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Atlanta, GA 30307
<https://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov>

Emily Dolvin Papers: A Guide to Her Papers at the Jimmy Carter Library

Collection Summary

Creator: Emily Gordy Dolvin, 1912-2006

Title: Emily Dolvin Papers

Dates: 1942-1981

Quantity: 1 linear foot, 4 linear inches, 3 containers

Identification:

Accession Number: 92.10

National Archives Identifier: 1106

Scope and Content:

The collection contains correspondence, notes, diaries, flags, biographical manuscripts, newspaper clippings, invitations, photographs, presidential campaign literature and sound recordings. The material includes Emily Dolvin's manuscript detailing Carter family campaigning, and memoranda addressed to her. Also included is Tom Gordy's diaries which he kept as a prisoner of war during World War II; a manuscript he later wrote about the experience; and an American flag he found while a prisoner of war.

The Jimmy Carter files cover Jimmy Carter's political career from his 1970 campaign bid for governor to the post-presidential period. The material reveals the vigorous schedule of the Carter campaign workers.

Creator Information: Emily Gordy Dolvin

Emily Frances Gordy Dolvin, also known as Aunt Sissy, was born 1912 in Richland, Georgia. She was an American educator, historic preservationist, political campaigner, and civic leader from the state of Georgia. Her sister Lillian Gordy Carter was the mother of Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States. After graduating from the Georgia College for Women in Milledgeville, Georgia, Dolvin taught primary school. In 1938, she married William Jasper Dolvin and moved to Roswell, Georgia. She was the inaugural chairperson of the Roswell Historical Society upon its establishment on October 28, 1971. The Roswell Rotary Club named her a William Watt Fellow, and she was the first female member of that organization.

In 1966, Dolvin became involved in the support of the political career of her nephew Jimmy. In 1970, she was a staff member, host, and delegate for the Georgia Democratic Party, and she was the inauguration reception chairman for Carter's inauguration as Governor of Georgia in 1971. She also served as the volunteer coordinator for Carter's gubernatorial campaigns, and served as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women from August 11, 1972 to April 1, 1974.

During Carter's 1976 presidential campaign, Dolvin campaigned throughout the United States as one of many volunteers that comprised the grass roots Peanut Brigade. However, she was not an official member of the Peanut Brigade. She was campaigning as a member of the family. The Peanut Brigade was a different organization altogether. In 1976, *Time* magazine referred to her as a "tiny, stylishly dressed, white-haired dynamo" and the secret weapon of Carter's campaign. Dolvin served as the coordinator of docents for the Carter Center from its inception in 1986. She was named to the list of Roswell's 15 Most Remarkable Citizens in 2004. Dolvin died at age 94 on December 2, 2006.

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: These papers contain documents restricted in accordance with applicable executive order(s), which governs National Security policies, applicable statutes/agency restrictions, and material which has been closed in accordance with the donor's deed of gift.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction: Copyright interest in these papers has been donated to the United States Government. Some of the records may be subject to copyright restrictions (i.e. newspapers, publications, etc.). Researchers should contact the publisher for further information.

Related Material:

Related Material: Carter Family Papers; Carter Mondale 1976 Campaign Committee

Separated Material: Photographs and sound cassettes have been transferred to the Audiovisual Department

Index Terms:

Limited to major topics under each category

Persons: Emily Dolvin; Jimmy Carter; Tom Gordy

Organizations: Carter/Mondale 1980 Campaign Committee

Places: Georgia, Florida, Illinois

Types of Material: Transcripts, correspondence, speeches, news clippings, book drafts, manuscripts, photographs, and sound cassettes

Administrative Information:

Preferred citation: [Type of Document], [Names of Sender and Recipient or Title of Document], [Date], [Collection Title], [Series Title], [Folder Title], [Box Number], Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

Acquisition information: These donated historical materials were received under provisions of the instrument of gift that Emily Dolvin signed on April 20, 2008.

Processing information: The first series of the collection was opened in October 1993. Subsequent series in the collection were opened in 1993. The open dates are indicated in the series descriptions.

System of Arrangement:

The records of the Emily Gordy Dolvin Papers are divided into three series:

Series Title	National Archives Identifier
Emily Dolvin's Files	186321
Tom Gordy's Files	154628
Jimmy Carter's Files	154635

Detailed Description of the Collection

[Emily Dolvin's Files](#)

Scope and Content: Container 1. This series was opened in October 1993. This series contains correspondence, notes, and biographical manuscripts. Arranged alphabetically by subject and thereunder chronologically.

[Tom Gordy's Files](#)

Scope and Content: Container 1. This series was opened in October 1993. This series contains diaries, flags, manuscripts, and sound recordings. The diary and manuscript document his experiences as a prisoner of war during World War II. Arranged alphabetically by folder title and there under chronologically.

[Jimmy Carter's Files](#)

Scope and Content: Containers 2-3. This series was opened in October 1993. This series contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, invitations, photographs, and presidential campaign literature. The material covers Jimmy Carter's political career from his 1970 campaign bid for governor to the post-presidential period. The material reveals the vigorous schedule of the Carter campaign workers. Arranged chronologically.

[Return to series list](#)

Container List

Emily Dolvin's Files

Container 1

Audio Cassettes, undated
Biographical Manuscript
Correspondence and Notes

[Return to series list](#)

Tom Gordy's Files

Container 1 con't

Diary, 1941-1942
Diary, 1942
Diary, 1943
Diary, 1944
Flag
Prisoner of War Manuscript, 1941-1945

[Return to series list](#)

Jimmy Carter's Files

Container 2

Campaign for Governor, 10/70-11/70
Inauguration as Governor, 11/70-1/71
Service as Governor
Service as Governor, 1/71-3/74
Campaigning for Governor and Service as Governor Photographs, 1970-1974
1976 Campaign for President, 2/74-6/76
1976 Campaign for President, 7/76-12/76
1976 Campaign for President - Campaign Handbook
1976 Campaign for President - Get-Out-The-Vote, 1975-1976
Presidential Inauguration, 1/77 [1]

Container 3

Presidential Inauguration, 1/77 [2]
Service as President, 2/78-6/80
1980 Campaign for President, undated
1980 Campaign for President, 10/79-7/80
1980 Campaign for President, 8/80-12/80
1980 Campaign for President - Campaign Handbook
1980 Campaign for President - Convention, 8/80
1980 Campaign for President - Florida, 5/80-9/80

1980 Campaign for President - Illinois, 10/80
1980 Campaign for President - Maine, 9/79-1/80 1980
Campaign for President - New Jersey, 5/80
1980 Campaign for President - New York, 1/80-3/80
Post-Presidency, 1/81-3/85 Photographs,
1976-1980

[Return to series list](#)

[Return to collection summary](#)

Last modified: May 2019