

A Guide to the Graham M. James Jr. Slide Collection, 1951-1963

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Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

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2025.009

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English

Abstract

The Graham James Jr. Slide Collection consists of 124 photographic color slides spanning the years 1951-1963. The bulk of the collection documents the Herndon High School Homecoming Parades in downtown Herndon, but images of fires and fire fighting equipment are also included.

Creator

Graham M. James Jr. (1914-1978)

Extent

0.5 linear feet

Repository

Fairfax County Public Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

None

Use Restrictions

Consult repository for copyright information.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Elliot H. Rubino, June 2025.

Processing Information

Chris Barbuschak, July 2025.

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Graham M. James Jr. Slide Collection, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library

Adjunct Descriptive Data**Separated Material**

None

Related Material

None

Historical and Biographical Information

Graham McKee James Jr. was born on January 3, 1914, to Graham McKee James Sr. (1891-1978) and Eliza Leona James (1889-1964). He attended Herndon High School in his youth and served on the boards of the Herndon Baptist Church and Herndon Lions Club for many years. James was Mayor of Herndon from 1957-1961 and later headed the town's Maintenance Department. In his professional life, James was in the contracting, real estate and insurance business. He was the general contractor for the Herndon Medical Center which was completed in 1959.

Herndon High School held its first Homecoming Day and parade on November 11, 1947. It has been held in late October and early November ever since. During its earlier years, the parade typically began at 1:00 p.m., ran for about an hour, was followed by a football game, and the day finished with a dance held in the Herndon High School gymnasium. The parade route wound through residential and business streets beginning at Park and Van Buren, curved around Station Street, and emptied onto Elden Street before disbanding on Sterling Road.

A police escort would start the parade followed by decorated floats of the various high school clubs and elementary schools of the area. Brownies, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, service clubs, civic organizations, and individual commercial firms came next. An army of fire vehicles and apparatuses from several local volunteer fire departments would conclude the parade.

James was there to photograph the parades before and after his time as mayor and even marched in it himself. He died of lymphoma at age 64 at Fairfax Hospital on December 18, 1978.

Scope and Content

The Graham James Jr. Slide Collection consists of 124 photographic color slides spanning the years 1951-1963. The bulk of the collection documents the Herndon High School Homecoming Parades in downtown Herndon, but images of fires and fire fighting equipment are also included. The general subjects of each group of slides were previously identified by James' family, however some of the identifications and dates might be inaccurate.

Index Terms

Fairfax County (Va.). Fire and Rescue Department

Fire departments - Virginia - Fairfax County

Herndon (Va.) - History

Herndon High School

Herndon High School (Fairfax County, Va.)

High school students - Virginia - Fairfax County

James, Graham M., Jr. (1914-1978)

Parades - Virginia - Herndon

Container List

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Young girl with bass clarinet of the Herndon High School marching band.

Unit ID James-001

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon Volunteer Fire Department Model T fire truck.

Unit ID James-002

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon Volunteer Fire Department fire truck passing the Herndon Post Office.

Unit ID James-003

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Bailey's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department fire truck passing the Herndon Post Office.

Unit ID James-004

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, City of Falls Church Fire Department fire truck.

Unit ID James-005

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Chantilly Volunteer Fire Department fire truck passing the Herndon Post Office.

Unit ID James-006

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Case tractor pulling the Rotary International float past the Herndon Depot brick electric substation.

Unit ID James-007

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School marching band.

Unit ID James-008

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School marching band in front of the Herndon Post Office.

Unit ID James-009

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School marching band processing down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-010

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School marching band processing down Lynn Street. Nachman Building pictured.

Unit ID James-011

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School marching band on the football field with WFAX radio announcer.

Unit ID James-012

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School marching band on the football field.

Unit ID James-013

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School marching band on the football field.

Unit ID James-014

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School marching band on the football field. Herndon High School in the background.

Unit ID James-015

Unit Date 1951

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School football game.

Unit ID James-016

Unit Date 1951

Unknown fire, Fire trucks and crowd gathered at an unknown farm.

Unit ID James-017

Unit Date 1952

Unknown fire, Firefighters working to put out a fire at unknown location.

Unit ID James-018

Unit Date 1952

Unknown fire, A bear at an unknown location.

