Guide to the Papers of

Vera Chandler Foster

Prepared by Asia K. Bender, 2022

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**Tuskegee University**

**Archives**

**Tuskegee, AL 36088**

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**Collection Summary**

**Creator:** Foster, Vera Chandler (1915-2001)

**Title:** Papers of Vera Chandler Foster

**Dates:** 1915-2001

**Quantity:** 6.0 cubic feet

**Identification:**

**Abstract:** Vera Chandler Foster was the wife of Dr. Luther H. Foster (Fourth President of Tuskegee Institute). Foster was a social worker at the United States Veteran Administration at Tuskegee Institute for over 25 years. Additionally, she served in many organizations, such as the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the National Association of Social Workers, NAACP, and was an advisor to the White House Conference Committee on Aging.

**Contact Information:** Tuskegee University National Center of Bioethics, Archives and Museums

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**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation**

Papers of Vera C. Foster (1915-2001)

**Acquisition Information**

No information available

**Processing Information**

The papers were received for processing in various containers, with the documents in folders. From their arrangement in the containers, the folders were not arranged any particular order. Many of the folders were not labeled, or were mislabeled in reference to their actual contents.

The processors decided to separate the folders into series according to subject matter that would be arranged alphabetically within each series.

In processing the collection, original folders were replaced with acid-free folders. Folders were labeled, either following the original labeling, or in the case of missing or incorrect labels were assigned folder titles. All metal fasteners were removed.

**Index Terms**

The papers are indexed under the following headings in the Tuskegee University Library’s online catalog. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations or places should search the catalog using these headings.

**Subjects:**

Delta Sigma Theta Society

Fisk University

Luther H. Foster

United States Veterans Administration

**Persons:**

Vera Chandler Foster

**Biography**

Vera Adrienne Chandler was born August 09, 1915, in Indianola, Mississippi, to parents William and Mariah Chandler. Chandler and her family moved to Omaha, Nebraska, when she was young. She would eventually graduate from Omaha Central High School at age 15 in 1931. Chandler graduated magna cum laude with her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Fisk University in 1936 and her Master of Arts degree in social work in 1940 from the University of Nebraska. Throughout her studies, she held different secretarial positions. Chandler was a secretary for Virginia State College’s President between 1936-1939 and a secretary to the sociology department at the University of Nebraska from 1939-1940. Then, Vera Chandler married Luther H. Foster (who would become the 4th President of Tuskegee Institute) in 1941. Foster received the Julius Rosenwald Fund, where she studied sociology and completed a fellowship at the University of Minnesota. She received her second master’s degree in social work in 1950 from the University of Chicago.

In 1953, Mrs. Foster’s husband, Dr. Luther H. Foster, became the fourth president of the Tuskegee Institute. Along with serving her role as First Lady at Tuskegee Institute, she held other positions. She was a medical-psychiatric social worker at Veteran’s Administration Medical Center in Tuskegee, AL, and a mental hygienist at John A. Andrew Hospital in Tuskegee Institute. Furthermore, Foster was a field instructor in social work at several universities, including Florida State University, the University of Alabama, Atlanta University, and other prominent colleges.

Foster was an active member of the community and served members of many organizations throughout her career. Since obtaining her undergraduate degree, she has been a proud member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. She was a member of Planned Parenthood-World Population from 1966 to 1974, the Tuskegee’s Women Club, and served on the advisory board of YWCA in Tuskegee, AL. Additionally, she was the founder of the Alabama chapter of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom and a member of the NAACP task force for the chapter of Tuskegee and the National Association of Social Workers. She was appointed by former Alabama Governor George C. Wallace to serve on the board of Youth Services in 1974.

After the end of Dr. Luther H. Foster's term as president of the Tuskegee Institute, Mrs. Foster retired in 1981. She will still continue to perform her civil and community duties when Foster and her family moved to Alexandria, Virginia.

Unfortunately, Vera Adrienne Chandler Foster passed away on February 1, 2001, at the age of 85, in Alexandria, Virginia. She was buried at Tuskegee University Cemetery.

**Scope and Contents**

The papers of Vera Chandler Foster consist of documents spanning 1932-1981 and include reports and correspondence prepared by Vera Chandler Foster before and during her tenure at the Tuskegee Institute. It also included biographies and resume records throughout her career as a scholar, social worker, and active member of various organizations. Foster has personal correspondence with her children, Adrienne and Hilton Foster, and business correspondence from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, Governor George C. Wallace, and other influential figures. Furthermore, there are newspaper articles and photographs of Vera Chandler Foster throughout the years.

**Arrangement**

The papers are arranged into one series.

**Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access**

There are no restrictions on access to these papers.

**Restrictions on Use**

Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.

**Inventory**

**Box Folder**

1 1 Personal Correspondence from Hilton and Adrienne Foster, 1965-1970

1 2 Vera C. Foster Fisk University’s Autographs Book, 1932

1 3 The Girl Graduates’ Journal Fisk University – Vera C. Foster

1 4 Biographical Information – Vera C. Foster

1 5 Photographs of Vera C. Foster’s Trip to Mexico City, 1973

1 6 Photographs from 1940 to 1973 of Vera C. Foster

1 7 Business Correspondence, 1940-1981 – Vera C. Foster

1 8 White House Reception – February 12, 1963, with President Kennedy - Photos

1 9 Photographs of Vera C. Foster

1 10 Fraternity Citation- The Tuskegee News, November 15, 1973

1 11 College and Resume Records

1 12 Personal Correspondence, 1940-1977

1 13 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc Correspondence, 1955-1956

1 14 Correspondence from Martin Luther King, Jr, 1959

1 15 Dr. Luther H. Foster Medical Examination Records, 1971-1976

1 16 Letter from Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, September 9, 1964

1 17 L.H. Foster Jr’s College Correspondence, 1941

1 18 News Clippings [Physicians Explorer Frontiers of Medicine at Tuskegee

University]

1 19 Research Reports, 1960-1975

**Box Folder**

2 1 Pictures at Various Events

2 2 Vera C. Foster Business Correspondence, 1939-1980

2 3 Newspaper Clippings mentioning Vera C. Foster

2 4 Newspaper Clippings, 1942-1981

2 5 Documents about Adrienne Foster Williams

2 6 NAACP Documents

2 7 Business Correspondences, 1969

2 8 General Business Correspondence between 1970-1973

2 9 Frances Vernon [Guyana at Tuskegee], 1972

**Box Folder**

3 1 Family Correspondence

3 2 Internal Conference

3 3 International Conference on Social Welfare - Philippines Committee Report,

September 1970

3 4 Speeches from Various Authors, 1959-1972

3 5 General Business Correspondence, 1975

3 6 Personal Involvement, 1973

3 7 Social Work Documents, 1974

3 8 Newspaper Articles about Vera C. Foster, 1941-1964

3 9 Organization Programmes and Correspondence

3 10 United States Commission on Civil Rights

3 11 Social Reports, 1970-1979

3 12 Business Correspondence from 1976-1979

3 13 Vera C. Foster’s Accomplishments

3 14 General Correspondence, 1980-1981

3 15 Dr. Foster and Mrs. Foster’s White House Visits