

A Guide to the Jean Tibbetts Papers on This Land at Cornwell Farm, 1955-2003

The Jean Tibbetts Papers on This Land at Cornwell Farm, 1955-2003
1955-2003

A Collection in The Fairfax County Public Library MSS 08-29

Title Statement

A Guide to the Jean Tibbetts Papers on This Land at Cornwell Farm, 1955-2003

Subtitle: Jean Tibbetts Papers on This Land at Cornwell Farm

Collection: MSS 08-29

Publication Statement

Date: © 2024 Fairfax County Public Library. All rights reserved.

Profile Description

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

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Record Group Number

MSS 08-29

Language

English

Abstract

The Jean Tibbetts Papers on This Land at Cornwell Farm consists of 5.50 linear feet, spans 1955-2003, and consists of correspondence, interview notes, deeds and other land records, family histories and genealogy notes, and other research materials related to the families and history of this section of Great Falls, Virginia.

Creator

Tibbetts, Jean (1926-2004)

Extent

5.50 linear feet

Repository

Fairfax County Public Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

None

Use Restrictions

Consult repository for copyright information

Acquisition Information

Donated June 28, 2004.

Processing Information

Carol Abrams, 2015

EAD generated by Ross Landis, 2024

Preferred Citation

Jean Tibbets Papers on "This Land at Cornwell Farm", MSS 08-29, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Separated Material

None

Related Material

None

Historical and Biographical Information

Frances Jean Bullock was born on June 20, 1926 to Louise and Joseph A. Bullock in Hartford, Connecticut. She studied aeronautical engineering at Purdue University, and worked for Curtiss-Wright in Columbus, Ohio, and Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, Connecticut. She later worked as a model appearing in national magazine advertisements.

After marrying Roland T. Tibbetts, she moved to the Washington area in 1958. Tibbetts was among the first women to graduate from the University of Virginia in the 1970s and worked as a psychologist focused on psychological testing and measurement. In 1983, she founded Search Corp., a technology information company based in Great Falls, Virginia. She headed the company until 2001.

In 2003, Jean Tibbets wrote the book *This Land at Cornwell Farm* which was published by the Great Falls Historical Society, an organization of which she had been involved with for 20 years. Cornwell Farm is a 200-acre tract of land in Great Falls, Virginia. Tibbetts' research includes the geological history of Cornwell Farm and its Native American past and then follows its title chain from 1731 to 1973. The Cornwell Farm tract faced subdivision by the Yeonas Company in 1972, which led the community to organize blocking the proposed development of 80 to 90 moderately-priced clustered houses. They fought for Great Falls' semi-rural character and a continuation of large lot sizes over five acres. The ad hoc committee of the Great Falls Citizen's Association succeeded in buying the Cornwell Farm tract from the developer and developing it themselves in large lots. They sold all 27 lots via silent auction. Jean Tibbetts and her husband Roland Tibbetts purchased one of those lots in 1973, with the address of 655 Mine Ridge Road. They built their home on the property and lived there for decades.

Jean Tibbetts' research sources for *This Land at Cornwell Farm* included the "Rambler" columns about local history that were written in the first half of the 20th century. As the chair of the publications committee of the Great Falls Historical Society in 1984, Jean Tibbetts spearheaded the group's efforts to reprint a series of local history columns from the early 20th century called the "Rambler." The "Rambler" column appeared in the former Sunday Star newspaper from 1905 until the 1940s. The column had several authors, but the best known of these was J. Harry Shannon, a Washington Star reporter who wrote about his journeys on horseback and on foot in the Washington DC-area from 1912 to 1927. Area scholars consider Shannon's articles to be authoritative and historically valuable for local history. In 1984, under Jean Tibbetts' leadership, the Great Falls Historical Society sought to word process and republish Shannon's articles from the "Rambler" series. Jean Tibbetts sought and received permission from The Washington Post, which owned all Evening Star copyrights, to reprint the "Rambler" articles in book form. She also undertook getting the "Rambler" columns transcribed. Tibbetts received written letters of support from the District of Columbia Public Library (which had bound volumes and microfilm reels of the columns), The Washington Post, the Columbia Historical Society, and the Fairfax County History Commission. The Great Falls Historical Society piloted the project by reprinting the "Rambler" column from June 2, 1918 in its 1984-1985 Reflections report. The Society published a "Rambler" column in each of their 1985-1986, 1986-1988, and 1988-1991 Reflections reports as well. Also in 1984, the Society began working on fundraising strategies to reprint Shannon's columns in book form by speaking with the Fairfax County Grants Coordinator. It does not appear that the Great Falls Historical Society succeeded in republishing the "Rambler" columns, but the columns are now digitally available through DC Public Library.