Unit ID James-019

Unit Date 1952

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Marching band processing down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-020

Unit Date 1952

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Regina VI Queen passing in front of Arthur's Warehouse and Herndon Depot.

Unit ID James-021

Unit Date 1952

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Tractor pulling parade float in front of Arthur's Warehouse and Herndon Depot.

Unit ID James-022

Unit Date 1952

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Tractor pulling Grange #38 parade float in front of Arthur's Warehouse.

Unit ID James-023

Unit Date 1952

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School marching band processing down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-024

Unit Date 1952

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School cheerleaders parading on a flatbed truck.

Unit ID James-025

Unit Date 1952

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Horses and buggy passing in front of Arthur's Warehouse and Herndon Depot.

Unit ID James-026

Unit Date 1952

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Horses and carriage passing in front of Arthur's Warehouse and Herndon Depot.

Unit ID James-027

Unit Date 1952

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Pony pulling a small cart past the Herndon Post Office.

Unit ID James-028

Unit Date 1952

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Parade float passing the Herndon Post Office.

Unit ID James-029

Unit Date 1952

4th of July Parade, Herndon Lions Club advertising a minstrel show passing the Herndon Post Office. [possibly Herndon Homecoming Parade 1954]

Unit ID James-030

Unit Date 1953

4th of July Parade, Model T passing Arthur's Warehouse and Herndon Depot. [possibly Herndon Homecoming Parade 1954]

Unit ID James-031

Unit Date 1953

4th of July Parade, Cars and a mule parade down Lynn Street. [possibly Herndon Homecoming Parade 1954]

Unit ID James-032

Unit Date 1953

4th of July Parade, Clown car parades down Lynn Street. Herndon Pharmacy in background. [possibly Herndon Homecoming Parade 1954]

Unit ID James-033

Unit Date 1953

4th of July Parade, Herndon Volunteer Fire Department rescue squad. [possibly Herndon Homecoming Parade 1954]

Unit ID James-034

Unit Date 1953

4th of July Parade, City of Falls Church Fire Department fire truck. [possibly Herndon Homecoming Parade 1954]

Unit ID James-035

Unit Date 1953

Herndon Homecoming Parade, "Princess" riding in a car down Lynn Street. Herndon Pharmacy in background.

Unit ID James-036

Unit Date 1953

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Future Farmers of America parade float.

Unit ID James-037

Unit Date 1953

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Jeep parade float on Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-038

Unit Date 1953

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Horses parading down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-039

Unit Date 1953

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Truck parade float.

Unit ID James-040

Unit Date 1953

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Young boys marching past Herndon Pharmacy and Arthur's Warehouse.

Unit ID James-041

Unit Date 1953

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School cheerleaders parading down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-042

Unit Date 1953

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Horses and buggies parading down Lynn Street. Herndon Pharmacy in background.

Unit ID James-043

Unit Date 1953

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Man in a car driving past Herndon Depot.

Unit ID James-044

Unit Date 1953

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Children pulling younger children in wagons.

Unit ID James-045

Unit Date 1953

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Children following Herndon Volunteer Fire Truck.

Unit ID James-046

Unit Date 1953

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School majorettes parading down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-047

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Beauty queens on a float on Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-048

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, St. Joan of Arc parade float.

Unit ID James-049

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, "Wakefield's End" parade float passing the Herndon Post Office. Float has a effigy of a Wakefield High School football player being hanged.

Unit ID James-050

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Baby in a stroller at the parade. Nachman's Building in the background.

Unit ID James-051

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Baby in a stroller at the parade.

Unit ID James-052

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Crowd watching the parade in front of the Herndon Post Office.

Unit ID James-053

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Unknown dignitary riding in the back of a convertible.

Unit ID James-054

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Unknown dignitaries riding in the back of a convertible.

Unit ID James-055

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Unknown dignitaries riding in the back of a convertible passing Arthur's Warehouse.

Unit ID James-056

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Fire truck passing Arthur's Warehouse.

Unit ID James-057

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Marching band processing down Lynn Street. Herndon Pharmacy in background.

Unit ID James-058

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Soldiers marching down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-059

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Boy on a horse parading.

Unit ID James-060

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Marching band processing down Lynn Street. Orrison Fuel Oil Inc. Esso truck parked on the side.

Unit ID James-061

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon Volunteer Fire Department fire truck. Recreation Center Fund Drive sign in the background.

