



National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Archives

Marian Anderson Resource Guide

Sources of Information Relating to Marian Anderson in the NSDAR Archives

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Introduction

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. Founded in 1890 and incorporated by Congress in 1896, the National Society is headquartered in Washington D.C. It is led by the President General and an Executive Committee of 11 National Officers.

The NSDAR Archives serves as the repository for National Society records that were created in the course of business by the National Society—items such as correspondence, meeting minutes, project files, photographs and the like. These non-current permanent records are no longer administratively useful but have sufficient historical or other value to warrant their continued preservation.

Various collections within the NSDAR Archives contain valuable records about Marian Anderson's association with the NSDAR. The materials in this guide are arranged by collection; each collection is arranged by series. Folders are either arranged alphabetically or chronologically. This guide has kept the arrangement of the collections' original finding aids.

The purpose of this resource guide is to aid in the study of the events and attitudes surrounding Marian Anderson's historic Lincoln Memorial concert. It is the NSDAR's desire that this resource guide compliments and expands upon other historical research related to the 1939 concert.

For more information on Marian Anderson, please refer to the Marian Anderson Collection at the University of Pennsylvania. This Collection includes Anderson's personal papers – including letters, music scores, programs, photographs, and sound recordings – and affiliated materials, along with additional donations to the University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

<http://www.library.upenn.edu/collections/special-notable/groups/marian-anderson-collection>

Historical Note

Marian Anderson was one of the most celebrated American singers of the 20th century, touring all over the world from the 1930s through the 1960s. In 1939, when promoters were attempting to find her a suitable venue in Washington, D.C. capable of holding her expanding audience, they approached management at DAR Constitution Hall, the largest concert hall in Washington, D.C. Their request for a concert on April 9 was denied, reportedly due to a previous booking on the same date by the National Symphony Orchestra. While it was true that there was another booking on April 9, the management also gave another reason for Marian Anderson's rejection. Namely, there was a policy in place at Constitution Hall at that time which allowed only white artists to perform in the auditorium.

A subsequent request was made to the District of Columbia School Board for use of the second largest venue in the District, the Central High School auditorium, which was a whites-only school. The request was ultimately denied as well, based upon a decision made by the Washington School Board, who maintained their stance on segregation.

These denials prompted a great deal of media attention, climactically resulting in Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes arranging for Marian Anderson to perform in the first open-air concert at the Lincoln Memorial. A crowd of more than 75,000 people attended the Easter Sunday concert on April 9, 1939.

Prompting discussion across the country about racial discrimination, Marian Anderson's Lincoln Memorial concert and the circumstances surrounding it became an important catalyst for change not only within the DAR, but throughout the nation.

The NSDAR Archives is organized by the administrative offices of the organization. The work of the organization is accomplished through the offices of the national officers and through the national committees. Dispersed within these respective collections are files that pertain to Marian Anderson. It is a fundamental principle for archives to retain their original order and provenance as much as possible. This means that instead of creating an artificial collection of Marian Anderson material pulled from these various collections, these files are retained within their originating office, preserving valuable context.

The Resource Guide lists the relevant material within each originating collection. A brief description of the collection is included, along with any other pertinent notes.

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Book Collection

This collection contains books that are related in some manner to the NSDAR; they include histories of the organization, reports on DAR activities, books about DAR-sponsored schools and other buildings under its care, biographies about important figures in the organization's history, genealogical resources produced by the NSDAR, and other miscellaneous books written by DAR members.

Note: Additional publications are referenced at www.dar.org/mariananderson/resources.

Anderson, Marian. *My Lord, What a Morning*. New York: Viking Press, 1956.

Anderson, Peggy. *The Daughters: An Unconventional Look at America's Fan Club - the DAR*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1974.

Bailey, Diana L. *American Treasure: The Enduring Spirit of the DAR*. Virginia Beach, VA: Donning Company Publishers, 2007.

Gibbs, Margaret. *The DAR*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1969.

Hunter, Ann Arnold. *A Century of Service: The Story of the DAR*. Washington, DC: NSDAR, 1991.

Strayer, Martha. *The DAR: An Informal History*. Washington, DC: Public Affairs Press, 1958.

Buildings and Grounds Collection

The Buildings and Grounds Collection are records from the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Building/Facilities staff. The National Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee gives reports at Congress and National Board of Management meetings on the status of DAR buildings at DAR Headquarters. The Chair also coordinates with the Office of the President General to ensure the buildings are ready for Continental Congress every year. The Committee is responsible for National Board of Management luncheons, Executive Officer luncheons, and Open House during the Christmas season. General maintenance and repairs are also often dealt with through the Buildings and Grounds Committee along with the Building/Facilities staff.

Series 2. General, 1921-1988, not dated

This series combines miscellaneous information about general Buildings and Grounds features. It contains information about rooms within the buildings as well as outside details of the buildings.

Box 3

Folder 4 Marian Anderson, 1971
Photocopy of The Washington Daily News article, "Eleanor and Franklin," dated December 13, 1971. This is an installment from Joseph P. Lash's biography that was based on Mrs. Roosevelt's private papers.

DAR Magazine

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution has continuously produced a magazine devoted to the work of the Society and American history since the first issue was published in July 1892. This first issue featured an editorial by the magazine's first editor, Ellen Hardin Walworth, in which she describes the goals of the publication - to provide communication between the National Society, the National Board of Management, the State Societies, and the Chapters.

The DAR Magazine has had several title changes during its history and was finally separated into two parts in 2001. "American Spirit" is the current title of the magazine, and it features professionally written articles on American history and genealogy. The DAR *Daughters* newsletter, published and mailed with the magazine, is entirely devoted to the work and goals of the Society.

Reports from the National Board of Management meetings and from Continental Congresses can also be found in the Magazine.

The Magazine is accessible online at www.dar.org/magazinearchive. Both the magazine issues and the tables of contents are searchable, with an index through 1997.