Jean Tibbetts died in Leesburg, Virginia on September 7, 2004. Since 2006, the Great Falls Historical Society has bestowed an annual award named for Jean Tibbetts to honor an outstanding contribution to the research, articulation, dissemination, and preservation of the history along the Potomac River corridor from McLean to west of Dranesville and south through Herndon.

Scope and Content

Scope and Content

The Jean Tibbetts Papers on This Land at Cornwell Farm consists of 5.50 linear feet, spans 1955-2003, and consists of correspondence, interview notes, deeds and other land records, family histories and genealogy notes, and other research materials related to the families and history of this section of Great Falls, Virginia. Subjects covered include the geology of Cornwell Farm's land and its early occupants before it was first titled in 1731 to Guy Broadwater from Lord Thomas Fairfax; each of its changes in title from 1731 to 1973; the tract during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars; the genealogy of two families in the title chain - the Cornwells and the Jacksons; and its 1970s-era development as low-density parcels rather than the higher-density parcels that had been proposed. The collection also covers Tibbetts' involvement with the Great Falls Historical Society in getting a series of local history columns from 1912 to 1927 republished.

Series 1: Chapter Notes and References, 1955-2003, Boxes 1-4

This series contains folders pertaining to 16 chapters of the manuscript This Land at Cornwell Farm. Secondary research material (some annotated); draft reference lists; newspaper clippings; hand-written notes; and draft copies of the manuscript text are sorted by chapter.

Series 2: General Subject Files, 1973-2003, Boxes 5-6

This series contains research and reference material for This Land at Cornwell Farm. It consists of draft copies of the manuscript text sorted by its subject, such as Georgetown Pike; hand-written notes; secondary research material; correspondence; interview transcripts; Cornwell Farm Homeowner Association documents, membership lists, meeting announcements, and minutes; newspaper clippings; maps; title chains; and real estate deeds.

Series 3: Family Files, 1978-2002, Boxes 7-8

This series contains genealogical research on each family who was relevant in the title chain for the property known as Cornwell Farm, with emphasis on the Cornwells and the Jacksons (The John Jackson Line, the Richard Jackson Line, and the Spencer Jackson Line). Each folder pertains to a specific family or a family member. The content includes family trees; family group sheets; other forms of genealogical research such as inclusive name printouts; copies of government documents; hand-written notes; interview notes; secondary research material; publications; newspaper clippings; and maps.

Series 4: Great Falls Land Research, 1983-1989, Box 9

This series contains real estate records that pertain to the lots on the property known as Cornwell Farm. The content includes real estate deeds; copies of legal documents; legal records for land disputes; maps, correspondence; and hand-written notes. The folders are organized by family name and the property associated with that family or family member.

