

# MATTIE STRAUGHAN COLLECTION

AR 261

It's Our  
**35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
1924-1959

August 2, 1924—The Book Shop  
August 2, 1959—Straughan's Book Shop

**35 YEARS AGO:**  
*Mattie and Alice Straughan Opened*  
THE BOOK SHOP, in the Leftwitch Arcade  
110 NORTH ELM ST.

**Today:**  
Mattie, Mabel and Alice Straughan  
HAVE TWO BOOK SHOPS

**Straughan's**  
**BOOK SHOP, Inc.**  
116 WEST MARKET ST., GREENSBORO, N. C.  
213 NORTH MAIN ST., HIGH POINT, N. C.

*Our Slogan: "A Book May be as Great a  
Thing as a Battle." — Disraeli.*

*Advertisement, The Greensboro Record, August 5, 1959.*

Prepared by: Dorothy A. Davis  
Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives  
July, 2008

Updated October, 2012

# Mattie Straughan Collection

## AR 261

### Summary

Main Entry: Mattie Straughan Collection

Date Span: 1940 – 1965

Abstract: Collection contains material gathered by Mattie Straughan relating to her bookstore and her involvement in Baptist life, such as correspondence, programs, and clippings.

Size: One linear ft. (2 boxes)

Collection #: AR 261

### Biographical Sketch

Mattie Straughan worked in a Baptist Book Store in Greensboro, North Carolina from about 1939 until 1941.<sup>1</sup> She was also active in First Baptist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina, where her sister, Alice, worked as the church librarian from 1947 until 1972. Ms. Straughan was acquainted with several prominent Baptist leaders in the early twentieth century, including Duke McCall, Louie D. Newton, and J. Clyde Turner. In addition, Hight C Moore was a family friend, and Mattie spent several summers with the Moores at their home, Moorehaven.

Ms. Straughan operated Straughan's Book Shop, Inc. with her two sisters, Mabel and Alice. Their store was a prominent book retailer in the area, with an extensive mail order business throughout the South. Additionally, Ms. Straughan and her sisters hosted several authors, including Burke Davis and Bernice Harris Kelly, for readings and autograph signings. The sisters ran the book shop from 1924 until they retired in 1962. Mattie Straughan died in 1973.

### Scope and Content Note

The Mattie Straughan Collection (1940 – 1965) contains one linear foot of material in two document boxes. Materials include clippings, correspondence, pamphlets, and programs.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Correspondence: Mattie Straughan, Hight C Moore Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee (AR 69, Box 63, Folder 17). In seeking a position at the Baptist Book Store, Ms. Straughan makes reference to previous denominational work details of which are unknown.

The collection contains material Ms. Straughan gathered, which it is arranged alphabetically by biographical or subject file. Following Ms. Straughan's organization structure, materials within the file pertain to the stated subject or person and include various types of documents, such as correspondence, programs, and/or clippings. Information within the subject files often relate to her bookstore, Straughan's Book Shop, Inc. in Greensboro, North Carolina, or her involvement in Baptist life.

Researchers should note that a related collection, the Straughan's Book Shop Records, 1930 – 1962, is in the Manuscript Collection at the University of North Carolina (Greensboro) Archives. Additionally, Ms. Straughan's sister, Alice, published *How to Organize Your Church Library* (Westwood, NJ: Revell Publishers), in 1962.

Mattie Straughan donated the collection to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives (then Historical Commission, Southern Baptist Convention) in 1971.

### **Arrangement**

Arranged in alphabetical order by biographical or subject file

### **Provenance**

Donated by Mattie Straughan, in 1971, to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives (Historical Commission)

### **Preferred Citation**

Mattie Straughan Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

### **Access Restrictions**

None

### **Subject Terms**

Straughan, Mattie, 1900? – 1973

Straughan, Alice

Moore, Hight C, 1871 – 1957

Baptists – North Carolina – Greensboro

### **Related Material**

Straughan's Book Shop Records, 1930 – 1962, located in the Manuscript Collection of the University of North Carolina (Greensboro) Archives

### **Container list**

#### **Box 1**

- 1.1 American Bible Society
- 1.2 Baptist Hospitals
- 1.3 Bible Study – Gospel of John, by Frank Stagg
- 1.4 Biographical Information – Adams, Theodore F.

- 1.5 Biographical Information – Arnett, Ethel Stephens
- 1.6 Biographical Information – Bedon, Eleanor G.
- 1.7 Biographical Information – Blackstock, Erva
- 1.8 Biographical Information – Bowen, Claud E. (& family)
- 1.9 Biographical Information – Burris, Marilyn
- 1.10 Biographical Information – Couch, John Philip
- 1.11 Biographical Information – Davis, Burke
- 1.12 Biographical Information – Edinger, Lois
- 1.13 Biographical Information – Fernald, John and Jessie
- 1.14 Biographical Information – Gambrell, James B.
- 1.15 Biographical Information – Gardner, E. Norfleet
- 1.16 Biographical Information – Graham, Billy
- 1.17 Biographical Information – Grant, Marse
- 1.18 Biographical Information – Grant, Mrs. Worth C.
- 1.19 Biographical Information – Greer, Isaac G.
- 1.20 Biographical Information – Harris, Bernice Kelly
- 1.21 Biographical Information – Havner, Vance
- 1.22 Biographical Information – Hays, Brooks
- 1.23 Biographical Information – Jarman, Maxey
- 1.24 Biographical Information – Johnson, Elbert N.
- 1.25 Biographical Information – Johnson, Gerald W.
- 1.26 Biographical Information – Johnson, Lois
- 1.27 Biographical Information – Johnson, Mary
- 1.28 Biographical Information – Johnson, Mary Lynch
- 1.29 Biographical Information – Johnson, William
- 1.30 Biographical Information – Lipscomb, Elizabeth
- 1.31 Biographical Information – Magnum, Oscar F.
- 1.32 Biographical Information – Middleton, Owen F.
- 1.33 Biographical Information – Newton, Louie D. (1 of 2)
- 1.34 Biographical Information – Newton, Louie D. (2 of 2)
- 1.35 Biographical Information – Seawell, Herbert F. (Cousin Chub)
- 1.36 Biographical Information – Turner, J. Clyde
- 1.37 Biographical Information – Weaver, Rufus W.
- 1.38 Biographical Information – Whitaker, Bruce E.

## **Box 2**

- 2.1 Church Bulletins – Miscellaneous
- 2.2 Clippings
- 2.3 Clippings – Biblical Recorder, 1969
- 2.4 Clippings – Missionaries
- 2.5 Clippings – Nashville Public Library, 1965
- 2.6 Clippings – Ridgecrest
- 2.7 Clippings – Southern Baptist Home Missions, 1942 – 1943
- 2.8 Correspondence – Missionaries
- 2.9 Correspondence – Ridgecrest
- 2.10 First Baptist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

- 2.11 First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee – Fidelis Class
- 2.12 Lawndale Mission Project
- 2.13 Manhattan Baptist Church, New York City, New York
- 2.14 Pamphlets – Richard Nixon Campaign
- 2.15 Personal
- 2.16 Programs – North Carolina Baptist Church Library Convention, 1961
- 2.17 Programs – Ridgecrest
- 2.18 Riverside Church – New York City, New York
- 2.19 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 2.20 Wake Forest College
- 2.21 Woman’s Missionary Union