December 1942

Report of the President General at the National Board of Management regular meeting on October 30, 1942, page 956

January 1946

President General's Circular Letter No. 16-A, "pertaining to the management of Constitution Hall, and the statement of the Executive Committee and the National Board of Management made on October 11, 1945," pages 6-7

"Fair Enough" by Westbrook Pegler, reprinted from *The Washington Times-Herald*, October 29, 1945, page 8

July 1946

The President General's Message, followed by her report to the 55th Continental Congress, "Rebuilding for Security," pages 347-352

October 1953

Constitution Hall Season 1953-54, page 1192

November 1953

“The D. A. R. As a Force for Moving Ahead,” pages 1227-1229

November 1964

“Constitution Hall Concert Season Opens,” page 863

May 1992

Recipient of the Special Centennial Medal, "Women Worthy of Honor," page 395

June/July 1996

President General Mrs. Charles Keil Kemper's response to the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition referencing Marian Anderson, DAR, and Constitution Hall, page 410

March/April 2005 Newsletter

“Legendary Singer Marian Anderson Returns to Constitution Hall on U.S. Postal Stamp,” pages 70-71

Papers of Constitution Hall

First opening its doors in 1929, DAR Constitution Hall has been a venue visited by many important figures and groups. Every president since Calvin Coolidge has attended events at Constitution Hall. The National Symphony was founded at the Hall in 1930 and called it home for 41 years, and the National Geographic Film Series was presented at the Hall for over 40 years. During World War II the DAR loaned the building to the Red Cross to support the war effort.

The Papers of Constitution Hall contains material concerning the planning and construction of the building, as well as documents pertaining to events or concerts which took place in the Hall. The collection contains contracts with performers and performing arts companies, financial contribution records, correspondence with the architects and builders, building specifications, programs and other souvenirs from events, brochures, pamphlets, seat plaques, renovation fabrics, and other miscellaneous items.

Note: Frederick Edwin Hand was the DAR Constitution Hall's Manager from January 1930 until his retirement on March 1, 1949.

Series 1. Contracts, 1930-1992, 2001-2002

This series consists of contracts signed for every performance or event held in Constitution Hall.

Marian Anderson performed at Constitution Hall on numerous occasions, such as on:

- January 1943 – Marian Anderson performed at Constitution Hall for a series of war relief benefit concerts.
- March 14, 1953 – Marian Anderson sang to an unsegregated audience in Constitution Hall as part of the American University concert series.
- April 1, 1956 – Marian Anderson performed in Constitution Hall.
- February 7, 1960 – Marian Anderson performed in Constitution Hall.
- October 24, 1964 – Marian Anderson began her farewell American tour in Constitution Hall.

Box 1

Folder 1 January-December, 1930
African American tenor Roland Hayes performed in Constitution Hall on January 13, 1931; the contract was signed by his presenter Katie Wilson Greene on May 1, 1930. See

Papers of the President General box 127 folder 11 for the contract for the Hampton Institute choir performance on March 21, 1931, signed by their presenter, T. Arthur Smith.

Box 2

Folder 4 December 1938-November 1939
National Symphony Orchestra contract for April 9, 1939

Box 3

Folder 3 April 1942-March 1943

Box 7

Folder 2 October 1952-April 1953

Box 8

Folder 2 December 1955-August 1956

Box 9

Folder 2 October 1959-May 1960

Box 10

Folder 3 December 1963-October 1964

Series 6. Subject Files, Office of the President General, 1924-1986

This series was previously held in the Office of the President General. It contains correspondence and reference materials on different aspects of the Hall.

Box 63

Folder 15 Pamphlet, "Constitution Hall" by Mrs. Herbert Eugene McQuesten, 1945

Folder 16 Pamphlet, "Statement re Constitution Hall," 1966

Folder 22 Rental Problems, Arthur Godfrey's Attack on "White Artists Only" Clause, 1949

Folder 23 Rental Problems, Arthur Godfrey's Attack on "White Artists Only" Clause, DAR Members Response, 1949

Folder 24 Rental Problems, Arthur Godfrey's Attack on "White Artists Only" Clause, Non-DAR Members Response, 1949

Note: While not directly related to the events surrounding the Marian Anderson concert, this incident in 1949 pertains to Constitution Hall's "white artists only" clause in its contracts. This clause played a role in the DAR's refusal of Marian Anderson performing in Constitution Hall.

Series 7. Subject Files, General, 1927-2002

This series combines general items concerning Constitution Hall taken from backlog materials collected during the 1980s through the early 2000s. Types of material include pamphlets and brochures, information leaflets, a Constitution Hall newsletter, information on the furnishings of the President General's Reception Room, souvenirs, and financial documents.

Box 67

Folder 3 Magazine, *The Concertgoer*, A Magazine for the Music Lover, Nov. 26, 1930, Vol. 2 No. 3, Mrs. Wilson-Greene's Concerts, Constitution Hall - Washington, Season 1930-31
Lists the Roland Hayes concert

Folder 8 Performances, scheduled by Fred Hand, Managing Director, August 1936-May 1940

Series 8. Marian Anderson, 1943-2000

This series combines accessions from the 1980s-2000 regarding Marian Anderson and Constitution Hall. The series includes newspaper clippings/articles, obituaries, official statements made by the President General or the National Board of Management, and a statement by Fred Hand, Manager.