Series 5: The "Rambler" Files, 1984-1991, Box 10

This series contains material related to the Great Falls Historical Society's efforts in the mid-1980s to reprint the "Rambler" columns in book form. The material consists of correspondence; research; indices; interview notes; and fundraising letters. The bulk of this series are selected "Rambler" articles that first appeared from 1914 to 1920 in a variety of the following formats: photocopies of the newspaper articles, photocopies of the microfiche version of the newspaper articles, photocopies of enlargements of the newspaper articles, and typed transcriptions. This series also contains copies of the Great Falls Historical Society's 1984-1985 Reflections report that included a reprint of the "Rambler" column from June 2, 1918. The column was headlined, "The Rambler Writes of Old Families Living Near Forrestville, Va." [Forrestville was the old name for Great Falls.]. Copies of the "Rambler" reprints that appeared in the Great Falls Historical Society's 1985-1986, 1986-1988, and 1988-1991 Reflections reports are also in this series of the collection.

Index Terms

Cornwell Family
Cornwell Farm (Great Falls, Va.)
Great Falls Historical Society
Great Falls (Va.) - History
Tibbetts, Jean (1926-2004)
Tibbetts, Roland T. (1924-2014)

Container List

Series 1: Chapter Notes and References, 1955-2003

Box 1 Folder 1: Chapter 1: Geology, References #1, 2003, 2003

Box 1 Folder 1: Chapter 1. Geology: References #1, 2002, 2002

Box 1 Folder 2: Chapter 1. Geology: References #2, 1963-2001, 1963-2001

Box 1 Folder 3: Chapter 1. Geology: References #3, 1955-2002, 1955-2002

Box 1 Folder 4: Chapter 1. Geology: References #4, 2001, 2001-2002

Box 1 Folder 5: Chapter 1. Geology: References #5, 1972-2002

Box 1 Folder 6: Chapter 1. Geology: References #6, 1981-2002

Box 1 Folder 7: Chapter 2. First Immigrants: References and Notes #1, 1978-2002

Box 1 Folder 8: Chapter 2. First Immigrants: References and Notes #2, 1999-2001

Box 1 Folder 9: Chapter 2. First Immigrants: References and Notes #3, 1999-2001

Box 1 Folder 10: Chapter 2. First Immigrants: References and Notes #4, 1978-2002

Box 1 Folder 11: Chapter 2. First Immigrants: References and Notes #5, 1999-2001

Box 1 Folder 12: Chapter 2. First Immigrants: Sources not referenced, 1999-2001

Box 2 Folder 1: Chapter 3: English Arrivals: References #1, 1984-2003

Box 2 Folder 2: Chapter 3: English Arrivals: References #2, 1999-2002

Box 2 Folder 3: Chapter 3: English Arrivals: References #3, 1979-2002

Box 2 Folder 4: Chapter 3: English Arrivals: References #4, 1999-2002

Box 2 Folder 5: Chapter 3: English Arrivals: English Land Law, 2001

Box 2 Folder 6: Chapter 3: English Arrivals: Samms, Undated

Box 2 Folder 7: Chapter 3: English Arrivals: Haynie, Undated

Box 2 Folder 8: Chapter 3: English Arrivals: Harrison, Undated

Box 2 Folder 9: Chapter 3: English Arrivals: Bushnell, Undated

Box 2 Folder 10: Chapter 4: The Gift: References and Notes, 1999-2002

Box 2 Folder 11: Chapter 5: Northern Neck Propriety: References and notes #1, 2002

Box 2 Folder 12: Chapter 5: Northern Neck Propriety: References and notes #2, 2000-2002

