



Caroline Selena Ganley Archive

(GANLEY)

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GANLEY

Caroline Selena Ganley

1916-1966

Name of Creator: Ganley, Caroline Selina (1879-1966) co-operative movement activist and politician

Extent: 1 Box

Administrative/Biographical History: Caroline Selena Ganley was born in September 1879 at East Stonehouse, Plymouth, the daughter of James Blumfield and his wife, Selina Mary (née Norgrove). Her father was a bombardier at the time of her birth, and later a tailor. She attended Plymouth church and national schools, and Ottershaw School, Chertsey. In July 1901 she married James William Henry Ganley, a tailor's cutter; the couple lived in Westminster before settling in Battersea, and raised two sons and a daughter. Mrs Ganley became active in left-wing politics in opposition to the Second South African War, and in response to the poor social conditions of the working-class communities in which she lived. She joined the Social Democratic Federation in 1906, campaigned for the suffrage, and was instrumental in setting up a socialist women's circle in Battersea and developing it into a branch of the Women's Labour League (later the Labour Party women's sections). In 1914 she was involved in the British committee of the International Congress, anti-war suffragists who detached themselves from the more patriotic National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies to work with European women for peace.

After the war, she continued to campaign for citizenship rights. She joined the Co-operative and Labour parties, and in November 1919 won a seat on Battersea borough council; she chaired the health committee, and it was mainly through her efforts that a well-equipped maternity home was opened in Battersea in 1921. In 1920 she became one of the first women magistrates in London, and for twenty years sat in juvenile courts. She also served as a London county councillor and as a member of the London county education committee.

In the 1930s Mrs Ganley sought nomination as a Co-operative Party candidate. In 1935 she stood unsuccessfully for Paddington North but in 1945 she was elected Co-operative-Labour MP for Battersea South. In 1950 she held the seat but in the 1951 general election she was defeated. Mrs Ganley was appointed CBE in 1953, and in the same year was re-elected to Battersea borough council where she continued to serve until 1965.

Ganley was also widely active within the co-operative movement and was an elected director of the West London Society from 1918, and after its merger with the London Society in 1921, of the London Co-operative Society, which position she retained until 1946. In 1942 she became the first woman president of the London Co-operative Society. She also belonged to the Lavender Hill branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild and held a number of official positions in the guild's national committee structure including a place on the south-eastern sectional council. In June 1943 she was honoured by the

guild as one of the speakers at its diamond jubilee demonstration at the Royal Albert Hall.

Mrs Ganley died in London at the Bolingbroke Hospital, Battersea, in August 1966, aged eighty-six.

Custodial History: Deposited at Bishopsgate Institute before 2006.

Scope and Content: Papers of Caroline Selena Ganley (1879-1966), including; typescript autobiography of Caroline Selena Ganley, c1955; miscellaneous papers concerning the career and work of Caroline Selena Ganley, including desk diary and miscellaneous papers and correspondence, 1916-1966.

System of Arrangement: The Caroline Selena Ganley Archive is divided into the following two sections:

GANLEY/1 Autobiography

GANLEY/2 Other papers

Language/scripts of material: English

Access conditions: OPEN

Copying conditions: Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

Finding Aids: Copy of hand list available in Library Reading Room.

Rules and Conventions: Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

Archive Catalogue

GANLEY Ganley, Caroline Selina (1879-1966) 1916-1966

Papers of Caroline Selena Ganley (1879-1966), including; typescript autobiography of Caroline Selena Ganley, c1955; miscellaneous papers concerning the career and work of Caroline Selena Ganley, including desk diary and miscellaneous papers and correspondence, 1916-1966.

OPEN

GANLEY/1 Autobiography c1955

Typescript autobiography of Caroline Selena Ganley (c1955)

OPEN

GANLEY/1/1 Autobiography c1955

Typescript autobiography of Caroline Selina Ganley (332pp) (c1955)

OPEN

GANLEY/2 Other Papers 1916-1966

Miscellaneous papers concerning the career and work of Caroline Selena Ganley, including desk diary and miscellaneous papers and correspondence (1916-1966)

OPEN

GANLEY/2/1 Desk Diary 1933

Desk diary containing handwritten intermittent entries by Ganley concerning political and co-operative engagements (1933)

OPEN

GANLEY/2/2 Miscellaneous papers 1916-1966

- typescript note, 'The Charlotte Despard Fund' (1p) (n.d.)
- Labour Party leaflet, 'Socialist Singers and Socialist Songs' (n.d.)
- handwritten letter to Ganley from F.Norgrove regarding general matters and conditions in German West Africa (4pp) (n.d.)
- letter to Ganley from the Battersea Food Control Committee regarding her appointment to the Committee and arrangements for the next meeting (1p) (29 April 1918)
- agenda and accounts for a Committee meeting of the West London Co-operative Society (4pp) (24 October 1919)
- press cutting of letter, 'Beware of Custom' by Ganley from Justice (1p) (23 March 1916)
- letter to Ganley from the West London Co-operative Society regarding a resolution concerning education and propaganda (1p) (14 July 1921)
- press cutting, 'The Way South Londoners Voted' from the South London Press, showing Ganley's election a councillor for the Stormont ward of Battersea (1p) (12 May 1953)
- letter to Ganley from Battersea United Charities regarding a pamphlet on charities and a picture of Charlotte Despard (1p) (13 January 1966)
- illustration of child, signed by Charlotte Despard (1p) (2 January 1919)
- extracts from Women's Outlook (3pp) (n.d.)

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Includes:

- photograph of two unknown children (n.d.)
- press cuttings of Ganley and E.C.Reed, Labour candidates for the South Battersea Division (2 copies) (n.d.)
- illustration of the West Front, York Minster (1p) (n.d.)
- thirteen letters to Ganley from the London Co-operative Society regarding her income tax payments (13 letters) (1929 - 1943)
- letter to Ganley from the S. Foyle (?) of the London Co-operative Society regarding an unnamed scheme (2pp) (12 September 1935)
- two letters to Ganley from the Council of Czechslovak Women in Great Britain regarding visits to the London Co-operative Society and concerning a talk by Ganley (2 letters) (February - May 1943)
- letter to Ganley from Cecily Cook regarding the West Hartlepool Women's Co-operative Guild Congress, with enclosed statement 'issued by Militant Delegates attending the Congress' (2pp) (12 June 1934)
- Co-operative Union circular for a debate, 'Peace: The Co-operative Policy' at the Assembly Hall, Leman Street, featuring Ganley as speaker (1p) (30 October 1937)
- Board of Trade certificate appointing Ganley to the London Region local Price-Regulation Committee (1p) (4 March 1940)
- note regarding payment of money to Ganley through the West London Industrial Co-operative Society in the event of the death of her mother, S.M.Blumfield (1p) (21 June 1919)
- ballot paper for the Executive Committee of the West London Co-operative Society (with handwritten results) (1p) (17 December 1919)
- transcript of speech, 'Progress and Policy of the London Movement' by Ganley, presented to the London Joint Committee, Paslow Hall, Ongar (4pp) (26 July 1930)
- biographical article on Ganley from Women's Outlook (2pp) (n.d.)

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