

# Operation Overview Collection A.OOC

Operation Overview Collection

1953-1983

## Title Statement

Operation Overview Collection A.OOC

**Author:** Rebecca Baird, Archivist, with previous content list by Michaela Feltman, intern

## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** Archives of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

PO Box 3600

Mount Vernon, VA 22121

Telephone: 703-799-3600

URL: <https://archives.mountvernon.org>

2016

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:40:24 -0400.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

A.OOC

### Unit Date

1953-1983

### Language

English .

### Creator

Bolton, Frances Payne Bingham, 1885-1977

### Extent

3 Cubic Feet

### Repository

Archives of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

## Administrative Information

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during scheduled appointments. Researchers must complete the Washington Library's Special Collections and Archives Registration Form before access is provided. The library reserves the right to restrict access to certain items for preservation purposes.

### Processing Information

See Arrangement note.

### Preferred Citation

[Name and date of item], Operation Overview Collection, [Folder], Archives of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington [hereafter Washington Library], Mount Vernon, Virginia

See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

## **Biographical / Historical**

During the late 1950s, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association learned of plans to commercially develop the shoreline of Maryland directly across from Mount Vernon. Several real estate and property deals were considered including a sewage plant and an amusement park. The MVLA began a campaign to persuade local and federal government officials to support them in an effort to restore and maintain the natural beauty of the Maryland shore across the Potomac in order to preserve Mount Vernon's view. They argued that the river view from the estate is a vital part of Mount Vernon's historic presence and the MVLA's mission to maintain the property as closely as possible to its appearance during George Washington's ownership. This campaign, known to members of the Association as "Operation Overview," took years to accomplish and continued to be threatened after its initial success. Today, the land directly across the Potomac River from Mount Vernon, and up and down the shore for several miles, is now a part of the National Park Service known as Piscataway Park. The National Colonial Farm is located inside the park and is operated by the Accokeek Foundation.

## **Biographical / Historical**

U.S. Congresswoman and philanthropist Frances P. Bolton was instrumental in the success of Operation Overview. She was born in 1885 in Cleveland and married Chester C. Bolton, a U.S. Representative from Ohio, in 1907. After her husband's death in 1939, Mrs. Bolton was elected to complete the remainder of his term. She became the first woman in the U.S. House of Representatives to serve the state of Ohio and remained in office until 1969. While serving on the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Africa, Mrs. Bolton became an advocate for UNICEF and the independence of African colonies. She produced a film on her journeys through the diverse African continent titled *Africa: Giant with a Future*. Mrs. Bolton was an active philanthropist with interests in nursing education, public health, and social services. The nursing school at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland is named in her honor. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association appointed Frances P. Bolton as Vice Regent from Ohio in 1938. She served on several committees including the Grounds Committee and the Mansion Committee. Her most notable contribution to the MVLA was her extraordinary work on Operation Overview. By gathering Congress support, buying property on the Maryland shore, and securing land easements, Mrs. Bolton helped save the beautiful, natural view from Mount Vernon while setting aside park land for future generations. She died in Ohio in 1976.

## **Scope and Contents**

These records were collected the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association to document the Operation Overview movement. A large portion of the collection is correspondence, including letters by and from Vice Regent Frances Bolton and other members of Congress. Other types of records represented are organizational reports, bulletins, statements, Congressional transcripts and bills, news clippings, financial papers, and several drawings and photographs. The bulk of the records range from the 1960s to early 1970s.

## **Related Materials**

- Operation Overview Black Binders I-VI (mostly newspaper clippings) - Papers of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association - specifically correspondence and papers of Vice Regent Frances P. Bolton, Regent Rosamund H.R. Beirne, and Regent Elizabeth T. Cooke - Book, *The Possible Dream: Saving George Washington's View* by Robert Ware Straus with Eleanor B. Straus, 1988.

## **Arrangement**

According to the 1975 MVLA Council minutes, files regarding Operation Overview had been purposefully collected by the Association and arranged "topically" by Mrs. Duncan, a Mount Vernon employee. Robert Straus of the Accokeek Foundation also gave the MVLA "seven cartons" of related Accokeek files. The two different collections were originally to remain separate, but may have been merged at some point. The original arrangement and folder titles were kept, with additional processing when necessary. Only duplicate items were weeded. The folders are arranged and described alphabetically, then chronologically. There are no series.

