

# A Guide to the Centreville, Virginia Collection, 1840-1977

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A Collection in The Fairfax County Public Library MSS 03-04

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Centreville, Virginia Collection, 1840-1977

**Subtitle:** Centreville, Virginia Collection

**Collection:** MSS 03-04

## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid created by Ross Landis, April 14, 2024

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Descriptive Summary

### Record Group Number

MSS 03-04

### Language

English

### Abstract

The Centreville, Virginia Collections consists of 0.5 linear feet, spans the years 1840-1977, and contains historical papers, reports, lecture notes, a hand-drawn land survey, a broadside, manuscript drafts, and a photocopied map.

### Creator

Virginia Room staff

### Extent

0.5 linear feet

### Repository

Fairfax County Public Library

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

None

### Use Restrictions

Consult repository for information

### Acquisition Information

Collection assembled by Virginia Room staff over a period of years. 1874 and 1877 tax receipts gift of Keith Pearson.

## Processing Information

Chris Barbuschak, December 2017

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## Preferred Citation

Centreville, Virginia Collection, MSS 03-04, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library

# Adjunct Descriptive Data

## Separated Material

None

## Historical and Biographical Information

In 1792, an act of the Virginia General Assembly incorporated the Town of Centerville (later to be renamed Centreville). The area, originally known as the village of Newgate, consisted primarily of tobacco land owned by the Carrs, Newtons, Jetts, and Lanes as well as two local landmarks: the Newgate Tavern and Mount Gilead.

Not long after the town's incorporation, the area saw a rise in the establishment of mills and tanneries, but the village entered a long period of gradual decline. Its deterioration was furthered by the Civil War, of which Centreville became a hotbed of activity. The town was strategically important due to its high elevation and close proximity to turnpikes, railroads, and Washington, D.C. Both the Confederate and Union armies occupied the heavily fortified town throughout the war. In 1862, the Confederate army constructed a 5.5 mile track known as the Centreville Military Railroad, making it the first exclusively military railroad ever built.

The war left Centreville heavily scarred and it struggled to recover during the post-war era. The area remained largely stagnant until the 1980s which saw a dramatic population boom with the construction of housing developments and shopping centers. In 1986, Fairfax County established the Centreville Historic Overlay District which includes notable historical buildings such as Mount Gilead, St. John's Episcopal Church, Harrison House, Havener House, Spindle Sears House, and the Old Stone Church.

## Scope and Content

The Centreville, Virginia Collections consists of 0.5 linear feet, spans the years 1840-1977, and contains historical papers, reports, lecture notes, a hand-drawn land survey, a broadside, manuscript drafts, and a photocopied map. Included are documents relating to the history of Centreville, Virginia such as tax receipts for George W. Steel and his son-in-law David Pierson; reports on the discovery of the Willoughby Newton boundary stone; preliminary drafts for "The Three Lives of Walney" by Anne S. Beresford and "Walney" by Elizabeth Brown Pryor; and an 1840 hand-drawn survey of the division of John Carter's Sudley plantation.

## Index Terms

Beresford, Beatrice Anne (1922-1982)

Carter, John (?-1838)

Centreville (Va.) - History

Centreville United Methodist Church

Clarke, Susan Summers (1844-1939)

Newton, Willoughby

Old Stone Church Centreville, Va.

Patterson, Rev. William

Pierson, David (1852-?)

Pryor, Elizabeth Brown (1951-2015)

Steel, George W. (1805-?)

Sudley plantation

Turberville, Anne S. (1885-1965)

Walney Farm (Centreville, Va.)

## **Container List**

**Box 1 Folder 1: Three talks about the history of Centreville, Virginia made by Anna S. Turberville, 1951, 1952, 1958**

**Box 1 Folder 2: Notes, Tour of Historic Landmarks of the Centreville Area, Conducted by Rev. William Patterson, St. John's Church, 1966 October 1**

**Box 1 Folder 3: Briefing paper, Search for Willoughby Newton Boundary Stones. February 20-21, 1971, 1971**

**Box 1 Folder 4: Report, The Willoughby Newton Boundary Stone Discovery in Centreville, 1971**

**Box 1 Folder 5: Broadside, "Centreville United Methodist Church For Sale", Undated**

**Box 1 Folder 6: Preliminary draft, "Walney" by Elizabeth Brown Pryor , Undated**

**Box 1 Folder 7: Preliminary draft, "The Three Lives of Walney" by Anne S. Beresford, 1977 April**

**Box 1 Folder 8: Obituary, Susan Summers Clarke (former resident of Level Green Farm), Merced Sun Star, 1939 February 3**

**Box 1 Folder 9: Tax receipts, George W. Steele and David Pierson, 1874, 1877**

**Box 1 Folder 10: Map, "Centreville, Va. Positions of Artillery" Sept 1861-Jan 1862 [photocopy], Undated**

**Oversize Drawer: Survey, "Survey of Division of Sudley to part of the real estate left by John Carter, dec." , 1840 June 5**