Box 67

Folder 16 Article in book, "American Heritage" series, 1977

Folder 17 Article, *The Journal of American History*, June 1993 [07-057(e)]

Folder 18 Article, *Smithsonian Magazine*, June 1993 [07-057(e)]

Folder 19 Biographical articles, 1972-2011

Folder 20 "Dealing with Controversy," DAR Newsletter, 2002 [07-057(e)]

Folder 21 Facts Concerning the Management of Constitution Hall, by Fred Hand, circa 1940

Folder 22 News-clippings, 1943-2000

- Folder 23 Obituaries, 1993
- Folder 24 Program for Marian Anderson's Farewell Concert, October 24, 1964
- Folder 25 Statements regarding Constitution Hall, undated, 1945-1997

Papers of the Historian General

The main goals of the Historian General are to inspire interest in American History; to honor those citizens who have contributed in a significant way to the study and promotion of American History; to inform the public about noteworthy historic sites; and to maintain collections in the NSDAR Archives and Americana Collection.

The Papers of the Historian General contains materials related to the work of the Historian General and the staff of the Office of the Historian General. Most of the collection is made up of office staff correspondence and DAR applications for markers and awards. There are also smaller groups of materials related to exhibits prepared by the staff, chapter histories, the Lineage Books, the DAR State Historians, World War I-era war service records, and the Valley Forge Memorial Bell Tower (which was a project of the Historian General).

Series 2. Administrative, 1934-2004

This series is arranged into eight subseries: Correspondence, Expenditures, Insignia, Office Manuals and Job Descriptions, Publications, Reference Files, Smithsonian Reports, and Rulings. Materials in this series pertain to the administrative tasks and functions of the Office of the Historian General.

Series 2.6 Reference Files, 1906-2000

Box 41

Folder 15 Anderson, Marian, 1979
Photocopy of The Washington Star newspaper article, "Marian Anderson Places Music First in Her Life," dated January 7, 1979

Box 57

Folder 6 Archives – Reference Question about Marian Anderson, 1982
Notes on a telephone inquiry from a reporter

Papers of Lillian Hunter

Lillian Hunter was a prominent businesswoman as well as an active member of the DAR. She served as Treasurer General from 1920 to 1923 under the administration of President General Anne Minor. After the end of her term as Treasurer General, she remained active in the DAR by serving on committees and in the National Officer's Club. She attended many Continental Congresses and made many friends in the DAR. Lillian Hunter died in 1943.

The Papers of Lillian Hunter were collected by Hunter during her membership and service to the DAR. The collection contains correspondence, DAR business papers, pamphlets, leaflets, invitations, menus, programs to events, annotated Continental Congress programs, photographs, and one object.

Series 6. Annotated Continental Congress Programs, 1910-1939

This series contains Continental Congress programs annotated by Lillian Hunter. She often kept detailed notes about the various activities and reports during Congress. Many programs also have additional inserts of newspaper clippings, printed materials, and ribbon badges. Newspaper clippings have been photocopied onto acid-free paper for preservation purposes.

Box 5

Folder 15 Annotated program, 48th Continental Congress, 1939
Includes several clipped newspaper articles about the convention and Marian Anderson:
"Mrs. Roosevelt Gets D.A.R. Thanks for Reception" (discusses courtesy resolution in context of the Marian Anderson controversy)
"D.A.R. Head to Receive Protesting Delegation" (President General Sarah Robert to meet with Marian Anderson Committee after adjournment of Congress)
"D.A.R. Chief Cites Its Case on Anderson"
"D.A.R. Says Its Anderson Ban Obeyed D.C. Customs"
"Anderson Concert Was Barred By Old 'Rule,' Mrs. Robert Says"

Papers of Mollie Somerville

Mollie Somerville worked as the Historical Researcher for the NSDAR from 1962-1986. She also worked with the Office of the President General on various projects, published several books and assisted in the publication of several DAR booklets and Magazine articles.

The Papers of Mollie Somerville contain materials related to her 24 years as a DAR employee. The bulk of the collection is work done for various DAR Publications. There are also smaller groups of reference files, correspondence, and project papers.

Series 5. Reference

This series consists of reference files that Mollie Somerville kept on DAR topics and general History topics. There is some correspondence with researchers in some of the files.

Box 47

Folder 3 Constitution Hall, Marian Anderson
Research circa 1970s-1980s, photocopies of consolidated research on Marian Anderson and the DAR, includes various "responses," "defenses," and "statements" by DAR in years following

Box 48

Folder 8 Dr. Lida Earhart, President General Robert
Biography of Sarah Robert, written by Dr. Lida Earhart, a DAR member who wrote biographies of the Presidents General, from Mrs. Harrison to Mrs. White; for more information on the project, see box 47, folder 20

Papers of the President General

The President General is the chief executive of the NSDAR, elected with a slate of officers to serve a three-year term. She presides at every meeting of the Executive Committee, National Board of Management, and Continental Congress. She appoints all committees, which carry out the work of the Society, and she is responsible for the general supervision of the work of the Society and National Headquarters. During her three-year term the President General visits each state as well as the DAR's Units Overseas. The President General is the only official spokesperson of the NSDAR and its representative with other businesses, organizations, and the public.

The Papers of the President General contains materials pertaining to the work of the President General and offices of their administration. The collection mainly contains committee materials and correspondence of the President General.

The office of the President General has included several staff members and employees through the years. An administrative and/or Executive Assistant manages her affairs while she is away from DAR headquarters and keeps her informed of any news or emergencies. The President General's office staff has also included Public Relations personnel and NSDAR Administrators.

Sarah Corbin Robert was the President General during the events surrounding Marian Anderson's Lincoln Memorial concert in 1939. Within the Papers of the President General are some of Sarah Robert's speeches, correspondence, and published articles from this time. Most of this material has been scanned for ease of research.

Series 6. Constitution Hall, 1939-1988

This series consists of materials pertaining to events, performances, and operations of Constitution Hall. There are personal papers of a few of the managing directors of Constitution Hall, materials from the National Symphony when Constitution Hall was used as their home, programs from productions, information on renovation projects, and correspondence from the public concerning productions held at Constitution Hall.

