

Papers of Harrison H. Dodge A.RM.1185

Harrison H. Dodge Papers

1816-1936

Title Statement

Papers of Harrison H. Dodge A.RM.1185

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Notes

An addition to this collection was made in 2023, accession 2023-A-007.

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2024-07-08 13:01:25 -0400.

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

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A.RM.1185

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/58

Unit Date

1816-1936

Language

English .

Creator

Dodge, Harrison Howell, 1852-1937

Extent

approx. 5 Linear 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

The original donation included 31 books relating to George Washington and Mount Vernon, as well as copies of the MVLA Annual Reports and Minutes of the Council. Most of these were incorporated into the library's general collection and series of duplicate Annual Reports and Minutes.

Preferred Citation

[Name and date of item], Papers of Harrison H. Dodge, [Series, 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

Biographical / Historical

Harrison Howell Dodge was born on March 31, 1852 in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Columbian College, now George Washington University, in 1871 and began working for Jay Cooke & Co., a Wall Street banking house. He returned to Washington, D.C. in 1873 and worked on indexing the Congressional Record, and later in banking and finance with Riggs & Co. In 1875 he married Elizabeth Knowlton and the couple eventually had six children. Dodge was appointed the Superintendent of Mount Vernon by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association in 1885 and stayed in this position until his death in 1937.

His numerous contributions and accomplishments for the preservation and restoration of Mount Vernon's Mansion and grounds cannot be overstated. During his tenure, the size of the property owned by the MVLA doubled in acreage. Fire prevention and preservation of the Mansion were a major concern and led him to write the article "Fire Protection of the Home of Washington," and to oversee the installation of electric lighting to replace kerosene lamps. Dodge oversaw every detail of work and maintenance to the buildings and grounds, as well as the supervision of all employees. The restoration of the Houdon bust, the building of a sea wall to prevent erosion, and research for the redevelopment of Washington's gardens all took place during his tenure as Superintendent. In his book, *Mount Vernon, Its Owner and Its Story*, Dodge relates many of his favorite stories of famous visitors to the estate, memories of Regents and Vice Regents, and his knowledge of the Washington family.

Dodge suffered from several illnesses in his later years and finally succumbed to a cerebral hemorrhage while at work on May 1, 1937. He was taken to the hospital where he died. He had been the Superintendent of Mount Vernon for 52 years, the longest term yet for that position.

Scope and Contents

The Papers of Harrison H. Dodge is a small collection of material created and compiled by Dodge and/or his family. Types of records include correspondence, articles, family trees, news clippings, photographs, and several objects. Most of the items pertain to Dodge's time as Superintendent at Mount Vernon, however there are some personal family letters, genealogy information, and items regarding his work on a Library of Congress committee. Some genealogical records, mostly fragments and scraps of paper, may date as early as the 1770s, however the bulk of material in the collection dates from the 1880s to the 1930s. The earliest dated item in the collection is a Dodge family bible, c. 1816.

An addition of three books and a pair of silhouette portraits was made in 2023. Two oral history audio recordings by Dodge's daughter, Anna Heiberg, were transferred to the AV collection.

Related Materials

Papers of the Superintendent and Resident Director Papers of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association Minutes of the Council, Annual Reports of the MVLA Superintendent's Letter Books, Diaries, and Monthly Reports, 1885-1967 Book, "Mount Vernon, Its Owner and Its Story" by Harrison H. Dodge, 1932

Arrangement

This collection has been divided by format into five series. There was no pre-existing original order for the papers, so this was done mainly to facilitate housing and storage of like material. The records are described in alphabetical order by folder title. The series are:

Series 1. Papers Series 2. Photographs Series 3. Books Series 4. Objects

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1. Papers

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18400

Language English.

Creator Dodge, Harrison Howell, 1852-1937

Anna Heiberg (daughter of Harrison Dodge)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18404

Unit Date undated, 1935

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Capital stock, Victory Motor Car Co.

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18405

Unit Date 1931

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Correspondence - Harrison H.D. Heiberg

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18406

Unit Date 1982

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Facsimile of accounts, George Washington

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18407

Unit Date 1775-1783

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Genealogy (1 of 2)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18408

Unit Date 1770s-1931

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Genealogy (2 of 2)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18409

Unit Date 1770s-1931

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Genealogy, newspaper

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18410

Unit Date 1912

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

"Guards at the Tomb of Washington, Brief Sketches of Some"

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18411

Unit Date 1936

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

"Jefferson and His Garden"

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18412

Unit Date undated

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Letter (copy) to Ann Pamela Cunningham from George Riggs

