

# FINDING AID

## Beulah Glover Collection

*at the Colleton County Memorial Library Archives*

This is a general overview and finding aid for the Beulah Glover Collection, a collection representing the historical and genealogical work of renowned local author and historian Mary Beulah Glover (1887-1991). For additional information about the archival collection or to request access to a collection contact the reference librarian at 843-549-5621, ext. 3.

### Descriptive Summary

<b>Identifier</b>	CCML AR 004
<b>Title</b>	Beulah Glover Collection
<b>Creator</b>	Mary Beulah Glover (1887-1991); Leslie Montgomery Rentz (1912-2002)
<b>Date</b>	~1921 - 1991
<b>Size</b>	2 boxes
<b>Repository</b>	Colleton County Memorial Library Archives 600 Hampton Street, Walterboro, SC 29488 843-549-5621, colletonlibrary.org
<b>Donated By</b>	Unknown - Possibly by Beulah Glover (1887-1991) prior to her death, or by her niece Leslie Montgomery Rentz or by Glover's executor or heir after her death in 1991.
<b>Overview</b>	The Beulah Glover Collection encompasses the compiled writings, clippings, historical sources, genealogical material, maps and miscellaneous material collected by local historian and author Beulah Glover from the 1920s through her death in 1991. The collection also contains biographical and autobiographical material, correspondence, as well as a few posthumous pieces mostly likely collected and added to the collection by Glover's niece and collaborator Leslie Montgomery Rentz.
<b>Access</b>	Accessible by the general public. Access to these records may be requested through the Reference Librarian at 843-549-5621, ext. 3.

## Biographical Overview

### Beulah Glover

*This history is taken from Katrena Smoak McCall's 1987 article for Walterboro, SC's The Press & Standard "Colleton's Historian 'Miss Beulah' Glover, Watches 100 Years Go By." The article was published in the August 20, 1987 edition of the newspaper.*

Its not often that a person has the chance to make a difference in a community and the lives of those around them. And it's even more rare for a person to have her name inscribed in history. But Beulah Glover of Walterboro has managed to do both.

Miss Beulah was born on Aug. 17, 1887 in the Hampton Street house where she still lives [517 Hampton St.]. Things were very different then. She has seen the advent of electricity, automobiles and computers. And she has had the chance to witness firsthand how these changes have affected the lives of those in Colleton County.

She remembers a Walterboro with dirt roads lit by kerosene lamps. A time with no air conditioning, electric lights or television. She was a working woman in a time when women ordinarily didn't work outside the home. In fact when she came to work for The Press and Standard on Sept. 6, 1920, women didn't even have the right to vote.

Always interested in learning new things, she held several positions before she decided to become an author. For a while she worked in a millinery store as a clerk making \$2 a week (she eventually made her way up to \$9 a week), tutored children and was a substitute teacher. Encouraged to write by one of her own teachers, Miss Beulah decided that when her "formal education" was over at the age of 14, she would take correspondence courses in shorthand and typing. "People then kind of laughed at taking courses my mail," she said, "I thought that people would think that I didn't know anything, so I decided to go to Spartanburg [Cecil's Business School] and stay a month and get a diploma. Didn't learn a thing that I didn't already know, but it gave me prestige."

Just before Miss Beulah left for her month of college, she was offered a job at The Press and Standard by the editor W.W. Smoak. It was a career which was to last for 17 years.

Times were different then and the process of getting out a paper much more time-consuming. With no telephones, all of the news had to be gathered in person, and since Miss Beulah was a news staff of one, she spent the majority of her time gathering, writing and getting out the news to the people. She described newspaper work as "fascinating but you have to give all of your time to it."

But 17 years is a long time in one job, and when the social security office opened here, Miss Beulah decided it was time for a change. She worked there as a clerk for the next 10 years before moving on to another new adventure, radio. "I always wanted to learn new things and I

wanted to see what radio was all about,” she said. But after three years with WALD, her eyesight began to fail and she decided it was time to “retire.”

Miss Beulah never set out to become the county historian. It just happened that way. One day someone asked her to write a history of Bethel Methodist Church in Walterboro. Up to that point she had never realized that there was no recorded history of Colleton County, so she decided to write down what she knew. Her first book has now been reprinted four times, and she has published a total of seven separate works on Colleton County history: *Historic Trail in Colleton County*, *Tribute to Yesterday*, *Narratives of Colleton County*, *Winged Seed*, *Backward Glaces*, *Backward Glaces Vol. 2* and *Walterboro: People and Places Before 1900*. She has also been published numerous magazine and newspaper articles over the years.

