

Hopewell Valley Historical Society
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Inez and Charles Howell Papers

1986.003

Extent

1 box, .4 linear feet

Dates

1921-1977, primarily 1954-1977

Creators

Howell, Charles R. (Charles Robert), 1904-1973

Howell, Inez Howe, 1901-1985

Scope and Content

This is a collection of primarily photographs, clippings, and correspondence collected by Inez Howell, in which she documented the political life of her husband, Charles Howell, and his position as Commissioner of Banking and Insurance of New Jersey. Photographs include Inez Howell's early life through Charles Howell's political career, in which she was an active participant.



Charles and Inez Howell on election night 1954

The collection also documents the annual trip for students at Rutgers University to Washington, DC that Inez Howell funded in memory of Charles Howell in the late 1970s. Many news clippings concern the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. The Howells hosted a refugee from this conflict.

Biographical Notes

Charles Howell (1904-1973) was born in Trenton and lived in Mercer County, New Jersey. Before his career in public service he worked as an insurance broker. He served as a member of the New Jersey General Assembly from 1944-1947. He was elected to the United States House of Representatives for the 4th Congressional District of New Jersey and served from 1949 to 1955. In 1954 he ran for Senate but was not elected. He then served as New Jersey State Commissioner of Banking and Insurance from 1955 to 1969, and in 1956 was a delegate at large at the Democratic National Convention.

Inez Howe was born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1901. Her family moved to Pennington in 1910, when her father opened a nursery, where she worked as a secretary, according to the 1930 federal census. She married Charles Howell in 1928. The evidence of the collection shows that Howell participated in her husband's political career in a fashion common in the 20th century, joining him in campaigning, supporting his professional activities, and creating an annual trip for Rutgers students in his memory. In 1974, Inez Howell donated the Howell Farm to Mercer County.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Contact the Hopewell Valley Historical Society for terms of reproduction.

Administrative History

Donated by John and Ruth Sayer in 1986.

Related Materials

Charles Howell's papers from his legislative career are held by Rutgers University Libraries.

Library catalog listing:

[Howell CR \(Charles R.\). *Papers*, 1949-1955.; 1949.](#)

Finding aid:

[Charles R. Howell Papers](#), Annex Collection #3197, Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries.

Additional Howell materials are held at the Howell Living History Farm in Hopewell Township, NJ. For more information, contact the curator: (609) 737-9538, or info@howellfarm.org.

Languages and Scripts of the Material

The collection is entirely in English.

Citation

Inez and Charles Howell Papers. 1986.003. Hopewell Valley Historical Society, Pennington, NJ.

Subjects and Genres

Below is a list of personal names, subjects, and genre types to be found in the collection:

Howell, Charles R. (Charles Robert), 1904-1973

Howe, Inez, 1901-1985

Legislators—United States

United States. Congress. House

World Association of Parliamentarians for World Government, 1952-3

Inventory

Folder #	Date	Description of Item
1	2/27/1977	Letters and correspondence from 1977, press clippings, letters from students re: trip to Washington DC in 1977 for political education and democracy, A Political Action Review, A Program for Political Party Revival and Reform, Training program for political parties, Newsletter for New Brunswick political science community, January 18, 1977; Washington Trip March 8-10, 1977, List of students attending the Washington DC Spring 1977 trip, thank you letters from students who attended the trip
2	12/26/1959	United States Review 12/26/1959, Editorial; Newark News 11/15/1959; Miami Herald 12/2/1959 "Stalinism Attack Sparked Hungarian Revolt"; Newark News 11/22/1959; Trenton Times 12/7/1959; Trenton Times 12/4/1959; Trenton Times 11/6/1959; and many others from press as Commissioner of Banking and Insurance; Excerpt from speech of the Annual Convention of American Association of Managing General Agents May 20, 1959, Essex House, New York by Charles Howell
3		Press Releases (moved from clippings file)
4	1/1/1960	Press clippings and newsletter from 1960 as Commissioner of Banking and Insurance
5	1/17/1976	Tour of Colonial American Homes and A Tour of Historical Houses (Howell home featured in both publications). Letter to Mrs. Howell dated Jan. 17, 1976 thanking for offering the home as part of the Bicentennial house tour for the Trenton College Club.
6	7/26/1971	Letter to Quadrangle Books re: Charles Howell's manuscript for "The Regulators" to publish calling for reform of NJ insurance for auto insurance liability law system. Additional press clippings and correspondence included and canceled checks for typist for book.
7	Misc.	Letter to Rutgers Dec. 23, 1969 re: donation of papers covering the major portion of his public career. Instrument of Gift donating papers of the 1954 NJ United States senatorial campaign, service in the US House of Representatives, NJ Assembly, NJ Democratic State Chairman
8	1/1/1966 to 3/18/1975	Notes and correspondence re: Mortgage bond owned by Inez Howell secured by the William P. Howe residence re: three way transaction for Howe Nurseries stock in order for the Howe's and their heirs to own all of the Howe Nurseries stock.

9	Misc.	Stamps (1973 Saigon Vietnam); 1955 Xmas card with English stamp 13 of Queen Elizabeth; 8 cent stamp of American Painter Henry O. Tanner; 1953 6 cent Air Mail stamp; 3 cent stamp of the 200th Anniversary of Nassau Hall Sept 22, 1956; 100th Anniversary Emancipation Proclamation August 16, 1963
10	1916-1970's	Many family photos from 1916 when Inez was a young woman through their marriage, family trips, and campaign photos of Charles Howell.
11	1916-1970's	Photos continued
12	1946-1955	New Jersey Democrat Feb. 1969 newsletter; Article from The Nation dated March 16, 1946; Letter to Mr. Howell acknowledging letter re: Mr. Clement Davie's nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize; Proposals for the Revision of the Union Nations Charter in 1954 booklet; United Negro College Fund certificate to Charles R. Howell 1957;
13	1946-1955	Letters and correspondence re: World Association of Parliamentarians for World Government, Constitution for a World Federal Government, press clippings from Wm E. Howe, Congressional Record of Hon. Chales R. Howell, World Government Week, March 6-12, 1949; letter to Senator Hubert Humphrey dated 2/14/1956; Prospect of World Government, October 13, 1954

Updated July 2023 by Katie Chase