Unit ID James-062

Unit Date 1954

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Unidentified man in rain gear on a porch.

Unit ID James-063

Unit Date 1956

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Brownie scouts marching past Arthur's Warehouse.

Unit ID James-064

Unit Date 1956

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Tractor pulling a church choir float past Arthur's Warehouse.

Unit ID James-065

Unit Date 1956

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Horses and carriage passing in front of Arthur's Warehouse.

Unit ID James-066

Unit Date 1956

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon Baptist Church Girls' Auxiliary parade float passing the Herndon Post Office.

Unit ID James-067

Unit Date 1956

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Beauty queens in a convertible passing Arthur's Warehouse.

Unit ID James-068

Unit Date 1957

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Steels Taxi car passing Arthur's Warehouse.

Unit ID James-069

Unit Date 1957

Herndon Homecoming Parade, "Come on Hornets" Herndon High School parade float.

Unit ID James-070

Unit Date 1957

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Horses and carriage parading.

Unit ID James-071

Unit Date 1957

Herndon Homecoming Parade, "Alice In Wonderland" parade float passing Arthur's Warehouse.

Unit ID James-072

Unit Date 1957

New Ambulance, New Herndon Volunteer Fire Department Cadillac Rescue Squad.

Unit ID James-073

Unit Date 1958

New Ambulance, Firefighters posing in front of new Herndon Volunteer Fire Department Cadillac Rescue Squad.

Unit ID James-074

Unit Date 1958

New Ambulance, Firefighters posing in front of new Herndon Volunteer Fire Department Cadillac Rescue Squad. Western Auto, Murphy & Ames, and B. F. Goodrich Thrifty Store in the background.

Unit ID James-075

Unit Date 1958

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Tractor pulling "A Mid-Summer Night's Dream" float.

Unit ID James-076

Unit Date 1958

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Baseball team marching past Arthur's Warehouse.

Unit ID James-077

Unit Date 1958

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Artillery Army soldiers and Nike Ajax missile driving down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-078

Unit Date 1958

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School Spanish Club float.

Unit ID James-079

Unit Date 1958

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Young majorettes marching down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-080

Unit Date 1958

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Truck parade floats passing the Herndon Post Office. Herndon Theatre can be seen in the background.

Unit ID James-081

Unit Date 1958

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Young majorettes marching past the Herndon Post Office. Cities Service station, Herndon Theatre, Western Auto, and Arthur's can be seen in the background.

Unit ID James-082

Unit Date 1958

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Model T passing Arthur's Warehouse.

Unit ID James-083

Unit Date 1958

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School marching band processing down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-084

Unit Date 1958

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School cheerleaders riding in a convertible past Arthur's Warehouse.

Unit ID James-085

Unit Date 1958

Herndon Homecoming Parade, An unidentified Alexandria, VA band marching past the Herndon Post Office. Cities Service station, Western Auto, and Arthur's can be seen in the background.

Unit ID James-086

Unit Date 1958

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Trojan Horse float passing Herndon Post Office.

Unit ID James-087

Unit Date 1961

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Marching band parading down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-088

Unit Date 1961

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Graham James, Jr. flatbed truck advertising Lesco Homes.

Unit ID James-089

Unit Date 1961

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Costumed children passing the Herndon Post Office and Cities Service station.

Unit ID James-090

Unit Date 1961

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Trojan Horse float passing Nachman's Building.

Unit ID James-091

Unit Date 1961

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School Library Club float and scouts passing the Herndon Post Office and Cities Service station.

Unit ID James-092

Unit Date 1961

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Parade float passing Cities Service station.

Unit ID James-093

Unit Date 1961

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School JV cheerleaders riding in the back of a convertible.

Unit ID James-094

Unit Date 1961

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School Library Club float passing the Herndon Post Office and Cities Service station.

Unit ID James-095

Unit Date 1961

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Costumed children and a clown on a pony processing down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-096

Unit Date 1961

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Parade float passing the Herndon Post Office.

Unit ID James-097

Unit Date 1962

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School "GAA Land" float.

Unit ID James-098

Unit Date 1962

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Tractor pulling a "Lets Generate Some Light For The Hornets" night football float.