Box 2 Folder 13: Chapter 6: Ellzey-Broadwater, 2000-2002

Box 2 Folder 14: Chapter 7: Henry Watson, Undated

Box 2 Folder 15: Chapter 8: John Semple, 1980-2002

Box 2 Folder 16: Chapter 9: Revolutionary War, 2000

Box 3 Folder 1: Chapter 10: Jackson: Jackson Family, 1982-1999

Box 3 Folder 2: Chapter 10: Jackson: Capt. John T. Jackson, Sr., 1988-2003

Box 3 Folder 3: Chapter 10: Jackson: John T. Jackson, 1983

Box 3 Folder 4: Chapter 10: Jackson: John Jackson, 1985-2002

Box 3 Folder 5: Chapter 10: Jackson: Nicholson, Undated

Box 3 Folder 6: Chapter 10: Jackson: Jackson/Gunnell Suit, Undated

Box 3 Folder 7: Chapter 11: The New Brick House: Julia Jackson Rowzee, 1983

Box 3 Folder 8: Chapter 11: The New Brick House: Rowzee, 1981

Box 3 Folder 9: Chapter 12: Civil War, 1999-2002

Box 3 Folder 10: Chapter 12: Civil War: Henry Thomas, 1978-1989

Box 3 Folder 11: Chapter 12: Civil War: Grigsby, 1983-1999

Box 3 Folder 12: Chapter 12: Civil War: James W. Jackson, 1990-2002

Box 3 Folder 13: Chapter 13: Cornwell Farm, 2000

Box 3 Folder 14: Chapter 13: Cornwell Farm: Cornwell Family, 1980-2003

Box 3 Folder 15: Chapter 13: Cornwell Farm: House History, 1978-1983

Box 4 Folder 1: Chapter 14: Gentleman Farmers, 2000

Box 4 Folder 2: Chapter 14: Gentleman Farmers: Delk, 2000-2003

Box 4 Folder 3: Chapter 14: Gentleman Farmers: Deanwood, 2000-2001

Box 4 Folder 4: Chapter 14: Gentleman Farmers: Dickie, 2000-2001

Box 4 Folder 5: Chapter 14: Gentleman Farmers: Gertrude Reed, Undated

Box 4 Folder 6: Chapter 14: Gentleman Farmers: Slinghuff, 2000-2003

Box 4 Folder 7: Chapter 14: Gentleman Farmers: Duvall, Jill, 2001

Box 4 Folder 8: Chapter 14: Gentleman Farmers: Huckaby, 1999-2003

Box 4 Folder 9: Chapter 14: Gentleman Farmers: Riggs Bank, 2000

Box 4 Folder 10: Chapter 14: Gentleman Farmers: Waggaman & Brawner, Undated

Box 4 Folder 11: Chapter 14: Gentleman Farmers: Pell, 2001

Box 4 Folder 12: Chapter 14: Gentleman Farmers: McKnight, 1999-2001

Box 4 Folder 13: Chapter 14: Gentleman Farmers: Henry McKnight, 2001-2002

Box 4 Folder 14: Chapter 14: Gentleman Farmers: Opstad, 1990-2001

Box 4 Folder 15: Chapter 15: Green Space, 1982-2003

Box 4 Folder 16: Chapter 16: Epilogue, 2000

Series 2: General Subject Files, 1973-2003

Box 5 Folder 1: References, Miscellaneous, 1981-2002

Box 5 Folder 2: Buffalo, 2001-2002

Box 5 Folder 3: Citation Data, 1999-2001

Box 5 Folder 4: Environmental Notes, 1980

Box 5 Folder 5: Fairfax City History, 1977-2001

Box 5 Folder 6: Georgetown Pike, 1999-2000

Box 5 Folder 7: Cornwell Farm Owners Association, 1975

Box 5 Folder 8: Cornwell Farm Owners Lists, 1973-2002

Box 5 Folder 9: Horses, Undated

Box 5 Folder 10: Illustrations, 1979-2000

Box 5 Folder 11: Interviews, 1977-2003

Box 6 Folder 1: Letters, 1981-2003

Box 6 Folder 2: Maps, 1983-2000

Box 6 Folder 3: Potomack Canal, 1981-1999

Box 6 Folder 4: Quotes, Undated

Box 6 Folder 5: Tibetts/Cornwell, 1973

Box 6 Folder 6: Title Chains, Undated

Box 6 Folder 7: Title Chains - Deeds, Undated

Box 6 Folder 8: General Virginia History, 1999-2000

Box 6 Folder 9: Roads, 1978-1988

Box 6 Folder 10: Research Notes (needs sorting), 1978-2003

Series 3: Family Files, 1978-2002

Box 7 Folder 1: Jackson Bibles, Undated

Box 7 Folder 2: Ball Family, Undated

Box 7 Folder 3: Beall Family, 1990

Box 7 Folder 4: Carper Family, Undated

Box 7 Folder 5: Cockerille Family, 1986