Box 122

Folder 5 Constitution Hall – Managing Director – Fred Hand, 1939-1960

Box 123

Folder 6 Constitution Hall – Productions – Marian Anderson – War Relief Concert, 1942

Box 124

- Folders 3-4 Constitution Hall – Productions Rejected - Marian Anderson, 1939
Letters and telegrams from DAR members requesting information regarding the DAR's refusal of a Marian Anderson concert in March 1939 and after, includes numerous letters of support and letters of protest with responses from the President General
- Folder 5 Constitution Hall – Productions Rejected - Marian Anderson, 1941-1949
- Folder 6 Constitution Hall – Productions Rejected - Marian Anderson – Marian Anderson Citizens Committee, 1939-1940
Correspondence related to the immediate aftermath of the Marian Anderson incident and how people, such as the Marian Anderson Citizens Committee, tried to convince the DAR leadership to change their rules
Includes timeline of 1939 events, entitled "The DAR vs Marian Anderson";
Esquire magazine July 1939 article, "Roulades and Cadenzas," by Carleton Smith;
"Art and the Color Line" booklet by Anson Phelps Stokes - printed for consideration of the DAR Executive Committee on behalf of the Marian Anderson Citizens Committee - an appeal to the DAR Executives to abolish the "white artists only" clause for consideration at the October 1939 National Board of Management meeting;
1942 invitation for Marian Anderson to sing in Constitution Hall
- Folders 7-8 Constitution Hall – Productions Rejected - Marian Anderson – Protest, 1939
Mostly protest letters from DAR members and the public, including from other national organizations; also inquiries for more information and some support letters

Box 125

- Folder 1 Constitution Hall – Productions Rejected - Marian Anderson – Publicity, 1939
Photocopies of clipped news articles from across the country following the 1939 incident, circa 1939-1940; Esquire magazine July 1939 article, "Roulades and Cadenzas," by Carleton Smith; Readers Digest March 1940 article, "Over Jordan" by Ruth Woodbury Sedgwick.
- Folder 2 Constitution Hall – Productions Rejected - Marian Anderson - Support, 1939
Letters of support and approval from DAR members and the public to the President General
Includes some racist and anti-Semitic language

Box 127

- Folder 11 Constitution Hall, 1928-1993
Lease agreement/contract with T. Arthur Smith for March 21, 1931 Hampton Choir

concert; "Constitution Hall" booklet written by MA State Regent, circa 1945.

Series 7. Continental Congress, 1912-2007

Continental Congress is held every year as a chance for all DAR members to come to National Headquarters and participate in meetings and activities. This series includes The *Congress Herald* newsletter, agenda books used by the President General, committee and executive officers' reports, press kits, information about centennial medals given, and correspondence related to the planning of Congress.

Box 139

Folder 22 Continental Congress – Centennial Medal - Marian Anderson, 1992
Includes letters from President General Marie Yochim to Marian Anderson and James DePriest regarding attending Continental Congress to accept the Centennial Medallion

Series 8. Correspondence, 1892-2001

This series consists of correspondence during the administration of each President General. The general correspondence files are comprised of letters of various subjects from both DAR and non-DAR members. The correspondence subject files contain correspondence with a specific party or about a specific event.

Box 146

Folder 3 Correspondence of PRESIDENT GENERAL Robert, 1938-1941
Includes a letter from Mrs. Robert to Marguerite Schondau, secretary to the President General, dated June 17, 1941, regarding retaining copies of Marian Anderson-related correspondence

Folder 4 Correspondence of PRESIDENT GENERAL Robert – Aid to China, 1938-1941
Includes a letter from DAR member Eva Wyman Dunlap, Vice Regent of China, to Mrs. Robert, dated December 30, 1940, that mentions their appreciation for her "sane and balanced judgement on the Marian Anderson controversy..." Provides background information for DAR's aid to China, such as the DAR-sponsored Marian Anderson concert in 1942.

Box 151

Folder 9 Correspondence of PRESIDENT GENERAL White – Marian Anderson, 1960-1961

Box 153

Folders 1-4 Correspondence of PRESIDENT GENERAL Duncan – Marian Anderson, 1963-1964

Box 198

Folder 12 Correspondence of PRESIDENT GENERAL Fleck – Mrs. W.G.S. Musgrave, “Recollections of a Sixty Year Member”
Anne Musgrave was a DAR member from Maryland and a close friend of President General Sarah Robert.
On pages 13-16 Mrs. Musgrave discusses her personal and professional relationship with Mrs. Robert and specifically delves into the topic of Marian Anderson.

Series 9. DAR Members, 1890-1991, no date

This series contains biographical information, correspondence, and newspaper clippings pertaining to DAR founders and prominent members.

Box 204

Folder 11 DAR Members – Eleanor Roosevelt, 1954-1976

Folder 12 DAR Members – Eleanor Roosevelt – McCall’s Magazine, 1953

Series 24. Publicity, 1890-1996

This series is comprised of photographs, newspaper clippings, and magazine articles of events during each President General’s administration.

Box 270

Folder 28 Publicity – PRESIDENT GENERAL Spicer – Marian Anderson, 1973

Box 271

Folder 8 Publicity – PRESIDENT GENERAL Baylies – Presentation of Medal of Honor to Marian Anderson by President Carter, 1978

Folder 15 Publicity – PRESIDENT GENERAL Yochim – Statement Regarding Marian Anderson, 1989

Series 25. Scrapbooks, 1891-1965, no date

This series contains disassembled scrapbooks created for each President General’s administration. The scrapbooks include photographs, invitations, programs, newspaper clippings, and memorabilia.

Box 274

- Folder 7 Scrapbooks – PRESIDENT GENERAL Robert, 1939
- Folder 8 Scrapbooks – PRESIDENT GENERAL Robert, 1940

Series 27. Speeches, 1909-1992, no date

This series contains speeches of the Presidents General given at various events during their administration. Many of the speeches are from Continental Congress and DAR school trips.

