

McPherson, Pauline Kirtley Collection

Pauline Kirtley McPherson Collection,
1777-1992



Title Statement

McPherson, Pauline Kirtley Collection
A Guide to the Pauline Kirtley McPherson Collection, 1777-1992
Ms.1993.017

Author: John M. Jackson

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Business Number: 540-231-6308
specref@vt.edu
URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



2014 (CC0 1.0)

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-10-18 07:00:20 -0400.

Language Usage: English

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Revision Description

2020-09-21 Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1993.017

Unit Date

1777-1992

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection contains materials relating to Hampton Mansion (aka Hampton House) and its longtime owners, the Ridgely family, including correspondence, diaries, financial documents, printed material, administrative documents, and reports, all collected by Pauline Kirtley McPherson, who served as the mansion's resident curator from 1957 to 1972.

source

McPherson, Pauline Kirtley

Extent

2.7 Cubic Feet 6 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Source of Acquisition

The Pauline Kirtley McPherson Collection was donated to Special Collections in 1993.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Pauline Kirtley McPherson Collection commenced in October, 2013 and was completed in January, 2014.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Pauline Kirtley McPherson Collection, Ms1993-017, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Completed by Captain Charles Ridgely Jr. in 1790, following seven years of construction, Hampton Mansion (or Hampton House) was considered at the time to be the largest private home in America and continues to be a noted example of Georgian architecture. The mansion, located north of Towson (Baltimore County), Maryland, continued to be home to the Ridgely family until 1947, when it was acquired by a private foundation and opened to the public as a museum administered by the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities. In 1979, the mansion and grounds were acquired by the National Park Service, which manages the estate as Hampton National Historic Site.

Founder of the Ridgely family of Hampton, Colonel Charles Ridgely Jr. (1702-1772), son of Charles and Deborah Dorsey Ridgely, was born in Prince George's County, Maryland. In 1734, he moved to Baltimore, County, Maryland, where he engaged in agriculture, mercantile business, and iron-forging. Known as "Charles the Merchant," Ridgely married Rachel Howard and the couple would have seven children, five of whom survived to adulthood: John, Pleasance, Achsah, Charles III, and Rachel. Like his father, Captain Charles Ridgely III (1733-1790) engaged in agriculture and iron-forging. In 1790, Ridgely (also known as "Charles the Builder") completed construction of Hampton Mansion, which would continue to be home to his family for nearly 200 years.

As Charles Ridgely III and his wife, Rebecca Dorsey, had no children, the mansion was bequeathed to Ridgely's nephew, Charles Ridgely Carnan (1760-1829), on the condition that he adopt Ridgely as his surname. As heir of Hampton, Carnan/Ridgely expanded the size of the plantation, including its various agricultural, mining, milling, and mercantile interests. Carnan/Ridgely served as Baltimore County delegate in the Maryland House of Delegates (1790-1795), state senator (1796-1800) and as Maryland's governor (1815-1818). He and wife Priscilla Dorsey would have 14 children, and the ownership of Hampton and part of the surrounding estate was passed to their son, John Carnan Ridgely.

Born in 1790, John Carnan Ridgely continued to operate the Hampton plantation. In 1828, he married Eliza Eichelberger (daughter of Nicholas Greenbury Ridgely), a distant cousin, and the couple would have five children: Eliza, Charles, Priscilla, Nicholas, and Julia. Upon John Ridgely's death, their son Charles (1830-1872) and his wife Margaretta Sophia Howard Ridgely, would become owners of Hampton.

Charles and Margaretta Ridgely's son, John Ridgely, the fifth "master of of Hampton," was born in 1851. He married Helen West Stewart (1854-1929), a genealogist, antiquarian and writer. Together, the couple managed Hampton, bringing many updates to the mansion. Their son, John (1882-1959), became the last Ridgely to reside in the mansion. After graduating from the University of Maryland School of Law, he moved

to St. Louis, where he worked for the Maryland Casualty Company. Later, Ridgely returned to Hampton but found it impossible to maintain the estate, which he sold in 1947.