She has been assisted in her writing by her niece, Leslie M. Rentz, who has served as Miss Beulah’s eyes in recent years, writing down stories, compiling them into book form and helping with the details of publication.

Local history buffs are grateful for Miss Beulah’s research and writing, for without her, Colleton might have been a community lacking a written history.

### **Additional Biographical Notes**

In addition to being an author and historian, Beulah Glover was also an ardent photographer. She operated her own photography studio, the Foto-Nook, which opened around 1937 and was in business throughout the 1940s. Her photographs were sold as post cards, shown in regional exhibitions and used to illustrate her own books.

Glover also worked as a photo-journalist selling her pictures to local papers such as *The Press & Standard*. A collection of her photographs is currently held by the University of South Carolina’s South Caroliniana Library and is accessible online through the SC Digital Library at <https://digital.library.sc.edu/collections/the-beulah-glover-photograph-collection/>.

Glover was involved in many local organizations. She was a member of the Walterboro Library Board from 1920 until 1986, helping to integrate the Walterboro Library Society and the Colleton County Library to form the Colleton County Memorial Library in 1955. She helped found the Colleton County Historical & Preservation Society and was instrumental in helping to establish many historical markers in Colleton County. She was also an honorary member of the Tea & Topics Literary Society.

Glover was a member of Bethel Methodist Church, a past-president of the Women’s Missionary Society and the Wesleyan Service Guild. She taught in the church’s school for more than 25 years.

Beulah Glover died on January 14, 1991 at the age of 103. She is buried in Walterboro’s historic Live Oak Cemetery alongside several other members of her family.

### *A Brief Timeline of Glover's Occupational History*

- 1900s - 1920** Worked for various local businesses including Mr. E.M. Jones's Dry Good Store, Mrs. Black's Millinery Store, Mr. Buford Sanders's Dry Good Store, Beach Brothers' Dry Goods Store, as well as serving as a substitute teacher at Miss Helen Malone's school.
- 1920** Graduated from Cecil's Business School.
- 1920 - 1937** Society editor and featured reporter for *The Press & Standard*.
- 1937 - 1947** Clerk for the Department of Welfare.  
Opened her own photography studio the Foto-Nook.
- 1947 - 1950** Commercial Manager for the Walterboro Broadcasting Company
- 1957** First book, *Methodism in Colleton County*, published.
- 1958** Helped found the Colleton County Historical & Preservation Society.
- 1962** *Narratives of Colleton County* published.
- 1986** Her last book, *Walterboro: People and Places Before 1900*, published.

### **Biographical Overview**

#### Leslie Montgomery Rentz

Leslie Montgomery Rentz (1912-2002) was Beulah Glover's niece. She was born Beulah Leslie Montgomery on 04 Jun 1912 to Beulah's sister Bertie Verdier Glover and her husband Matthew Salters Montgomery. She later married William Solomon Rentz. She died in Washington in 2002.

Leslie helped her aunt extensively with her historical writings in the mid-to-late 20th century. Glover's 1980 history "Tribute to Yesterday" includes a dedication "To my niece, Leslie M. Rentz, who typed these tales..." Rentz was named on the front cover of Glover's 1986 book "Walterboro: People and Places Before 1900" as the compiler of the book. Glover was known to be having trouble with her eyesight later in life and it is probably that Rentz stepped in to help her aunt when her eyesight began failing.

## **About the Collection**

The Beulah Glover Collection represents the historical and genealogical work of the county's most well-known and beloved historian. Beulah Glover began her career as a historian in the 1940's after failing eyesight forced her to retire early. She had a small brick building built alongside her home at 517 Hampton Street (next to Pinckney Park) in which she stored her vast amount of newspaper clippings, writings, historical sources and genealogical writings. Glover's niece Leslie Montgomery Rentz helped Beulah organize and care for this collection, as well as helping Glover type and organize her historical publications. The present collection represents the work of both women.

Sometime after Beulah Glover's death her papers were transferred to the Colleton County Memorial Library where they were mixed into the files of the library's Vertical File. In 2022, the Glover files, most designated with a stamp "From the Files of Beulah Glover," were removed from the Vertical File to form their own collection.

