

A Guide to the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia Records, 1946-2016

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1946-2016

A Collection in The Fairfax County Public Library MSS 05-01

Title Statement

A Guide to the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia Records, 1946-2016

Subtitle: Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia Records

Collection: MSS 05-01

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid created by Ross Landis, January 28, 2024

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Record Group Number

MSS 05-01

Language

English

Abstract

The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia Records consists of 5.0 linear feet spanning the years 1946-2016. Items include correspondence, meeting minutes, flyers, programs, letterhead, photographs, engraved printing blocks, notes, yearbooks, reports, financial reports, essays, membership lists, membership applications, and floppy disks. Subjects include the creation, events, publications, administrative activities, membership, and finances of the Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Creator

Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia

Extent

5.0 linear feet

Repository

Fairfax County Public Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

None

Use Restrictions

Consult repository for information

Acquisition Information

Records deposited with the Virginia Room over a period of years by the Historical Society of Fairfax County

Processing Information

Chris Barbuschak, November 2016

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Preferred Citation

Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia Records, MSS 05-01, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Separated Material

Invoices, copies of checks, and membership applications from 2000-2005 were destroyed.

Related Material

None

Historical and Biographical Information

On February 18, 1950, twenty-six Fairfax County citizens met at Woodlawn Plantation at the invitation of Mr. J.W. Rixey-Smith to organize an historical society to preserve historical sites and traditions of Fairfax County. From this meeting began the Historical Society of Fairfax County, which received a charter from the Commonwealth on May 26, 1950. The continued purpose of the organization is to promote and preserve the history of Fairfax County. The historical society continues to do this by locating historical records, hosting annual meetings and lectures, and publishing a biennial yearbook containing historical articles. The original founding members invited 100 people to become charter members prior to opening membership to the general public in 1950. The first annual meeting of the society occurred on June 18th, 1950 at the Jackson House in McLean.

One of the inaugural kick-off events to gain interest in the society was a Heirloom Show and Tour of Historic Houses held at Truro Parish on November 25, 1950. Citizens brought out all sorts of antiques and heirlooms to exhibit. In 1951, the society also undertook a county-wide project of compiling a list of portraits painted before 1850 that were in the possession of local citizens.

In January 1965, the society was instrumental in sponsoring the creation of the Historic Landmarks Preservation Committee, later renamed the Fairfax County History Commission. Beginning in 1975 the society held an annual historical essay contest for students in Fairfax County high schools. Winners received cash prizes and the society published the winning essays in the biennial yearbook. In addition to the yearbook, the society started publishing a newsletter in 1987 but ceased in 2000.

Over the years, the society acquired many historical documents and manuscripts. The society donated most of these documents to the Virginia Room at the City of Fairfax Regional Library and the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center. The society's activity has slowed down in recent years and after an eight year lapse, the society will resume publishing a biennial yearbook in 2017. Membership is open to anyone interested in the historical background of the county. There are typically four meetings a year which includes a lecture on a subject of local history.

Scope and Content

Series 1: Administrative Records, 1950-2016, Boxes 1 and 6

Contains miscellaneous papers relating to the administrative activities of the society. Includes certificates of incorporation, charters, copyright certificates, bylaws, meeting minutes, meeting notices, lists, reports, flyers, newsletters, articles, newspaper clippings, floppy disks, notes, and essays from the society's annual historical essay contest.

Series 2: Correspondence, 1950-2005, Boxes 1 and 2

Contains correspondence written and received by the historical society. Correspondence written by society members include Henry C. Mackall, Mayo Stuntz, Douglas Mackall, Richard M. Smith, Edith Sprouse, Beth Mitchell, Connie Ring, Richard E. Crouch, Susan G. Leigh and several others. Subjects include membership, meetings, genealogy requests, local history, and society activities. Also included are RSVP cards, letterhead, and envelopes with the society's logo and address.

Series 3: Membership Records, c. 1950s - 2016, Box 2

Contains membership lists, new member lists, register books, completed membership application forms and cards, and blank membership renewal forms. Lists contain addresses and contact information for members and their dues history. Also included is a roster of members who were interested in saving the Moorefield house (Vienna, Va.) from demolition.

Series 4: Financial Records, 1950-2005, Box 2

Contains expenditures notebook, receipts, account ledger book, and treasurer's reports. The majority of these documents were maintained by long-time treasurer of the society, Henry C. Mackall. Documents detail the finances and expenditures of the society.

Series 5: Events, 1950-2000, Box 2

Contains flyers, invitations, programs, and notes regarding events the historical society was involved or invited to. Events include the society's inaugural Heirloom Show and Tour of Historic Houses held in 1951, Fairfax County Heritage Day, Fairfax County's 240th Anniversary Celebration, Fairfax Heritage Awards, 30th Anniversary of the Fairfax County History Commission, Old Town Hall Centennial, and 200th Birthday of the Fairfax Courthouse.

Series 6: Historical Fairfax County Papers, 1946-1965, Box 2

Over the years, the society acquired many historical documents relating to Fairfax County. Included here are original documents and photocopies of historical documents. Original papers contained are correspondence from the Fauquier County Bar Association and papers from Fairfax attorney and former State-Senator John W. Rust. Photocopies are included of Fairfax County Revolutionary War Surgeon Dr. Benjamin Chapin's will, Judge James Allen's papers, an 1873 subscription list of Chantilly Episcopal Church, and meeting minutes of the Fairfax Historical Society.

Series 7: Yearbooks, 1951-2008, Boxes 3, 4 and 6

Contains biennial yearbooks published by the society. Also included are articles, drafts, notes, photographs, order blanks, and engraved printing blocks used in the production of various yearbook issues.

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Historical Society of Fairfax County (Fairfax County, Va.)

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