Pauline Kirtley was born ca. 1902 in Maryland, the daughter of George and Beatrice Kirtley. From 1955 to 1972, she served as resident curator of Hampton House Museum. Pauline Kirtley married David L. McPherson, and the couple had two children.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains materials relating to the Hampton Mansion (or Hampton House) in Towson, Maryland, and the home's longtime owners, the Ridgely family. Materials on the family include not only original letters, diaries, personal memorabilia, and financial records, but also research notes and correspondence about the family. Materials on the mansion include printed materials, administrative documents and correspondence, research notes, and early 20th-century guestbooks.

Keywords

Hampton National Historic Site (Md.)
Ridgely family
McPherson, Pauline Kirtley

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged in two series:

Series I. Ridgely and Related Families, 1777-1984. This series contains materials relating to several generations of the Ridgely family, longtime owners of Hampton Mansion. The series contains materials created by family members (including correspondence, diaries, genealogical records, and financial documents) as well as later research materials and correspondence about them. Many of the materials in this series seem to have been compiled by genealogist and writer Helen West Stewart Ridgely, wife of Captain John Ridgely. Among the non-Ridgely related material, the series concentrates heavily on Helen Stewart Ridgely's ancestral lines: the Stewarts, Sampsons, and Moultons. In addition to files on the immediate family, the series also contains information on related lines. Among the notable or unusual items in the series in addition to the materials described above, the series contains expense books and a published memoir of Leonice Marston Sampson Moulton, together with a photograph of Cedarmere, home of Moulton's longtime friend William Cullen Bryant; the diaries of Helen West Stewart Ridgely and her daughter Helen; Ridgely household expense books maintained by Helen West Ridgely; a lock of hair from a member of the Stewart family; and an Armistice Day poem written by John Russell Mackey and inscribed to Sarah Stewart in 1927. A folder at the end of the series for other related families includes a notebook containing genealogical information on many of the Ridgelys and others. The series is arranged alphabetically by subject name. (A single file, however, may contain information on several different individuals, including spouses and descendants.)

Series II. Hampton House, 1903-1992. The focus in this series is on the latter-day administration of Hampton Mansion as a museum and national historic site. The series includes such items as printed materials, correspondence, and research notes relating to the house, its gardens, outbuildings, history, architecture, furnishings, events, and restoration efforts. Among the materials are guides, cookbooks issued by the staff, reports on the home's history, and information for and about docents and hostesses. Also included in the series are notebooks from the early 20th century chronicling guests and activities at the mansion while it was still owned by the Ridgely family. At the end of the series are a few folders relating to other historic sites in the surrounding area. Among these is a small album of scenes from nearby Loch Raven, featuring photographs by Osborne I. Yellott. Apart from these few folders, the series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I. Ridgely and Related Families,

Unit Date 1777-1984

Buckler, Eliza Ridgely White - journal (1841-1842) typescript,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Carnan family,

Unit Date 1896, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Carrol family,

Unit Date 1911-1982, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Carter family,

Unit Date 1973

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Chew family,

Unit Date 1910-1965, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Dorsey-Carroll-Ridgely-Howard family,

Unit Date 1898-1973, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Duvall family,

Unit Date 1912-1914, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Gilmor family,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Goodwin family,

Unit Date 1777-1958, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Howard family,

Unit Date 1889-1979, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Lilly, Eli,

Unit Date 1901-1983, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Lux family,

Unit Date 1897, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Moulton, Leonice Marston Sampson,

Unit Date 1851-1898, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Extent [2 folders]

Polk-Leidy family, 1916, n.d.

Unit Date 1916, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Post family,

Unit Date 1914, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Pue family,

Unit Date 1967-1971, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Ridgely, Champe Worth,

Unit Date 1965-1982, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Extent [2 folders]

Ridgely, Charles Carnan (Governor),

Unit Date 1908-1978, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Ridgely, Charles ("The Builder"),

Unit Date 1908-1978, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Ridgely, Charles ("The Merchant"),

Unit Date 1975

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Ridgely, Charles (son of Charles and Margaret),

Unit Date 1872, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Ridgely, Charles (son of John and Eliza),

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Ridgely, Charles (son of William),

Unit Date 1895-1977, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Ridgely, Charles Sterrett (aka Charles Ridgely Sterrett),

Unit Date 1973, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Ridgely, David (son of Charles the Governor),

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Ridgely, Eliza Eichelberger,

Unit Date 1969-1980, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Ridgely family of Ohio,

Unit Date 1899-1916

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Ridgely, Frederick (Henry Ridgely line),