Note: While not directly pertaining to the events surrounding the Marian Anderson concert, Sarah Robert's speeches provide context for her administration and the work of the DAR at the time.

Box 279

- Folder 6 Speeches – PRESIDENT GENERAL Robert, no date
- Folder 7 Speeches – PRESIDENT GENERAL Robert, 1938
- Folder 8 Speeches – PRESIDENT GENERAL Robert, 1939
- Folder 9 Speeches – PRESIDENT GENERAL Robert, 1940
- Folder 10 Speeches – PRESIDENT GENERAL Robert, 1941

Series 32. Papers of PRESIDENT GENERAL Sullivan, 1897-1989, no date

This series contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and memorabilia from the Sullivan administration, circa 1965-1968. This series also contains materials from offices held by Mrs. Sullivan prior to becoming President General. The bulk of this series is materials from Mrs. Sullivan's trip to Vietnam.

Box 304

- Folder 20 Papers of PRESIDENT GENERAL Sullivan – Constitution Hall – Marian Anderson

Series 33. Papers of PRESIDENT GENERAL Fleck, 1976-1990, no date

This series contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and memorabilia from the Fleck administration, circa 1986-1989. This series also contains materials from offices held by Mrs. Fleck prior to becoming President General. The bulk of this collection is from 1980-1989.

Box 315

Folder 14 Papers of PRESIDENT GENERAL Fleck – Programs and Invitations – “The Night of the Divas” honoring Marian Anderson, 1987

Papers of the President General II

The Papers of the President General II was created for the second large transfer of material to the NSDAR Archives from the President General's Office. Because of the volume and different arrangement of these records, it was decided to process this as a separate collection from the first or original Papers of the President General, 1890-2008. However, this is considered an extension or accrual to the first collection. As more material is received from the President General's Office, it is added as an accrual to this collection.

Series 1. Biographies, Obituaries, 1892-2012

This series contains biographical and autobiographical material, as well as obituaries, for the Presidents General. A large portion of the information was gathered in the late 1990s and early 2000s in an attempt to write a follow-up or second part to the booklet *Wide Blue Ribbon*, a collection of brief biographies of Presidents General from the DAR's first 50 years.

Box 1

Folder 28 President General Robert, not dated, 1938
While not directly related to the Marian Anderson concert, this biographical information provides context for Sarah Robert and her administration.

Series 6. Files by Administration, 1937-2013

Because of the small volume of material from administrations before the Diamond Jubilee in 1965, these have been combined into one subseries. Each President General's administration after 1965 has been given its own subseries. The material in each subseries represents the events and projects that occurred within individual administrations, concerning an individual President General. The records include correspondence, speeches, reports, articles, legal documents, financial documents, photographs, scrapbooks, programs, and memorabilia.

Series 6.11. President General Yochim (1989-1991), 1989-1996

Box 74

Folder 13 Letter to Marian Anderson, 1991
*Letter from President General Marie Yochim to Marian Anderson regarding attending the premiere of the WETA "Marian Anderson" film, May 1991
President General Yochim met Marian Anderson at the premiere.*

Series 6.17. President General Calvin (2007-2010), 2007-2010

Box 89

Folder 13 Marian Anderson Tribute Concert and Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial, 2009

Series 8. Public Relations, 1920s-2011

Public Relations of the National Society have always been the responsibility of the President General's office and the Public Relations Committee. In the early 2000s Public Relations professionals were hired to oversee the NSDAR's positive public image and maintain information and media on the National Society's website. The records in this series reflect the Public Relations portion of the President General's responsibilities. This series includes records such as press releases, correspondence, news-clippings, pamphlets, announcements, articles, and photographs. Most material is from the 1970s to the 1990s.

Box 100

Folder 14 Marian Anderson, 1989-1991

Box 101

Folder 26 Constitution Hall – Discrimination allegations, 1931-1974

Folder 27 Constitution Hall – History

Box 112

Folder 11 Speeches – President General Spicer, 1971-1973

Series 10. Subject Files, 1892-2013

This series contains alphabetical subject files about a wide variety of topics and issues pertaining to DAR and the work of the President General. The original folder titles have been retained when possible, but many required a fuller description than was originally provided. Most of these records date from the 1970s to the 2000s.

Box 129

- Folder 10 Marian Anderson – Booklet “Art and the Color Line” by Anson Phelps Stokes, 1939
- Folder 11 Marian Anderson – Commemorative stamp dedication ceremony, 2005
- Folder 12 Marian Anderson – Correspondence with Anne Musgrave, 1972-1982
Anne Musgrave was a DAR member from Maryland and a close friend of President General Sarah Robert. She was a lawyer and served as the National Chair of the DAR Handbook Committee, 1938-1940, and National Chair of the Revision of Bylaws Committee, 1950-1956 and 1962-1974, and a Vice President General, 1952-1955.
- Folder 13 Marian Anderson – Correspondence – President General and National Officers, February-March 1939
Includes correspondence regarding how to communicate about the Marian Anderson incident
- Folder 14 Marian Anderson – Correspondence – President General’s Office, 1940
Includes a few miscellaneous letters of support and letters of protest
- Folder 15 Marian Anderson – Correspondence – President General’s Office, 1949-1951
- Folder 16 Marian Anderson – Correspondence – President General’s Office, 1954-1955
- Folder 17 Marian Anderson – Correspondence – President General’s Office, 1956-1959
- Folders 18-19 Marian Anderson – Correspondence regarding invitation to Marian Anderson to perform in Constitution Hall for a War Benefit, 1942-1943
Includes letters opposing and celebrating the invitation for Marian Anderson to sing in Constitution Hall