## Inventory

### Box 1 - Biographical Material & Genealogical Collection

#### Biographical Material

- Folder A Beulah Glover Biographies
- Folder B Beulah Glover Biographical Articles & Newspaper Clippings

#### Genealogical Collection

- Folder A Campbell/McCants/Crosskeys Families #1 - Index & Correspondence
- Folder B Campbell/McCants/Crosskeys Families #2 - Genealogical Material & Notes
- Folder C Dent Family #1 - Index & Genealogical Material
- Folder D Dent Family #2 - Correspondence
- Folder E Elliott Family, specifically Col. Bernard Elliott - Index & Book Excerpts
- Folder F Fontaine Family - Index, Articles & Clippings
- Folder G Fraser Family - Index, First Drafts, Clippings, etc.
- Folder H Fraysse Family - Index, Clippings & Articles, etc.
- Folder I Glover Family - Index, Genealogical Material, Writings & Sources
- Folder J Hayne Family, specifically Isaac Hayne #1 - Index, Correspondence, Articles, etc.
- Folder K Hayne Family, specifically Isaac Hayne #2 - Notes on the Execution of Isaac Hayne
- Folder L Klein Family - Index, First Drafts, Clippings, etc.
- Folder M Koger Family - Index, Correspondence & Genealogical Material
- Folder N Laurens Family - Index, Articles & First Drafts
- Folder O Lucas Family - Index & Clippings
- Folder P Miller Family, specifically Ezra Miller #1 - Index, First Drafts, Correspondence, Articles
- Folder Q Miller Family, specifically Ezra Miller #2 - Genealogical Material
- Folder R Rice Family, specifically Carew Rice - Index, Clippings & Correspondence
- Folder S Sinkler Family, specifically Peter Sinkler - Index & Articles
- Folder T Stanton Family - Index & Clippings
- Folder U Walter/Rumph Family #1 - Index, Coat of Arms, First Drafts
- Folder V Walter/Rumph Family #2 - Copies or Transcriptions of Original Documents
- Folder W Walter/Rumph Family #3 - Genealogical Materials
- Folder X Warren Family - Index, First Drafts, Articles & Clippings
- Folder Y Witsell Family - Index & Articles

Box 2 - Historical Material

Folder A	Photography/ "Camera Clicks"
Folder B	Correspondence
Folder C	First Drafts/Notes (1 of 8) - Buildings (Homes, Hotels, etc.)
Folder D	First Drafts/Notes (2 of 8) - Local Libraries
Folder E	First Drafts/Notes (3 of 8) - People
Folder F	First Drafts/Notes (4 of 8) - Trains, Roadways, Automobiles
Folder G	First Drafts/Notes (5 of 8) - Bridges, Rivers, Waterways
Folder H	First Drafts/Notes (6 of 8) - Churches, Cemeteries
Folder I	First Drafts/Notes (7 of 8) - Miscellaneous
Folder J	First Drafts/Notes (8 of 8) - Colleton County Towns
Folder K	Colleton in History (1 of 4) - 1967
Folder L	Colleton in History (2 of 4) - 1968
Folder M	Colleton in History (3 of 4) - 1969
Folder N	Colleton in History (4 of 4) - Undated
Folder O	Undated Articles
Folder P	Articles - 1924-1977 Assorted Publications
Folder Q	Excerpts from Town Council Minutes, 1866 - 1896
Folder R	Clipped by Beulah/Source Material (1 of 13) - Maps & Photos
Folder S	Clipped by Beulah/Source Material (2 of 13) - Magazine, Book Articles
Folder T	Clipped by Beulah/Source Material (3 of 13) - Newspaper Clippings
Folder U	Clipped by Beulah/Source Material (4 of 13) - Misc. Documents
Folder V	Clipped by Beulah/Source Material (5 of 13) - Isaac Hayne
Folder W	Clipped by Beulah/Source Material (6 of 13) - Ezra Miller
Folder X	Clipped by Beulah/Source Material (7 of 13) - Verdier Family
Folder Y	Clipped by Beulah/Source Material (8 of 13) - Washington's Journey
Folder Z	Clipped by Beulah/Source Material (9 of 13) - Cities & Towns
Folder AA	Clipped by Beulah/Source Material (10 of 13) - Rivers & Waterways
Folder BB	Clipped by Beulah/Source Material (11 of 13) - Colleton County Courthouse
Folder CC	Clipped by Beulah/Source Material (12 of 13) - Railways & Roadways
Folder DD	Clipped by Beulah/Source Material (13 of 13) - Library
Folder EE	Clipped by Beulah/Source Material - Source Material Lists