Unit Date 1895-1907, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Ridgely, Greenbury,

Unit Date 1896-1969, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Ridgely, Helen Stewart,

Unit Date 1899-1901, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Ridgely, Helen West - Colonial Dames of America,

Unit Date 1897-1920, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Ridgely, Helen West - Correspondence,

Unit Date 1897-1924, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Extent [2 copies]

Ridgely, Helen West - Diary,

Unit Date 1907-1928

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Ridgely, Helen West - Diaries,

Unit Date 1914-1915

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Extent [2 items]

Ridgely, Helen West - Household expense books,

Unit Date 1900-1905

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Ridgely, Helen West - Research notes,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Ridgely, Henry,

Unit Date 1893-1978, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Extent [2 folders]

Ridgely, John (son of Charles the Governor),

Unit Date 1899-1978, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Ridgely, John (son of Charles "The Merchant"),

Unit Date 1902-1977, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Ridgely, John (1851-1938),

Unit Date 1868-1978, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Ridgely, Joshua,

Unit Date 1977, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Ridgely, Otho,

Unit Date 1970-1983, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Ridgely, Randolph,

Unit Date 1951-1984, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Ridgely, Robert ("The Emigrant"),

Unit Date 1908-1977, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Ridgely, Stephen Schley Jr.,

Unit Date 1974-1977, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Ridgely, William ("The Immigrant"),

Unit Date 1977-1978, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Ridgely, William (son of Robert "The Emigrant"),

Unit Date 1896-1924, n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Snowden family,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Stewart family,

Unit Date 1892-1973, n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Extent [2 folders]

Stewart, Leonice J.,

Unit Date 1917-1921

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Stewart, Sara,

Unit Date 1916-1927

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Warfield family,

Unit Date 1905-1909, n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

White-Buckler-Campbell family,

Unit Date 1857-1977, n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Wool, John E.,

Unit Date 1855-1860, n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Other related families,

Unit Date 1907-1977, n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Series II. Hampton House,

Unit Date 1903-1992

Deeds

Unit Date 1967, n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Docents / Hostesses,

Unit Date 1974-1978, n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Furnishings and decor,
Unit Date 1938-1983, n.d.
box-folder 4 (box)
Container 12 (folder)

Gardens and outbuildings,
Unit Date 1912-1989, n.d.
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 1 (folder)

Guest / Activity books,
Unit Date 1903-1910
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 2 (folder)

Guides, brochures and postcards,
Unit Date 1966-1973, n.d.
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 3 (folder)

"Hampton and Its Masters" by Lionel J. Bienvenu,
Unit Date 1963
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 4 (folder)

Hampton Recipes,
Unit Date 1949-1950
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 5 (folder)
Extent [2 items]

"The Hampton Story,"
Unit Date 1946-1963, n.d.
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 6 (folder)

Helpful Hampton Hints,
Unit Date 1967, n.d.
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 7 (folder)
Extent [2 items]

McPherson, Pauline K. - correspondence,
Unit Date 1959-1978, n.d.
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 8 (folder)

Newsletters,
Unit Date 1974-1978, n.d.
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 9 (folder)

Newspaper articles,

Unit Date 1960-1989, n.d.

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Notes on Hampton Mansion: Hampton National Historic Site by Charles E. Peterson,

Unit Date 1970

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Obituaries,

Unit Date 1973-1992, n.d.

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Peterson, Charles E. - "Notes on Hampton Mansion,"

Unit Date 1949-1970, n.d.

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Preservation / Restoration,

Unit Date 1978-1981, n.d.

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Public events and activities,

Unit Date 1974-1979

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Ray, Elizabeth McElroy,

Unit Date 1947-1948, n.d.

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Research notes,

Unit Date 1968-1977, n.d.

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities,

Unit Date 1960-1981, n.d.

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Tea room,

Unit Date 1973-1992, n.d.

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Women's Committee,

Unit Date 1969-1977, n.d.

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Anne Arundel County,

Unit Date 1914, n.d.

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

"Loch Raven Glimpses" (photos by Osborne I. Yellott),

Unit Date 1921

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Other historic homes,

Unit Date 1964-1977, n.d.

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Towson, Baltimore, and Baltimore County, 1950-1979, n.d.

Unit Date 1950-1979, n.d.

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 12 (folder)