Box 130

- Folder 1 Marian Anderson – Excerpt from the report of the President General at Congress, April 1939
This was the main statement at the time and was the excerpt the DAR sent to people with inquiries.
- Folder 2 Marian Anderson – Explanation of policy, circa 1940s
- Folder 3 Marian Anderson – Godfrey Broadcast regarding Constitution Hall policies, May 26, 1949
- Folder 4 Marian Anderson – Sol Hurok, not dated, 1939-1952
Includes the original letters from Sol Hurok, dated January 27, 1939, and Harold Ickes, dated January 30, 1939, and anti-Semitic propaganda from the Christian Defenders of American Heritage

Also, other correspondence between Fred Hand and Sol Hurok in 1942 regarding the DAR's war relief concert invitation

- Folder 5 Marian Anderson – Mentions in publication and media, 2001-2007
- Folder 6 Marian Anderson – News clippings, 1939-1949
- Folder 7 Marian Anderson – Rulings of the Board regarding Constitution Hall policy, 1932-1951
Note: The ruling in 1932 to include the “white artists only” policy in Constitution Hall contracts was reaffirmed in 1939, 1945 and 1946. It was removed by the National Board of Management on April 25, 1953.
- Folder 8 Marian Anderson – Statements by the President General, not dated, 1958

Box 139

- Folder 3 Constitution Hall – Correspondence regarding use of the Hall, 1938-1949
- Folder 4 Constitution Hall – Correspondence regarding use of the Hall, 1950-1956
- Folder 6 Constitution Hall – DAR complaints to the Associated Press regarding negative articles, 1954-1955

Box 140

- Folder 16 Constitution Hall – Statements, 1939-1978

Box 147

- Folder 22 Diva Foundation – Tribute to Marian Anderson, 1986-1987

Box 161

- Folder 5 Marian Anderson commemorative stamp dedication ceremony, 2005

Box 168

- Folder 6 Policy, 1938-1950

Box 174

Folders 12-13 Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit – Marian Anderson label, 1996

Accrual Box 201

Folder 2 Marian Anderson – Marjorie Walsh publication, 1997

Papers of the Recording Secretary General

The Recording Secretary General is responsible for many tasks related to official documentation of the NSDAR activities and decisions. Most of this collection is comprised of the records used to edit and compile the minutes of the National Board of Management and the *Annual Proceedings* from each Continental Congress. Usually, these files include a verbatim transcript, edited drafts, and accompanying correspondence and miscellaneous documents. They provide much insight into the decision-making processes of the national officers.

Series 3. National Board of Management Minutes, 1890-1987

The National Board of Management is the governing body with general supervision of the property and business of the National Society. The Board is comprised of the Executive Officers, the Vice Presidents General, and the State Regents. Board members meet approximately six times a year to issue rulings that supplement the Bylaws in directing the activities and policies of the National Society. The materials in this series document the Board's decision-making process and provide a record of the actions of the NSDAR. Records are arranged chronologically by meeting date. The records of each meeting usually contain the official minutes, verbatim transcript, subject index, and assorted materials used both during the meeting as well as afterwards to compile the minutes. These background items can vary but usually include original motion cards, executive and committee reports, summaries of rulings, correspondence, and additional copies of the minutes and verbatim transcript.

Note: Constitution Hall's "white artists only" clause was added to the lease agreements/contracts in March of 1932. It was upheld at the February and October 1939 National Board of Management meetings, and again at the meetings in October 1942 and 1945. The clause was removed from the contracts by a National Board of Management vote during the Board's April 25, 1953 meeting.

Box 66

Folder 1-2 February 1, 1939 (2 folders)

Folder 7-8 October 25, 1939 (2 folders)

Box 70

Folder 3-5 October 30, 1942 (3 folders)

Box 84

Folder 2 April 25, 1953

Series 8. Subject Files, 1890-1986

This series contains subject files created by the Office of the Recording Secretary General. The files cover a wide variety of topics relating to the NSDAR and its activities. Usually, the records relate to any official action or rulings on the respective subjects, but the files contain a lot of general information on each topic as well. Types of items include correspondence, newspaper clippings, publications, rulings, pamphlets, brochures, and other printed material.

Box 221

Folders 2-4 Constitution Hall, 1928-1975 (3 folders)

Papers of Sarah Corbin Robert

This collection includes the personal and professional papers of the DAR's 17th President General, Sarah Corbin Robert. She led the National Society as its President General from 1938 to 1941, during the events surrounding Marian Anderson's Lincoln Memorial concert. Sarah Robert's papers include her work with the DAR, as well as with numerous other organizations. She was also a nationally recognized parliamentarian and was a trustee and editor of her father-in-law's book, *Robert's Rules of Order*, which is considered the most widely used manual for parliamentary procedure in the United States.

Series 2. Daughters of the American Revolution, 1921-1972

Arrangement: Organized into four subseries: (2.1) Peggy Stewart Tea Party Chapter, (2.2) Maryland State Society, (2.3) National Society, and (2.4) DAR Subject Files.

Series 2.4 DAR Subject Files

Box 31

- Folder 6 Anderson, Marian—Correspondence, January-February 21, 1939
Correspondence includes DAR members and the public asking for more information, protesting, and/or supporting the DAR – many include newspaper clippings
- Folder 7 Anderson, Marian—Correspondence, February 22-March 2, 1939
*Assortment of letters of protest and of support
A few notable examples – letter from the D.C. Daughters of Confederacy, commending DAR decision, “not in keeping with the dignity of the DAR”; Eleanor Roosevelt’s resignation letter and President General Robert’s reply; protest letters from Congressmen; many of the protest letters mention how un-American it is for the DAR to deny Marian Anderson.
Note: Items in this folder contain outdated language that is considered offensive.*
- Folder 8 Anderson, Marian—Correspondence, March 3-14, 1939
*Assortment of letters of protest and of support
A few notable examples – protest letter from the National War Veterans Association; letter from Tom Wrigley, publicist for the DAR, advising them that they are responding correctly to the media, that it is all a political stunt and that the DAR will come out fine, mentions the D.C. School Board vote; letter from the DAR Librarian General to the President General regarding a White House reception despite Eleanor Roosevelt’s DAR resignation; members expressing frustration at the bad publicity overshadowing their good work; Lillian Gish’s resignation letter.
Note: Items in this folder contain outdated language that is considered offensive.*
- Folder 9 Anderson, Marian—Correspondence, March 15-31 1939
Assortment of letters of protest and of support

