

A Guide to the Halley Family Scrapbook, 1841-1897

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A Collection in The Fairfax County Public Library MSS # 07-31

Title Statement

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Subtitle: Halley Family Scrapbook

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Publication Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Record Group Number

MSS # 07-31

Language

English

Abstract

The Halley Family Scrapbook consists of a scrapbook and the loose contents that were contained in it spanning the years 1841-1897. Items include newspaper clippings, newspapers, booklets, brochures, flyers, notecards and report cards.

Creator

Halley family

Extent

0.5 linear feet

Repository

Fairfax County Public Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

None

Use Restrictions

Consult repository for information

Acquisition Information

Donated by Gibran Parvez, January 2025.

Processing Information

Chris Barbuschak, January 2025

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Preferred Citation

Halley Family Scrapbook, MSS 07-31, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Separated Material

None

Related Material

None

Historical and Biographical Information

The Halley family has had a presence in Fairfax County, Virginia since the 18th century. Around 1735, James Halley (1707-1785) emigrated to America, married Elizabeth Simpson (1717-1785), and became a prosperous planter and farmer in Fairfax County. The couple had twelve children, six sons and six daughters. Two of James and Elizabeth's great-great-grandchildren were William F. Halley (1874-1954) and Sallie Halley (1871-1952). They were born at Smokey Castle which stood in what is now South Run Park. Sallie never married and worked as a housekeeper in the Burke, Virginia area until her death at age 80. She is buried in the Fairfax City Cemetery.

She and her brother William Francis Halley both attended the Ox Road School which was located near the present-day Crosspointe Fire Station on Ox Road. Report cards signed by their teacher, Rezin H. Harrover, are included in this scrapbook. William Halley left school in the fifth grade and started a sawmill business. For over forty years, he roamed the forests of Virginia and North Carolina hauling his portable sawmill to cut up trees for timber.

In 1896, Halley married Dorsey Carol Beach in Washington, D.C. They had three children together and settled on a farm in Fairfax Station, Virginia. As a sawmill operator, the Fairfax County School Board hired Halley to provide firewood for the local rural schools. He later supplied the timber to rebuild the Lorton School after it burned down and convinced the school board to provide the first permanent school bus route in the Silverbrook Road vicinity. At age 80, Halley passed away suddenly at the home of his son, William F. Halley, Jr., in Fairfax Station. He is buried in Lee Chapel Cemetery in Burke, Virginia. William F. Halley Elementary School was named for him, and it opened on September 5, 1995. Halley's pocket watch and cuff links are currently on display in the school.

It is unknown which member of the Halley family created the scrapbook in this collection. Pasted inside the scrapbook are newspaper clippings featuring short stories and poetry, and colorful business advertisements mostly from Washington, D.C., and Alexandria, Virginia. Some of the businesses include: C. S. Price, Pharmacist, 407 7th Street NW, Washington, D.C.; B. Robinson & Co., Clothing & Furnishing Goods, 909 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C.; Nicoll The Tailor, 617 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C.; Baum's, 416 7th Street, Washington, D.C.; A. Dittrich, Hattier and Furrier, 724 7th Street NW, Washington, D.C.; George E. Franch, Bookseller and Stationer, 93-95 King Street, Alexandria, VA; Tenneson & Company, 114 King Street, Alexandria, VA; William D. Hadson, 265 King Street, Alexandria, VA; New Home Sewing Machine Company, New York; H. W. Alleger, Washington, New Jersey; Barkley & Hasson's Coffee; Browns Iron Bitters; Clark's Spool Cotton; Floreston Cologne; and Tarrant's Seltzer Aperient.

Scope and Content

The Halley Family Scrapbook consists of a scrapbook and the loose contents that were contained in it spanning the years 1841-1897. Items include newspaper clippings, newspapers, booklets, brochures, flyers, notecards and report cards. Items that were not glued in the scrapbook were rehoused into individual file folders. Of particular note are several Fairfax County Public School report cards for William F. Halley (1874-1954) and Sallie Halley (1871-1952). They were issued by Rezin H. Harrover, their teacher at the Ox Road School. Subjects include businesses in Alexandria, Virginia and Washington, D.C., and the history of the Halley family and Burke, Virginia.

Index Terms

Burke (Va.) - History

Halley family
Halley, Mary E., 1869-1953
Halley, Sallie, 1871-1952
Halley, William Francis, 1874-1954
Sangster, John J, 1868-1927

Container List

Box 1 Folder 1: Booklet, "A Glimpse of The Edingtons", Undated

Box 1 Folder 2: Booklet, "Our Little Ones", 1893 July 30

Box 1 Folder 3: Brochure, The Mercantile-Railway Building and Loan Association of Alexandria, Virginia, Undated

Box 1 Folder 4: Calling card, John J. Sangster, Undated

Box 1 Folder 5: Envelope, Mollie E. Halley of Stoneleigh (Springman, VA postmark), 1890 November 25

Box 1 Folder 6: Flyer, John J. Sangster, Campaigning for Commissioner of the Revenue, Burke's Station, Va., 1899

Box 1 Folder 7: Flyer, Pears Soap, Undated

Box 1 Folder 8: Newspaper, "The Commercial", 1882

Box 1 Folder 9: Newspaper, "The Dispatch", 1890 June 20

Box 1 Folder 10: Newspaper, "The Morning Times", 1896 July 19

Box 1 Folder 11: Newspaper, "Sunday School Visitor", 1890 October 26

Box 1 Folder 12: Newspaper, "Sunday School Visitor", 1890 November 23

Box 1 Folder 13: Newspaper, "Young People's Weekly" [2 copies], 1892 June 5

Box 1 Folder 14: Newspaper clippings, Ephemera, Undated

Box 1 Folder 15: Newspaper clippings, Home remedies, 1889-1897

Box 1 Folder 16: Newspaper clippings, News items, 1888-1893

Box 1 Folder 17: Newspaper clippings, Poetry, 1841-1891

Box 1 Folder 18: Newspaper clippings, Short stories, 1888-1890

Box 1 Folder 19: Notecard, Dr. D. Jane's Expectorant and Tonic Vermifuge (Presented by Burke & Marshall, Burke's, Station, Virginia), Undated

Box 1 Folder 20: Notecard, Reward of Merit "Presented to Sallie Halley, age 13, by A. L. Denty teacher", 1885 May 15

Box 1 Folder 21: School report cards, Sallie Halley, 1889-1890

Box 1 Folder 22: School report cards, William F. Halley, 1890

Box 1 Folder 23: Scrapbook, 1886-1887