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18413

Unit Date October 6, 1860

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Letter to Dodge from Lawrason Crane (handwritten notes by Dodge on reverse)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18414

Unit Date September 6, 1934

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Letter to Dodge from Mrs. Archibald Hopkins (granddaughter of Edward Everett)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18415

Unit Date April 4, 1935

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Letter to Dodge from the Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt re: gift of a needlework piece

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18416

Unit Date 1933

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Letterhead, Mount Vernon

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18417

Unit Date undated

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Letters from Harriet Comegys, Regent

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18418

Unit Date 1915, 1920

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Letters of thanks for gifts of his book (Includes letters from Franklin Roosevelt and Queen Marie of Romania)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18419

Unit Date 1932-1933

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Library of Congress - Joint Committee of Congress on the Library

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18420

Unit Date 1881-1924

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Motion by Vice Regent Mary Denham re: wallpaper in Washington's room

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18421

Unit Date undated

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

"Mount Vernon, Virginia: A Brief Sketch of its History, Decline, and Restoration"

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18422

Unit Date undated

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Creator Dodge, Harrison Howell, 1852-1937

"The Nelly Custis Harpsichord"

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18423

Unit Date undated

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

News clippings

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18424

Unit Date 1915, 1927, 1929

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Radio talks on Mount Vernon

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18425

Unit Date undated

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Recipe for the Great Cake

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18426

Unit Date undated

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Reminiscences

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18427

Unit Date undated

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

"The Story of the Mount Vernon Bouquet," by Mary S. Denham, Vice Regent

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18428

Unit Date 1935

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

"Synopsis of Automobile Trip by Col. H.H. Dodge and Lieutenant Heiberg"

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18429

Unit Date 1925

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Creator Dodge, Harrison Howell, 1852-1937

"Trip Abroad"

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18430

Unit Date 1931

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Creator Dodge, Harrison Howell, 1852-1937

Visit of Arthur Cabot, great-grandson of Thomas Handasyd Perkins

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18431

Unit Date 1897

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

"The Washington Palm of Mount Vernon," by Alice Sutcliffe

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18432

Unit Date undated

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Washington related - Miscellaneous

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18433

Unit Date undated

Text 1 (box)

Language English.

Certificate from the office of the Postmaster General authorizing Harrison H. Dodge to serve as Postmaster of Mount Vernon

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18434

Unit Date 1885

Text 2 (box)

Language English.

Certificate from the office of the Postmaster General authorizing Harrison H. Dodge to serve as Postmaster of Mount Vernon

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18436

Unit Date 1930

Text 2 (box)

Language English.

Certificate from the office of the Postmaster General authorizing Harrison H. Dodge to serve as Postmaster of Mount Vernon

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18439

Unit Date 1934

Text 2 (box)

Language English.

Certificate, Legion d'honneur - Colonel Harrison Dodge

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18437

Unit Date 1932

Text 2 (box)

Language English.

Certificate, President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, authorizing Harrison H. Dodge to serve as head of the Post Office at Mount Vernon

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18435

Unit Date 1928

Text 2 (box)

Language English.

Certificate, President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, authorizing Harrison H. Dodge to serve as head of the Post Office at Mount Vernon

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18438

Unit Date 1934

Text 2 (box)

Language English.

Autograph book

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18440

Unit Date 1870s-1890s

Text 3 (box)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

With signatures of U.S. Presidents and politicians including Chester Arthur, Robert Todd Lincoln, Rutherford B. Hayes, Benjamin Harrison and Caroline Scott Harrison

Series 2. Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18401

Language English.

source Dodge, Harrison Howell, 1852-1937

Keywords

Dodge, Harrison Howell, 1852-1937

Cabinet cards by Luke Dillon - Mansion exterior and grounds

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18442

Unit Date 1884-1894

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Language English.

Creator Dillon, Luke C., 1836-1904

Scope and Contents

Mansion exteriors and grounds by Luke Dillon including S.W. View of Mansion, Tomb of Washington (2 different views), Butler's House, West View (West Front - 2 different views), North Gate, West View (with West Gate), East View (East Front), Summer House

Cabinet cards by Luke Dillon - Mansion interiors

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18441

Unit Date 1884-1894

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Language English.

Creator Dillon, Luke C., 1836-1904

Scope and Contents

Cabinet cards - Mansion interiors by Luke Dillon including Pennsylvania Room, Maine Room, West Virginia Room, New Jersey Room, Florida Room, Maryland Room (Bedchamber of Eleanor Custis), Hall and Stairway, Georgia Room (Lady Washington's Sitting Room), New York Room (New Room), Key of the Bastille, Mrs. Washington's Bedchamber, Massachusetts Room (Study), Kitchen of Mount Vernon, Ohio Room (Nellie Custis Music Room), Washington's Room and bed on which he died, District of Columbia Room, North Carolina Room, Illinois Room

Photograph - Cabinet card - Harrison Dodge with Charles and Frank Dodge, Lieutenant Mann, and Hamilton Cooke standing by a Mount Vernon colonnade

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18451

Unit Date August 25, 1885

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Language English.

