

Augusta County Historical Society
Acc #386
Elise Curry Brownell Collection
1986

Size: 1 folder (5 items)

Scope & Content

Dorothy Brownell provides evidence to substantiate the family held claim that her grandfather Duncan Curry was a member of the Seven Society while a student at the University of Virginia. The Seven Society was shrouded by total secrecy--no one except members, knew who they were -- not family, not friend, not anyone-- until a member died. Then the Society would send a white flower to the member's funeral as a tribute to a fallen comrade. No white flower was delivered to Mr. Duncan's grave. Mrs. Brownell was successful in her efforts to prove that her grandfather had been a member. In remembrance of Mr. Curry, the Seven Society arranged for the bells of the carillon in the chapel to be tolled seven times on December 7, 1983. Several members of the family were there for the special remembrance. Dorothy Brownell died September 24, 1985. Her mother, Elise Brownell contributed the materials as a memorial to her daughter.

Historical/Biographical Note

To University of Virginia students there was no greater honor than to be chosen as a member of the Seven, a fiercely secretive society of loyal and devoted members of Mr. Jefferson's select few. Traditions abounded within the Seven: secret memberships, private donations, and good deeds done

Organization/Arrangement

- Item 1: obituary for Dorothy Myers Brownell
- Item 2: funeral memoriam for Dorothy Myers Brownell
- Item 3: narrative written by Mrs. Brownell]
- Item 4: letter to the Seven Society from Mrs. Brownell
- Item 5: letter to Mrs. Brownell from the Seven Society

Miscellaneous