## **Description of Subordinate Components**

## **Accokeek Foundation**

**Unit Date** 1959-1975

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

## **Accokeek Foundation (Includes map "Northwest Charles County Comprehensive Plan, Preliminary")**

**Unit Date** 1979-1982

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

## **Accokeek Foundation-Annual Reports**

**Unit Date** 1959-1975

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

## **Accokeek Foundation Inc. - Correspondence**

**Unit Date** 1954-1967

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

## **Accokeek Foundation Inc. - Correspondence**

**Unit Date** 1969-1974

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

## **Accokeek Foundation Inc. - General Manager's Report**

**Unit Date** 1960-1974

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

## **Accokeek Protestants**

**Unit Date** 1961-1962

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

## **Business and Financial support type letters**

**Unit Date** 1954-1962

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

## **Citizen's Committee on Natural Resources and Dr. Spenser Smith**

**Unit Date** 1961-1973

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

## **Congressional Records**

**Unit Date** 1961-1974

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 10 (folder)

## **Congressional Record**

**Unit Date** 1962

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 11 (folder)

## **Congressman Michael Kirwan**

**Unit Date** 1964-1967

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

## **Congressman Michael Kirwan - Newspapers**

**Unit Date** 1964-1967

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 13 (folder)

## **Copies of "A Progress Report"**

**Unit Date** 1963

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 14 (folder)

## **Copies of Congressional Bills**

**Unit Date** 1961-1962

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 15 (folder)

## **Corn Annual**

**Unit Date** 1976

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 16 (folder)

## **Correspondence - Charles C. Wall**

**Unit Date** 1956-1974

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 17 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Creator** Wall, Charles Cecil, 1903-1995

## **Correspondence - Frances Bolton**

**Unit Date** 1962-1969

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 18 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Creator** Bolton, Frances Payne Bingham, 1885-1977

## **Correspondence - Gov. of MD. And VA.; Board of Visitors, General Assembly etc.**

**Unit Date** 1960-1974

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 19 (folder)

## **Correspondence - Harold Abbott and Charles C. Wall**

**Unit Date** 1962-1964

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 20 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Creator** Wall, Charles Cecil, 1903-1995

## **Correspondence - James F. Vance, Council for DeKiewiet, Property owner Marshall Hall**

**Unit Date** 1968-1972

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 21 (folder)

## **Correspondence - Regent and Vice Regents of MVLA**

**Unit Date** 1961-1974

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 22 (folder)

## **Correspondence - White House**

**Unit Date** 1961-1974

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 23 (folder)

## **Correspondence from supportive organizations, garden clubs, etc.**

**Unit Date** 1961-1974

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

## **Correspondence from supportive organizations, garden and women's clubs, etc.**

**Unit Date** 1961-1974

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

## **Correspondence re: HR 4861**

**Unit Date** 1973-1974

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

## **Department of the Interior**

**Unit Date** 1962-1975

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

## **Description of Inventory from Operation Overview**

**Unit Date** no date

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

## **Fairfax County correspondence, primarily John Porter Bloom**

**Unit Date** 1961-1971

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

## **Galaxy Inc.-Tricent Corporation**

**Unit Date** 1960-1974

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

## **General 1**

**Unit Date** 1960-1964

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

## **General 2**

**Unit Date** 1961-1964

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

## **General 3**

**Unit Date** 1962-1964

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 10 (folder)

## **General Newspapers**

**Unit Date** 1963-1964

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 11 (folder)

## **Hon. John P Saylor-Author of "Saylor Bill"**

**Unit Date** 1963-1972

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

## **Joseph Goldstein**

**Unit Date** 1961-1973

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 13 (folder)

## **Land Donations, Purchase Easements, Funding**

**Unit Date** 1961-1971

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 14 (folder)

## **Letter to S.E. Rayfield from Senator Lawton Chiles**

**Unit Date** 1971

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 15 (folder)

## **Letters from Colleagues to Rep. Bolton**

**Unit Date** 1966

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 16 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Bolton, Frances Payne Bingham, 1885-1977

## **Letters of Support from individuals and Resident Director's response**

**Unit Date** 1961-1967

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 17 (folder)

## **Letters of Support from individuals and Resident Director's response**

**Unit Date** 1969-1974

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 18 (folder)

## **Letters to and from members of the House of Representatives**

**Unit Date** 1961

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 19 (folder)

## **Letters to and from House members**

**Unit Date** 1961

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 20 (folder)

## **Letters to and from House members (1 of 3)**

**Unit Date** 1962

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 21 (folder)