Box 7 Folder 6: Coleman Family, Undated

Box 7 Folder 7: Conn Family, 1988-1995

Box 7 Folder 8: Costley Family, 1991

Box 7 Folder 9: Crippen Family, Undated

Box 7 Folder 10: Dickey Family, 1986

Box 7 Folder 11: Donaldson Family, 1988-2001

Box 7 Folder 12: Drane Family, 1991

Box 7 Folder 13: Elgin Family, 1983-1988

Box 7 Folder 14: Follin Family, 1989

Box 7 Folder 15: Gunnell Family, 1984-1987

Box 7 Folder 16: Jackson, Andrew, 1988-2000

Box 7 Folder 17: Jackson, Bill, 1986

Box 7 Folder 18: Jackson, Christopher, Undated

Box 7 Folder 19: Jackson, George W.W., 1983

Box 7 Folder 20: Jackson, John T.J., Undated

Box 7 Folder 21: Jackson, Richard, Undated

Box 7 Folder 22: Jackson, Robert R., Undated

Box 7 Folder 23: Jackson, Spencer, 1983-1995

Box 7 Folder 24: Jenkins Family, 2001-2002

Box 7 Folder 25: Leigh Family, 1986-1993

Box 7 Folder 26: Maurice Family, 1985-1986

Box 7 Folder 27: McCarty Family, Undated

Box 7 Folder 28: Offutt Family, 1984-1987

Box 7 Folder 20: Orrell Family, 1984-1987

Box 8 Folder 1: Oliver Family, 1987-1988

Box 8 Folder 2: Peacock Family, Undated

Box 8 Folder 3: Ratcliffe Family, 1978

Box 8 Folder 4: Sanders-Barnett Family, 1990

Box 8 Folder 5: Scott Family, Undated

Box 8 Folder 6: Sharper Family, Undated

Box 8 Folder 7: Stewart Family, 1990

Box 8 Folder 8: Smith Family, Undated

Box 8 Folder 9: Swink Family, Undated

Box 8 Folder 10: Tucker Family, Undated

Box 8 Folder 11: Walker Family, 1993

Box 8 Folder 12: Warner, Bob, 1990-1992

Box 8 Folder 13: Wigginton Family, 1983-1999

Box 8 Folder 14: Family Group Sheets, 1978-1988

Box 8 Folder 15: Inclusive Name Printout, 1978-1990

Series 4: Great Falls Land Research, 1983-1989

Box 9 Folder 1: William Gunnell Property #1, Undated

Box 9 Folder 2: William Gunnell Property #2, 1984

Box 9 Folder 3: William Gunnell Estate (Div. of Lot No. 1), 1987

Box 9 Folder 4: William Gunnell Estate (Div. of Lot No. 2), Undated

Box 9 Folder 5: William Gunnell Estate (Div. of Lot No. 3), Undated

Box 9 Folder 6: William Gunnell Estate (Div. of Lot No. 4), Undated

Box 9 Folder 7: William Gunnell Estate (Div. of Lot No. 5), Undated

Box 9 Folder 8: William Gunnell Estate (Div. of Lot No. 6), Undated

Box 9 Folder 9: William Gunnell Estate (Div. of Lot No. 7), Undated

Box 9 Folder 10: William Gunnell Estate (Div. of Lot No. 9), Undated

Box 9 Folder 11: William Gunnell Estate (Div. of Lot No. 10), Undated

Box 9 Folder 12: William Gunnell, Jr. Property, Undated

Box 9 Folder 12: William Gunnell, Jr. Property, Undated

Box 9 Folder 13: William Henry Gunnell Property, Undated

Box 9 Folder 14: George William Gunnell Property, Undated

Box 9 Folder 15: John Gunnell Property, Undated

Box 9 Folder 16: Embs & Harle Properties, Undated

Box 9 Folder 17: John T. J. Jackson Property, Undated

Box 9 Folder 18: Robert R. Jackson Suit, Undated

Box 9 Folder 19: Spencer Jackson Estate, 1983

Box 9 Folder 20: Reed Property (194 ac.), 1989

Box 9 Folder 21: Richard Jackson Deeds, Undated

Box 9 Folder 22: Miscellaneous Deeds, 1987-1989

Series 5: "The Rambler" Files, 1984-1991

Box 10 Folder 1: Misc. Correspondence, 1984-1991

Box 10 Folder 2: Published in GFHS Annual Report, Undated

Box 10 Folder 3: J. Harry Shannon Info, 1984

Box 10 Folder 4: Listings, Indexes, Undated

Box 10 Folder 5: Strayer College-Rambler Correspondence, 1986

