Harry C., Kim, Walter.” January 1957. |
| WCF 98 - WCF 99 | Unknown group of teenagers sitting on the back of a car. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 100 | Unknown toddlers sitting outside of a house. Reproduction print. |

Folder 17 : WCF 101 - WCF 125

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| WCF 101 | Unknown group of children outside of a house. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 102 | Unknown woman and two children. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 103 | “Margaret Jane Claytor.” |
| WCF 104 | Right: Ruth Claytor, Left: Kim Claytor. |
| WCF 105 | Dr. Walter Claytor. |
| WCF 106 | “Frank Wayland Woodfin and Roberta Morris Woodfin (daughter). Reproduction print. ” |
| WCF 107 | “Margaret Jane Claytor and Frank William Claytor, Jr.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 108 | “Frank William Claytor Jr. and Margaret Jane Claytor.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 109 | “911 Lynch Street, Knoxville, Tennessee.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 110 | “Inza Brewer McAdoo.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 111 | “John Bunyan Claytor, Jr. and Frank William Claytor.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 112 | “John Bunyan Claytor, Jr.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 113 | “Frank Willian and John Bunyan on ‘Jack.’” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 114 | “Dr. Walter Claytor and Roy Claytor.” October 1958. |
| WCF 115 | “Dr. Walter Claytor.” |
| WCF 116 | “David Claytor.” |
| WCF 117 | “From Left to Right: Dr. Walter Claytor, Kaye Claytor (as a baby), and Wiko ‘Kim’ Claytor.” |
| WCF 118 | “From Let to Right: David Claytor, Kaye Claytor, and Mark Claytor.” |
| WCF 119 | “Eiko ‘Kim’ Claytor and baby.” |
| WCF 120 | “Left to Right: Nina Charlton, Eiko ‘Kim’ Claytor, and Kaye Claytor.” |
| WCF 121 | “James ‘Red’ Claytor Charlton, Kaye Claytor, and David Claytor.” |
| WCF 122 - WCF 123 | “Jaye Claytor, Dr. Walter Claytor, and David Claytor.” |

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| WCF 124 | “Left: Kaye Claytor.” |
| WCF 125 | “Front: Kaye Claytor and David Claytor.” |

Folder 18: WCF 126 - WCF 150

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| WCF 126 | “Dr. Walter Claytor’s dog.” |
| WCF 127 | “Mark Claytor.” |
| WCF 128 | “David and Mark Claytor.” |
| WCF 129 | “Mark and David Claytor.” |
| WCF 130 | “Mark (?) Claytor.” |
| WCF 131 | “Kim Claytor and son.” |
| WCF 132 - WCF 133 | “Dr. Walter Claytor and son, Mark.” |
| WCF 134 | “Kaye and Mark Claytor.” |
| WCF 135 | “Dr. Walter Claytor and son, Mark Woodfin Claytor (?).” |
| WCF 136 - WCF 138 | Mark Woodfin Claytor. |
| WCF 139 | “Walter Spears Claytor, b. December 18, 1925, Dr. Walter Claytor as a child.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 140 | “Dr. Walter Claytor’s dog.” |
| WCF 141 | “Back: Dr. Walter Claytor, Front: Mr. Jackson at Vetren’s Care.” |
| WCF 142 | Group photograph in front of a church. |
| WCF 143 | “Dr. Walter Claytor, Nina Charlton, and Eiko “Kim” Claytor (far right).” |
| WCF 144 | “Eiko ‘Kim’ Claytor and Dr. Walter Claytor.” |
| WCF 145 | “Dr. Archer Claytor” in military uniform. Postcard. |
| WCF 146 | “Dorinda Addison Claytor Charlton, Carrie Jane Claytor Hairston, Eura Claytor Hopkins. Dr. John Bunyan Claytor’s sisters.” |
| WCF 147 | “In front: Carrie Claytor Hairston.” Postcard. |
| WCF 148 | “Eura Claytor Hopkins.” |

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| WCF 149 | “Hunter McGuire Claytor (brother of Dr. Archer Claytor). Served WWI (Survived mustard gas attack in France). b. March 13, 1896, d. April 9, 1928 from lung complications. |
| WCF 150 | “Dr. William Oat Claytor, dentist in Washington D.C. (Father of Sheflan Claytor) b. February 18, 1880 d. April 1956.” |