A few notable examples – letters advising the DAR not to do anything different and to let it blow over; letters from DAR chapters urging the President General to make a statement of facts; advice from George Musgrave, a lawyer and friend of the President General, floating the conspiracy theory that high powered people deliberately sowed seeds of discord within the organization; protest letter from the D.C. post of the American Legion; letters from DAR state regents, including France’s regent, explaining how they have communicated the matter in their states, for example the Ohio state regent, Eleanor Donahue, met with the NAACP in Ohio about the issue, includes her correspondence with them; letter to the DAR Recording Secretary General, suggesting that the DAR needs a Public Relations department.

Box 32

- Folder 1 Anderson, Marian—Correspondence, April 1939
Assortment of letters of protest and of support
A few notable examples - confusion from DAR members asking for “correct” information on the matter and of members not understanding the “laws” of the District and who governs the District of Columbia; letter from Honorary President General Edith Magna, April 4 1939 - “There is nothing so disarming in the world as truth, and what we have but to state it, to have our case understood.”; protest letter from Congressman Arthur Mitchell, the first African American elected to Congress as a Democrat; letters from senators etc. referring to the petition from the Marian Anderson Citizen’s Committee; letter from Utah Senator Elbert Thomas (one of the sponsors of the Marian Anderson concert) requesting that Anderson sing at Constitution Hall in the future; letter from Sol Hurok requesting a future date for Marian Anderson to sing; letters of support from DAR members, pleased with how President General Robert addressed the situation in her Continental Congress remarks.
Note: Items in this folder contain outdated language that is considered offensive.
- Folder 2 Anderson, Marian—Correspondence, May-October 1939
Assortment of letters of protest and of support, including Honorary President General Anne Minor’s letter of support and protest letter from Senator Joseph Guffey; letter from the DAR Librarian General passing on a suggestion to allow Marian Anderson a fall date for a concert; letters about the Marian Anderson Citizens Committee meeting; letter from the editor of “Missions,” a Baptist magazine, “It is a real question whether an organization like the DAR ought not to be in the category of the Christian church in leading the community toward working out its problems...”
- Folder 3 Anderson, Marian—Correspondence, 1939 not dated
Assortment of letters of protest and of support, including a letter of encouragement to President General Sarah Robert from her sister, Nell.
Note: Items in this folder contain outdated language that is considered offensive.
- Folder 4 Anderson, Marian—Correspondence, 1940-1941
Assortment of letters of protest and of support, including correspondence regarding Stokes sending his “Art and the Color Line” booklet to the DAR National Board of Management and to the Honorary Presidents General; letters regarding a Readers’ Digest article; telegram from the Marian Anderson Citizens Committee (MACC), asking for the removal of Constitution Hall’s “white artists only” clause and a telegram from the

NAACP, endorsing the MACC's request; letter from a Chicago Daughter, suggesting the DAR's need of a publicity agent, "Can't we get a paid publicity agent who will educate the public on the great worthwhile work which is ours?"

Note: Items in this folder contain outdated language that is considered offensive.

Folder 5 Anderson, Marian—Correspondence, 1942-1967
Includes correspondence regarding the DAR's invitation in 1942 for Marian Anderson to perform a concert in Constitution Hall.

Folder 6 Anderson, Marian—Publications and Reports
Includes the President General's report at the 48th Continental Congress, April 1939 (This report is quoted in the Congressional Record, dated April 21, 1939); Stokes' booklet, "Art and the Color Line," and the press release for the Marian Anderson benefit concert, September 29, 1942.

Folder 7 Anderson, Marian—Publicity, 1939

Folder 8 Anderson, Marian—Publicity, 1940-1946

Box 35

Folder 8 Constitution Hall
Includes letters from Fred Hand, Constitution Hall's manager, and other Constitution Hall business correspondence.

Papers of the Treasurer General

This collection contains the records of the Treasurer General and her department staff; the Treasurer General is the senior financial officer of the National Society. These documents were created while carrying out the duties of the department, which pertain to the management of the National Society's finances. These areas include accounting, investments, expenditures, dues, and payroll.

Types of materials in this collection include reports, correspondence, financial statements, forms, rulings, bequest files, publications, card files, construction documents, contracts, invoices, vouchers, and items pertaining to personnel and payroll matters.

Series 7. Correspondence

Series 7.1 Correspondence of Mabel T. Rhoades, 1926-1950

This series contains the correspondence files of Mabel T. Rhoades, who served as Treasurer General from 1947-1950. Original arrangement of the records has been preserved. The first group of folders in this series contains correspondence arranged alphabetically by the writer's last name. The second group is correspondence files arranged alphabetically by subject. The documents cover a wide range of topics related to the work of the Treasurer General and her office.

Box 31

Folder 16 Constitution Hall – Events and use, 1926-1949

Photograph Collection

The majority of photographs found in the NSDAR Archives can be found in the Photograph Collection. This collection is what archivists call an artificial collection – materials with different provenances are assembled and organized to facilitate ease of use. The photographs were initially organized into three series, or groups – general, Continental Congresses, and Presidents General. Photographs that were given or found together were kept together. This results in some folders containing photographs with a variety of subject matters.

Box 21

- Folder 14 One black-and-white photograph of the exterior of Constitution Hall with a poster of Marian Anderson in the foreground; the poster is dated Sunday, February 7.
Note: This concert can be dated for the year 1960, according to Constitution Hall contracts. Multiple copies of this photograph can be found in the Papers of the President General, Photographs by Location box 2, folder 21 and box 4, folder 12.