Box 10 Folder 6: Miscellaneous, Undated

Box 10 Folder 7: "The Rambler" from February 15, 1914, Undated

Box 10 Folder 8: "The Rambler" from April 19, 1914, Undated

Box 10 Folder 9: "The Rambler" from November 8, 1914, Undated

Box 10 Folder 10: "The Rambler" from January 3, 1915, Undated

Box 10 Folder 11: "The Rambler" from June 13, 1915, Undated

Box 10 Folder 12: "The Rambler" from June 20, 1915, Undated

Box 10 Folder 13: "The Rambler" from April 16, 1916, Undated

Box 10 Folder 14: "The Rambler" from April 30, 1916, Undated

Box 10 Folder 15: "The Rambler" from December 24, 1916, Undated

Box 10 Folder 16: "The Rambler" from December 31, 1916, Undated

Box 10 Folder 17: "The Rambler" from January 7, 1917, Undated

Box 10 Folder 17: "The Rambler" from January 7, 1917, Undated

Box 10 Folder 18: "The Rambler" from April 22, 1917, Undated

Box 10 Folder 19: "The Rambler" from July 1, 1917, Undated

Box 10 Folder 20: "The Rambler" from July 15, 1917, Undated

Box 10 Folder 21: "The Rambler" from April 14, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 22: "The Rambler" from April 21, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 23: "The Rambler" from April 28, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 24: "The Rambler" from May 12, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 25: "The Rambler" from May 19, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 26: "The Rambler" from May 26, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 27: "The Rambler" from June 2, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 28: "The Rambler" from June 9, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 29: "The Rambler" from June 16, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 30: "The Rambler" from June 23, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 31: "The Rambler" from June 30, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 32: "The Rambler" from July 7, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 33: "The Rambler" from July 14, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 34: "The Rambler" from July 21, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 35: "The Rambler" from July 28, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 36: "The Rambler" from August 11, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 37: "The Rambler" from August 18, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 38: "The Rambler" from October 20, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 39: "The Rambler" from November 10, 1918, Undated

Box 10 Folder 40: "The Rambler" from January 19, 1919, Undated

Box 10 Folder 41: "The Rambler" from July 20, 1919, Undated

Box 10 Folder 42: "The Rambler" from August 10, 1919, Undated

Box 10 Folder 43: "The Rambler" from October 16, 1919, Undated

Box 10 Folder 44: "The Rambler" from November 2, 1919, Undated

Box 10 Folder 45: "The Rambler" from November 16, 1919, Undated

Box 10 Folder 46: "The Rambler" from December 7, 1919, Undated

Box 10 Folder 47: "The Rambler" from March 7, 1920, Undated

Box 10 Folder 48: "The Rambler" from August 1, 1920, Undated

Box 10 Folder 49: "The Rambler" from September 12, 1920, Undated

Box 10 Folder 50: "The Rambler" from October 24, 1920, Undated

Box 10 Folder 51: Undated or incomplete articles, Undated

Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library