## **Letters to and from House members (2 of 3)**

**Unit Date** 1962

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 22 (folder)

## **Letters to and from House members (3 of 3)**

**Unit Date** 1962

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 23 (folder)

## **Letters to and from House members**

**Unit Date** 1963

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 24 (folder)

## **Letters to and from House members**

**Unit Date** 1964

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 25 (folder)

## **Letters to and from House members**

**Unit Date** 1965-1967

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 26 (folder)

## **Letters to and from House members**

**Unit Date** 1968-1970

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 27 (folder)

## **Letters to and from House members**

**Unit Date** 1971

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 28 (folder)

## **Letters to and from House members**

**Unit Date** 1972-1973

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 29 (folder)

## **Letters to and from House members**

**Unit Date** 1974

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 30 (folder)

## **Letters to and from Senate**

**Unit Date** 1961

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 31 (folder)

## **Letters to and from Senate**

**Unit Date** 1962

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 32 (folder)

## **Letters to and from Senate**

**Unit Date** 1963

**Text** 2 (box)

**Container** 33 (folder)

## **Letters to and from Senate**

**Unit Date** 1964-1966

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

## **Letters to Senate members from Rep Bolton**

**Unit Date** 1966

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Creator** Bolton, Frances Payne Bingham, 1885-1977

## **Letters to Senate members**

**Unit Date** 1967-1970

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

## **Letters to Senate members**

**Unit Date** 1971

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

## **Letters to Senate members**

**Unit Date** 1972

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

## **Letters to Senate members**

**Unit Date** 1973-1974

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

## **Marshall Hall suggested development - Charles Cainty suit - condemned suit**

**Unit Date** 1968-1973

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

## **Mockley Point, Prince George, Charles County MD**

**Unit Date** 1953-1964

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

## **Mockley Point, Prince George, Charles County MD - Newspapers**

**Unit Date** 1962

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

## **Moyaone Association Inc.**

**Unit Date** 1955-1973

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 10 (folder)

## **Moyaone Association Inc.**

**Unit Date** 1979-1980

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 11 (folder)

## **Mr. Grima Johnson, donor of Scenic Easements**

**Unit Date** 1964-1968

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

## **MVLA Misc. Papers**

**Unit Date** 1965-1975

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 13 (folder)

## **National Colonial Farm**

**Unit Date** 1958-1968

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 14 (folder)

## **National Colonial Farm Bulletins**

**Unit Date** 1967-1971

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 15 (folder)

## **National Park Service**

**Unit Date** 1962-1973

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 16 (folder)

## **News clippings**

**Unit Date** 1967

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 17 (folder)

## **Piscataway Park**

**Unit Date** 1968-1983

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 18 (folder)

## **Piscataway Park - Photographs**

**Unit Date** 1961-1962

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 19 (folder)

## **Piscataway Park - Surveys, Maps, Graphs**

**Unit Date** 1963-1973

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 20 (folder)

## **Prospectus**

**Unit Date** 1982

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 21 (folder)

## **Publicity Correspondence - Newspapers, Magazines, etc. (1 of 2)**

**Unit Date** 1961-1974

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 22 (folder)

## **Publicity Correspondence - Newspapers, Magazines, etc. (2 of 2)**

**Unit Date** 1961-1974

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 23 (folder)

## **Publicity Correspondence - Newspapers**

**Unit Date** 1966-1968

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 24 (folder)

## **Radio Transmission Tower**

**Unit Date** 1961-1962

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 25 (folder)

## **Rep. Frances Bolton acquisition of Vaughn B Connelly Property contracts, bequest**

**Unit Date** 1955

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 26 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Creator** Bolton, Frances Payne Bingham, 1885-1977

## **Resolutions of support by various organizations**

**Unit Date** 1961-1974

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 27 (folder)

## **Robert Ware Straus**

**Unit Date** 1958-1972

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 28 (folder)

## **Sub-Committees of the Interior Committee Statements**

**Unit Date** 1961-1974

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 29 (folder)

## **Tantallon Proposed Development**

**Unit Date** 1965

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 30 (folder)

## **Vaughn B Connelly property purchased by Rep. Bolton - Maps, photos**

**Unit Date** 1954-1955

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 31 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Creator** Bolton, Frances Payne Bingham, 1885-1977

## **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission**

**Unit Date** 1960-1974

**Text** 3 (box)

**Container** 32 (folder)