Box 65

- Folder 13 Forty color photographs of the United States Postal Service first-day-of issue ceremony of a Marian Anderson commemorative stamp, and related activities held at DAR Headquarters on January 27, 2005.
- Folder 24 Ten color prints from the Marian Anderson commemorative postage stamp dedication ceremony, held in Memorial Continental Hall on January 27, 2005. Most are of President General Presley Wagoner with the guests of honor and other executive officers.

Public Relations Collection

This Collection contains records of the groups responsible for public relations for the DAR, mainly the national Public Relations & Media Committee, and the Public Relations Office at National Headquarters. Types of items include correspondence, speeches, news clippings, press releases, publications (booklets and newsletters), advertisements, press packets, research files, working papers, brochures, programs, statements, and a scrapbook. While not comprehensive, the Collection does provide insight into the public relations activities of the DAR, and the general issues that the committee and office have faced.

The President General is the only official spokesperson for the National Society DAR. However, a Press Relations Office at National Headquarters was established around 1948 to help centralize and coordinate press work between the various national offices and committee chairmen. In the early 1960s, the position of National Director was created within the Public Relations Office. The director worked closely with the President General on statements, speeches, and other public documents. Currently, the Public Relations Office at NSDAR Headquarters is considered part of the Office of the President General, and the office is run by the Public Relations Director.

Series 2. George Keubler, Consultant, 1952-1969

George Keubler was employed as a public relations consultant by the NSDAR. The exact dates of his employment are not known but are circa 1965-1968. Most of his work seems to have been in the mid to late 1960s under Presidents General Adele Sullivan and Elizabeth Seimes. Information in his papers indicates that he wrote speeches for the Presidents General as well as other public statements of various types. He may have also been tasked with responding to sensitive correspondence and addressing negative coverage of the DAR in the media. Keubler's records include subject files on various public relations issues faced by the NSDAR, correspondence, speeches, drafts, press releases, research files, and notes.

Box 4

Folder 12 Marian Anderson, 1968-1969

Series 5. Subject Files from the Public Relations Office

This series contains records from the Public Relations Office at NSDAR headquarters. The series is divided into multiple subseries based on how each group of materials was received in the archives.

Box 14

Folder 10 Marian Anderson stamp ceremony, 2005

Folder 11 Marian Anderson tribute concert and naturalization ceremony, 2009

Note: Additional Marian Anderson-related files that have been held in the Public Relations Office have recently been turned over to the NSDAR Archives and are waiting to be processed. These files contain older and contemporary records regarding Marian Anderson and are possibly duplicates of what is in the Archives. Included items pertain to her farewell concert in Constitution Hall on October 24, 1964 and the 75th anniversary commemoration of the Lincoln Memorial concert in 2014.

Special Collection Pertaining to the History of the NSDAR

This collection dates to the National Society's 75th anniversary in 1965. It consists of materials about the DAR but not generated by the DAR. This collection contains items including newspaper and journal articles and books featuring the Society and its notable members, letters with references to the NSDAR, photographs and musical compositions dedicated to the DAR.

Series 1. General (Founders, Early Years, and Special Events)

Box 6

Folder 16 Brochure titled "Statement regarding Constitution Hall," dated 1966, regarding NSDAR policy and Marian Anderson

Box 8

Folder 18 Printed brochure entitled, "NSDAR Statement regarding Constitution Hall 1962," regarding the Marian Anderson incident

Series 2. News Clippings and Political Cartoons

Box 4

Folder 28 News Clippings
"Revolutionary Daughters in Racial Time Warp." Wall Street Journal, January 6, 1986.

Box 5

Folder 29 News Clippings
"Skit Given for D.A.R. Mentions Refusal of Anderson Concert." Washington Star, March 15, 1939.
"Marian Anderson, DAR Again Fail to Agree; Concert is Off." Washington Post, November 5, 1942.
"Marian Anderson Agrees to Sing on Terms Suggested by DAR." Washington Star, November 7, 1942.
"DAR to Continue Jim Crow Policies." Washington Tribune, November 7, 1942.
"Marian Anderson and the D.A.R." [editorial]. Washington Tribune, January 9, 1943.
"Mrs. Truman Refuses to Boycott DAR but Deplores Racial Ban." Washington Star, October 13, 1945.

"Bar Race Equality Move in D.A.R." Louisville Times, May 22, 1946, and "D. A. R. Rule on White Artists Left on Books."

Folder 38 "The DAR, Marian Anderson, and Constitution Hall," by Dorothy W. Wilbur [letter to the editor]. Providence Journal-Bulletin, June 20, 1991, page A-13.

Folder 41 "My Life in the DAR," by Amy Cunningham. The Washingtonian, August 1984 (vol. 19, no. 11), pages 112-117.

Box 8

Folder 28 "Let Freedom Ring" by Jabari Asim. Washington Post, July 5, 2009.
Book review of 'The Sound of Freedom: Marian Anderson, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Concert that Awakened America' by Raymond Arsenault.
Note: Arsenault visited the NSDAR Archives while researching this book.

Folder 31 "Facts about DAR," letter to the editor by Robert C. Kimberly, Baltimore Sun, May 11, 1979.
Refers to New York Times account and Marian Anderson

Oversize Box 7

"Breaching the Old Walls of Prejudice," by Edgar A. Toppin. Christian Science Monitor, June 5, 1969.
Article about Marian Anderson and Jackie Robinson

Scrapbook page with newspaper clippings about Marian Anderson.
Most of the page is comprised of pictures from Anderson's concert at the Lincoln Memorial, as printed in the Washington Sunday Star, April 16, 1939. A quarter of the page is devoted to an undated clipping from the Chicago Tribune, a letter to the editor by A. H. Sisson, DAR Librarian General, entitled "Miss Anderson and the D.A.R."