

Bodell, Dorothy H., Papers

Dorothy H. Bodell Papers

1850-1996



Title Statement

Bodell, Dorothy H., PapersDorothy H. Bodell Papers, 1850-1996 Ms.1988.042

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1988.042

Unit Date

1850-1996

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The Dorothy H. Bodell Papers consists primarily of newspaper clippings, correspondence, research notes, photocopies of historical documents, and files Bodell compiled while writing her book, *Montgomery White Sulphur Springs: A History of the Resort, Hospital, Cemeteries, Markers, and Monuments*. The collection also includes an audiotape (1992) of an interview of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Cox about Montgomery White Sulphur Springs, photographs of the cemetery where the Confederate dead were buried, and information about Bodell's 40th reunion of the class of 1948 from Blacksburg High School. Bodell (1931-2008) graduated from Virginia Tech and worked for Virginia Tech University Libraries.

Creator

Bodell, Dorothy H., 1931-2008

Extent

0.8 Cubic Feet 2 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The materials about Dorothy H. Bodell's 40th high school reunion were originally donated in 1988. Additions of materials concerning her research about Montgomery White Sulphur Springs were donated in 1994 and 1996.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Dorothy H. Bodell Papers commenced in February 1998 and was completed in June 1998.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Dorothy H. Bodell Papers, 1850-1996, Ms88-042, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Dorothy Heavener Bodell (1931-2008) was the author of *Montgomery White Sulphur Springs: A History of the Resort, Hospital, Cemeteries, Markers, and Monuments*, published by Pocahontas Press of Blacksburg in 1993. She also graduated from Virginia Tech and worked for Virginia Tech University Libraries.

External source: "Dorothy Heavener Bodell," Findagrave.com, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/26222420/dorothy-heavener-bodell>

Administrative History

The Montgomery White Sulphur Springs resort, located in Ellett Valley (near Blacksburg), Virginia, was incorporated by a group of local businessmen in 1855. Benefiting from the popular belief in the restorative powers of mineral waters, the Montgomery White catered to a new leisure class seeking healthy and entertaining distractions. In doing so, the resort joined such other nearby establishments as the Greenbrier White, Old Sweet, and Yellow Sulphur springs. The Montgomery White, encompassing several acres of land, boasted a three-story hotel with more than 200 rooms and more than 30 cottages on the grounds.

During the American Civil War, in 1862, the resort was designated a Confederate general hospital, charged with caring for sick and wounded soldiers. By the end of the summer, the hospital was at capacity, with more than 400 patients. While there is no complete list of those who died in the hospital, the nearby cemetery is said to hold 265 graves.

Following the war and much renovation, the Montgomery White again opened to the public and became a popular summertime destination. In 1872, the resort hosted the first board meeting of the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, and in 1874, Jefferson Davis visited for the Southern Historical Society's organizational meeting.

By 1886, George W. Fagg & Company operated the resort, which continued to be a successful enterprise for some years. By the 1890s, however, the Montgomery White and other such resorts were slowly declining in popularity. The economic panic of 1893, together with undocumented instances of fire and flood, may have accelerated the resort's downfall. The Montgomery White property was sold by auction and the remaining structures dismantled in 1904.

Source: Bodell, Dorothy. *Montgomery White Sulphur Springs: a History of the Resort, Hospital, Cemeteries, Markers, and Monument*. Blacksburg, Va.: Pocahontas Press, 1993.

Scope and Content

The Dorothy H. Bodell Papers consists primarily of newspaper clippings, correspondence, research notes, photocopies of historical documents, and files Bodell compiled while writing her book, *Montgomery White Sulphur Springs: A History of the Resort, Hospital, Cemeteries, Markers, and Monuments*. The collection also includes an audiotape (1992) of an interview of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Cox about Montgomery White Sulphur Springs, photographs of the cemetery where the Confederate dead were buried, and information about Bodell's 40th reunion of the class of 1948 from Blacksburg High School.

Related Archival Materials

See the Montgomery White Sulphur Springs Guest Book, Ms2003-007, also at Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives.

Keywords

Blacksburg (Va.)
Civil War
Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
Montgomery White Sulphur Springs (Va.)
Montgomery County (Va.)
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Women -- History
Montgomery White Sulphur Springs (Va.)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically, with undated materials at the end.

Description of Subordinate Components

Photocopies of research files about Montgomery White Sulphur Springs (MWSS)

Unit Date 1850-1960

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Photocopy of an Act of Assembly incorporating MWSS

Unit Date 1855-1856

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Photocopies of newspapers clippings about MWSS

Unit Date 1855-1932

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Photocopies of articles describing MWSS during the Civil War, 1860s, including a list of Confederate soldier deaths

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Photocopies of Sister Mary De Sales Brennan's letters to Bishop Patrick Lynch in Charleston, South Carolina

Unit Date 1861-1864

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Photocopies of research files with information about MWSS during the Civil War

Unit Date 1861-1865

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Miscellaneous research files

Unit Date 1866-1886

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Photocopies of writings about MWSS

Unit Date 1870s

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Photocopies and research files

Unit Date 1886-1889

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Photocopies and research files

Unit Date 1890-1904

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Photocopies and research files

Unit Date 1904-1992

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Photocopy of "Bishop England's Sisterhood, 1881-1929," written by Sister M. Anne Francis Campbell, with other research files

Unit Date 1968

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Information about the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy

Unit Date 1981-1992

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Blacksburg [Virginia] High School class of 1948 reunion information, with a paper prepared by Bodell about how life in Blacksburg has changed in 40 years.

Unit Date 1988

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Information about the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy

Unit Date 1992

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Audiotape of an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Cox about MWSS

Unit Date 1992

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Photocopies and research files

Unit Date 1992-1993

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Photographs of MWSS Cemetery

Unit Date 1993-1994

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Typewritten and revised draft of Montgomery White Sulphur Springs: A History of the Resort, Hospital, Cemeteries, Markers, and Monuments

Unit Date ca. 1993

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Published copies of Montgomery White Sulphur Springs: A History of the Resort, Hospital, Cemeteries, Markers, and Monuments, published by Pocahontas Press of Blacksburg

Unit Date 1993

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Information about Bodell's search for a Civil War era painting of MWSS

Unit Date 1993-1994

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Photocopies and research files

Unit Date 1993-1995

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Information about "A Memorial Service for the Confederate Soldiers Buried at the Montgomery White Sulphur Springs"

Unit Date May 22, 1994

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Newspaper clippings about MWSS, the SMART Road, and Bodell

Unit Date 1994

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Letters to Bodell about MWSS and her book

Unit Date 1994-1996

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Manuscript notes taken of passages in History of the Confederated Memorial Associations of the South

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Information about Catholic churches

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Microfilm reel from the National Archives of hospital rolls information

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Photographs of the MWSS

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)