Keywords

Dodge, Harrison Howell, 1852-1937

Photograph - Cabinet card - Photo of a drawing, "East View of Mt. Vernon Mansion"

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18452

Unit Date undated

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Language English.

General

Black and white, artist or photographer unknown

Photograph - Mount Vernon event

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18453

Unit Date 1936

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Language English.

General

Three black and white prints, developed by Snappy Snap Shop Photo Service

Photograph - Mount Vernon with snow

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18454

Unit Date undated

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Language English.

General

Black and white, Tenschert (DC), photographer

Photograph - Postcards featuring Hearst Castle, Mount Shasta, and other unknown locations

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18455

Unit Date undated

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Language English.

General

Black and white images, photographers unknown

Photograph - Queen Marie of Romania

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18456

Unit Date 1926

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Language English.

General

Removed from folder "Letters of thanks for gifts of his book, 1932-1933"

Photograph - School House

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18457

Unit Date undated

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Language English.

General

Black and white, photographer unknown

Photograph - Steamboat W.W. Corcoran, burned

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18458

Unit Date September 3, 1891

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Language English.

General

Black and white mounted on board, photographer unknown

Photograph - Washington gavel, description of gavel on reverse

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18459

Unit Date 1893

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Language English.

General

Black and white mounted on board, copyright Henry G. Wagner, Trustee Potomac Lodge, No. 5, F.A.A.M., Georgetown, DC

Photograph - Woodlawn East Front

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18460

Unit Date undated

Graphic Materials 4 (box)

Language English.

General

Black and white mounted on board, Luke Dillon, photographer

Series 3. Books

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18402

Language English.

source Dodge, Harrison Howell, 1852-1937

Keywords

Dodge, Harrison Howell, 1852-1937

Mount Vernon: Its Children, Its Romances, Its Allied Families and Mansions, by Minnie Kendall Lowther

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18461

Unit Date 1930

Books 28C6 (Shelf)

Language English.

Extent 2 Copies

General

With personal message inscribed to Harrison Dodge from the author.

Mount Vernon, its owner and its story by Harrison H. Dodge

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36277

Unit Date 1932

Books 28C6 (Shelf)

Extent 1 Copies

Mount Vernon: Washington's Home and the Nation's Shrine by Paul Wilstach

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18462

Unit Date 1916

Books 28C6 (Shelf)

Language English.

General

Signed "Property of H.H. Dodge" inside the cover. This book was dedicated to Harrison Dodge.

Potomac Squire by Elswyth Thane

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36278

Unit Date 1963

Books 28C6 (Shelf)

Bible - Dodge Family Bible, Collier's Stereotype Edition, New York

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18463

Unit Date 1816

Books 28C6 (Shelf)

Language English.

General

Notes on the inside cover and signed by Mrs. Dodge.

Series 4. Objects

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18403

Language English.

source Dodge, Harrison Howell, 1852-1937

Keywords

Dodge, Harrison Howell, 1852-1937

Silhouette portraits, Harrison Dodge and Elizabeth Dodge

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/36279

Graphic Materials 5 (box)

Creator Sackett, Henry Ackley

Button stud made with red, white, and blue ribbon

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18464

Unit Date undated

Realia 7 (box)

Language English.

Medal issued by the District of Columbia George Washington Bicentennial Commission

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18465

Unit Date 1932

Realia 7 (box)

Language English.

General

Inscribed "Harrison H. Dodge, Member" on the reverse. Attached to ribbon (frayed and fragile) with bronze stick pin.

Small button pin with a black and white portrait photograph of an unidentified man in a fur hat

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18466

Unit Date undated

Realia 7 (box)

Language English.

General

Man in the photo is possibly Harrison Dodge

Small red, white, and blue striped ribbon tied in a bow

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18467

Unit Date undated

Realia 7 (box)

Language English.

Woodblock signature stamp of Harrison H. Dodge

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18468

Unit Date undated

Realia 7 (box)

Language English.

Nails from Abingdon plantation

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/18469

Unit Date February 1928

Realia 7 (box)

Language English.

General

Nails with envelope that reads "Hand wrought nails, salvaged Feb. 1928 from Abingdon, the birth-place of Nelly Custis (House being wrecked)"