Unit ID James-099

Unit Date 1962

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School marching band and Rotary Club processing down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-100

Unit Date 1962

Herndon Homecoming Parade, An unidentified Alexandria, VA band marching past Arthur's Warehouse and the Herndon Depot.

Unit ID James-101

Unit Date 1962

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School marching band processing down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-102

Unit Date 1962

Herndon Homecoming Parade, "Old Dominion Eye Bank" Herndon Lions Club parade float.

Unit ID James-103

Unit Date 1962

Herndon Homecoming Parade, "Old Dominion Eye Bank" Herndon Lions Club parade float.

Unit ID James-104

Unit Date 1962

Herndon Homecoming Parade, "Old Dominion Eye Bank" Herndon Lions Club parade float passing the Herndon Depot.

Unit ID James-105

Unit Date 1962

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Unidentified troopers marching down Lynn Street. The Herndon Pharmacy, Herndon Chantilly Times, John A. Nettleton, H. B. Mitchell Co. Inc., and Herndon Federal can be seen in the background.

Unit ID James-106

Unit Date 1963

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Herndon High School marching band processing down Lynn Street. The Herndon Pharmacy, Herndon Chantilly Times, John A. Nettleton, H. B. Mitchell Co. Inc., and Herndon Federal can be seen in the background.

Unit ID James-107

Unit Date 1963

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Beauty Queens in convertibles driving down Lynn Street. Front car is sponsored by the Herndon Motor Co. The Herndon Pharmacy, Herndon Chantilly Times, John A. Nettleton, H. B. Mitchell Co. Inc., and Herndon Federal can be seen in the background.

Unit ID James-108

Unit Date 1963

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Majorettes marching past the Herndon Post Office. Cities Service station, Herndon Theatre, Western Auto, and Arthur's can be seen in the background.

Unit ID James-109

Unit Date 1963

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Farmall tractor pulling a trailer of Herndon High School cheerleaders.

Unit ID James-110

Unit Date 1963

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Wright Tractor Co. Inc. flatbed truck pulling a Herndon High School football float with a sign reading "Operation Edith Means Planning and Practicing. Hold Fire Drills. Fairfax County Volunteer Firemens Association."

Unit ID James-111

Unit Date 1963

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Wright Tractor Co. Inc. flatbed truck pulling a Herndon High School football float with a sign reading "Herndon Lions Back Edith. Hold Home Fire Drills."

Unit ID James-112

Unit Date 1963

Herndon Homecoming Parade, McLean High School marching band and majorettes processing down Lynn Street. Herndon Pharmacy, Herndon Chantilly-Times, John A. Nettleton, H. B. Mitchell Co. Inc., and Herndon Federal pictured in the background.

Unit ID James-113

Unit Date 1963

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Clown walking past Arthur's Warehouse and Herndon Depot.

Unit ID James-114

Unit Date 1963

Herndon Homecoming Parade, Ford tractor pulling parade float down Lynn Street.

Unit ID James-115

Unit Date 1963

**Herndon Homecoming Parade, Horses pulling a funeral hearse
buggy down Lynn Street.**

Unit ID James-116

Unit Date 1963

**Herndon Homecoming Parade, Costumed woman parading
down Lynn Street.**

Unit ID James-117

Unit Date 1963

**Herndon Homecoming Parade, Costumed women parading
down Lynn Street.**

Unit ID James-118

Unit Date 1963

**Herndon Homecoming Parade, Bowan's Antiques vintage car
driving down Lynn Street past Herndon Depot.**

Unit ID James-119

Unit Date 1963

**Herndon Homecoming Parade, James Madison High School
marching band parading down Lynn Street. Herndon Pharmacy,
Herndon Chantilly-Times, John A. Nettleton, H. B. Mitchell Co.
Inc., and Herndon Federal pictured in the background.**

Unit ID James-120

Unit Date 1963

**Herndon Homecoming Parade, Farmall tractor pulling a float
down Lynn Street.**

Unit ID James-121

Unit Date 1963

**Herndon Homecoming Parade, Children walking with dogs
down Lynn Street.**

Unit ID James-122

Unit Date 1963

**Herndon Homecoming Parade, Children walking with dogs
down Lynn Street.**

Unit ID James-123

Unit Date 1963

**Herndon Homecoming Parade, Cowboy riding a horse on Lynn
Street.**

Unit ID James-124

Unit Date 1963