

Crisp, Lucy Cherry ^[1]

Crisp, Lucy Cherry

By [William S. Powell](#) ^[2], 1979

4 Mar. 1899–25 Nov. 1977



Photo courtesy of the Digital Collections at East Carolina University. "Lucy Cherry Crisp with her bust of George Washington Carver."

^[3]Lucy Cherry Crisp, museum administrator and poet, was born in Crisp, [Edgecombe County](#) ^[4], the daughter of Sellers M. and Annie Gorham Crisp. She was graduated from the [North Carolina College for Women in Greensboro](#) ^[5] with a degree in music and continued her education at [Columbia](#) ^[6] and [Boston universities](#) ^[7] and at [Radcliffe College](#) ^[8]. She taught piano and was supervisor of music in the public schools of North Carolina for a time and for a number of years contributed a weekly folk column, "Byways and Hedges," and a Sunday column, "Tar Heel Art," to the Raleigh [News and Observer](#) ^[9]. She also wrote feature articles for many state papers and was the author of two volumes of poetry, [Spring Fever](#) ^[10], in dialect, published in 1935, and [Brief Testament](#) ^[11], published in 1947. Other poems by her were published in periodicals and anthologies. She served briefly as religious counselor at the [University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana](#) ^[12], and for a few years was director of the Museum of Art, Science, and History in Florence, S.C. During [World War II](#) ^[13] she was director of the [United Services Organization Club](#) ^[14] at [Greenville](#) ^[15], N.C. In 1947 she became the director of an art museum in [Raleigh](#) ^[16] under the patronage of the North Carolina [State Art Society](#) ^[17] and continued in that position until 1955. This museum was the forerunner of the [North Carolina Museum of Art](#) ^[18]. While director of the museum, Miss Crisp edited [North Carolina News of Art](#), a monthly bulletin, and in 1956 completed "A History of the North Carolina State Art Society." She served as secretary to a state art commission created in 1951 by the [General Assembly](#) ^[19] to purchase art and to establish procedures for governing the [North Carolina Museum of Art](#) ^[18]. She also assisted in assembling the staff, purchasing equipment, and training volunteers for the new museum that opened in 1956.

After leaving [Raleigh](#) ^[16] she served as director of the Greenville Art Center. She was a member of the Presbyterian church, of the [American Association of Museums](#) ^[20], and of the [Society of Mayflower Descendants](#) ^[21]. She was buried in Falkland Cemetery, [Pitt County](#) ^[22], in the community where her family had lived for several generations.

References:

Lucy Cherry Crisp MSS (East Carolina University Manuscript Collection, Greenville)

Ola Maie Foushee, *Art in North Carolina* (1972)

Greenville *Daily Reflector*, 27 Nov. 1977

William S. Powell, ed., *North Carolina Lives* (1962)

Additional Resources:

Lucy Crisp Cherry Papers, East Carolina University: <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/special/ead/findingaids/0154/> ^[23]

Image Credits:

"Lucy Cherry Crisp with her bust of George Washington Carver." Photo courtesy of the Digital Collections at East Carolina University. Available from <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/1311> ^[3] (accessed April 10, 2012).

Subjects:

[Biographies](#) ^[24]

Musicians [25]

Poets [26]

Public service [27]

Women [28]

Writers, journalists, and editors [29]

Authors:

Powell, William S. [30]

Origin - location:

Edgecombe County [31]

Pitt County [32]

Wake County [33]

From:

Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press. [34]

1 January 1979 | Powell, William S.

Source URL: <https://ncpedia.org/biography/crisp-lucy>

Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/crisp-lucy> [2] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/powell-william> [3] <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/1311> [4] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/edgecombe> [5] <https://ncpedia.org/education/womens-colleges> [6] <http://www.columbia.edu/> [7] <http://www.bu.edu/> [8] <http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/about-us/our-history> [9] <http://www.newsobserver.com/> [10] http://books.google.com/books/about/Spring_fever_and_other_dialect Verse.html?id=VOe3pwAACAAJ [11] http://books.google.com/books/about/Brief_testament.html?id=TrTbGAAACAAJ [12] <http://illinois.edu/> [13] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/world-war-ii> [14] <http://www.uso.org/> [15] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/greenville> [16] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/raleigh> [17] <https://ncpedia.org/state-art-society> [18] <http://www.ncartmuseum.org/> [19] <https://ncpedia.org/general-assembly> [20] <http://www.aam-us.org/> [21] <http://www.themayflowersociety.com/> [22] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/pitt> [23] <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/special/ead/findingaids/0154/> [24] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/biography-term> [25] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/musicians> [26] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/poets> [27] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/public-service> [28] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/women> [29] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/writer> [30] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/powell-william-s-0> [31] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal-20> [32] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal-21> [33] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont/w> [34] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/dictionary-no>