Folder 19: WCF 151 - WCF 175

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| WCF 151 - WCF 152 | Kim Claytor at Christmas. Slide. |
| WCF 153 | Kaye Claytor’s Wedding. Slide. |
| WCF 154 | Morton Hopkins and Eura Ellen Claytor Hopkins (front seated) and children (back). Sontag, Virginia. Slide. |
| WCF 155 | Dr. Robert (Bob) White Claytor, graduation portrait. 1934. |
| WCF 156 | Dr. Archer Claytor, graduation portrait. 1934. |
| WCF 157 - WCF 158 | From Left to Right: Dorothy Charlton, James Charlton, Douglas Charlton (in chair), and Nina Charlton. Roanoke, Virginia. |
| WCF 159 | “Nina Charlton.” |
| WCF 160 | “Nina Loretta Charlton Bolden.” |
| WCF 161 | “Marshal and Dorothy Charlton.” Wedding. 1951. |
| WCF 162 | “Katherine, Roland, George, Ralph. Seated: Odessa, Annette, Devere Ganges.” |
| WCF 163 | “Mamie Young (Ganges).” Graduation portrait. Reproduction print. |
| WCF 164 | “The Youngs. Ralph, Robert, Mamie.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 165 | “The Spears girls. (Standing) Maggie, Lula (Sitting) Katherine, Mary Jane, Alice (Allie).” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 166 | “Katherine Spears Young.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 167 | “Lulu Luvenia Spears Wyly.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 168 | “Mary Spears Woodfin.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 169 | “Horace C. Spears.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 170 - WCF 171 | “Cowan Home.” Reproduction print. |

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| WCF 172 | “Carl and Esther Cowan.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 173 | “Esther Brown Cowan.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 174 | “Dr. Claude Cowan.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 175 | “Hugh Cowan.” Reproduction print. |

Folder 20: WCF 176 - WCF 200

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| WCF 176 | “Maggie Spears Cowan.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 177 | “Hugh Cowan.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 178 | “Hugh Cowan, Mariah Magdaline Spears Cowan.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 179 | “Atty. Carl Cowan.” Reproduction print. |
| WCF 180 | “Charlene Curtis.” |
| WCF 181 | “Joyce Ann Bolden.” |
| WCF 182 | J. B. Claytor Family. From Left to Right: Frank W., Walter S., Marion Bernice, John B. Claytor, Ruth E., Roberta W., Roberta W., Ralph V., John B. Jr. Roanoke, Virginia. 1938-39. |
| WCF 183 | From Right to Left: Lawrence Hamlar, Nina Charlton, Marshall and Dorothy Curtis, John B. Claytor, Matilia Curtis, Harry Cirtos Sr., Dorinda Charlton. Wedding. |
| WCF 184 | Dr. Walter S. Claytor’s Family. Front: Mark, Eiko (Kim), Walter. Back: David, Kaye. |
| WCF 185 | “Fredrick Bolden.” |
| WCF 186 | “Rachel Bolden.” |
| WCF 187 | “Dorothy Charlton Curtis.” |
| WCF 188 | “Charlene Curtis.” |
| WCF 189 | “Millicent Nicole Curtis.” |
| WCF 190 | “Frederick Douglas Charlton.” |
| WCF 191 | “Archie, Hazel, Mary Ann, Joseph, Henry, Elsie, Curtis, Edgar. Shields.” |

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| WCF 192 | “Dorothy Curtis, Dorinda Charlton, Robert Claytor, Carrie Hairston, Shields Claytor.” |
| WCF 193 | “Charlene Curtis Quinton Meadows. Altruist Deb Ball.” |
| WCF 194 | “Millicent (Nickey) Curtis.” |
| WCF 195 | “Reynolds-Claytor Reunion.” |
| WCF 196 | “Judith Claytor.” |
| WCF 197 - WCF 198 | “Mark’s graduation.” Slide. |
| WCF 199 | “Mark’s graduation and move of First Baptist Church.” Negatives |
| WCF 200 | Left to Right: Dr. Margaret Woodberry, Ruth Claytor, Dr. Walter Claytor, Roberta Palmer, Bernice Boddie. |

Series 5: Bound Thesis

The Development and Validation of an Adult Medical Nursing Critical Thinking Instrument, by Kaye Linda Claytor. Department of Educational Psychology, Indiana University. May 1997.

Series 6: Trophy Award

Roanoke Branch of NAACP 2005 Citizen of the Year for Medicine Award for Eiko Claytor, R.N.

Series 7: Addendum

Folder 1: Roanoke Tribune, 11 January 2024, In Memoriam Article: “Prominent dentist and activist Dr. Walter Claytor dies at 98.”