

MONTPELIER MANSION ARCHIVAL PERMANENT COLLECTION
The Gladys B. Brigham Document Collection
Accession 2003.002.03

Montpelier Mansion
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Laurel, MD

Karen Whitehair

2009

The Gladys B. Brigham Collection
Accession 2003.002.03
3 cu. ft.

Scope and Content Note

This collection was donated by Gladys B. Brigham (nee Beall) who was the wife of David Lewis Brigham. David Brigham was the son of Marjorie Snowden (1888-1970), [the granddaughter of Lt. Nicholas Snowden (1828-1862)], and Reuben Brigham (1888-1946). The collection relates directly to the family for it contains not only a baby boot worn by Lt. Nicholas Snowden (2003.002.01), and a corn bread pan with an “S” on the handle, forged at the Snowden family foundry (2003.002.02), but also letters written to family members, receipts for purchases and other monetary transactions, list of emancipated slaves (1840s-1850s), photos of Montpelier Mansion c. 1930, other personal documents such as a Sunday School Report book. The collection also contains Land Deeds, Indenture Agreements, and Land Plats. It is important to note that some, but not all of these land records relate directly to properties owned by the Snowden family.

Processing Notes:

When the collection first came into Montpelier, it was a mixture of archival materials and “ephemera”. We separated out two items, Nicholas Snowden’s baby boot and the corn bread pan, from the archival collection since these were three dimensional objects that could be placed on display. These objects were assigned their own catalog numbers (2003.002.01 and 2003.002.02 respectively). However, we ran into some difficulty deciding what to do with the surveyor’s pouch which contained most of the land related documents. In the end it was determined to keep it with the archival portion of the collection (2003.002.03) since it relates directly to that portion of the collection and how it was stored. The pouch is listed individually in the Folder List below for more ready identification and does not have its own catalog number separate from the archival collection.

The archival collection is divided up into three box types. The first is an archival clam shell box noted in the folder list as BOX. This box contains items that were small enough to fit into this type of box. The next type is an archival flat storage box used to accommodate much larger items. It is noted as OVERSIZED BOX. The third type is an archival phase box used to store book-like materials. This is noted as PHASE BOX in the folder list.

Although every effort was made to keep things in the original order, researcher access and preservation were considered more critical issues. This came into play especially with a scrapbook of receipts that had been displayed in a modern three-ring notebook in acetate sleeves with black acidic backing paper. It was decided that in order to allow a researcher better access to the items with less handling and to better preserve

the items in a less acidic environment the items were removed items to more stable storage materials. Please note that items were grouped together, as much as possible, in the mylar sleeves as they were found originally, but the exact placement in the sleeve or the order in which the sleeves are found in the folder may have been changed from their original placement in the notebook. This item is listed in the finding aid below under “Series V: Ledgers, Log Books and Scrapbooks.”

In some cases because of the total size of the object, the complete object could not always be displayed. In these cases a piece of acid free white paper has been inserted in the sleeve with typed description of what is readily visible on the unseen side or a notation has been made in the Folder List asking the researcher to get assistance before taking the item out of the protective sleeve. In addition, for a few instances, we found multiple items grouped together. We purposefully kept these items together by placing a piece of folded white acid free paper around the items. Please handle these sets together being sure to return them to the storage container in their original grouping and organization. Some items are also double sleeved in order to accommodate size. Please handle these items carefully.

Please note that items are organized in chronologic order whenever possible.

Series Description:

- Series I: Correspondence
This series contains letters written to Snowden Family members from the 1830's through the 1860s. The letters include financial issues related to the death of Lt. Nicholas Snowden as well as correspondence to Ellen Stabler.
- Series II: Receipts
This series contains receipts related to Snowden Family purchases. Dates range from the 1840's through the 1850s.
- Series III: Land Deeds and Land Related Documentation
This series is the bulk of the collection. In it are indenture agreements, land transaction documents and land deeds most of which relate to real estate activities in Prince George's County from the late 18th century into the 1860s.
- Series IV: Photographs
This series contains two photographs showing the carriage side of the house circa 1930. House is covered with ivy and shutters are still in place. The images may be duplicates of each other.
- Series V: Ledgers, Log Books and Scrapbooks
This series contains ledgers and scrapbooks as well as the Surveyor's pouch that held many of the land documents. One

ledger contains detailed land survey notes for all of the properties adjoining and contiguous to Birmingham Manor, dated 1777. There is also a record of surveys dated 1851-1853; a poem entitled "On Death," by Sarah B. Stabler of Sharon, MD; "Select Verses for Autograph Albums"; and on the back page an "Index to Surveys". A second ledger shows the financial transactions of the members of the Snowden family such as Nicholas Snowden, Edward Snowden, DeWilton Snowden, Henry Snowden, Eliza Snowden, Emily Snowden, Nicholas Snowden, and Arthur Snowden. The ledger dates from 1831 to 1844. Two scrapbooks contain receipts ranging in dates from 1820s to the 1860s. A third scrapbook contains newspaper clippings telling stories from the Civil War. On the front cover there is a listing of stories contained in the scrapbook.

Series VI: Newspaper Clippings and Other Loose Items
(From the scrapbooks and ledgers.)

This series is self-explanatory. It was created to locate loose items found in the ledgers and scrapbooks. The original location is noted under each entry in the Folder List. Items are mostly newspaper clippings, but there are also correspondences such as letters to Elsie Brooke Stabler who was living on the Hawaiian Islands and some loose receipts.

Series VII: Miscellaneous

This series contains several interesting items that did not fit into the series groupings listed above. These items are: list of manumitted slaves from the 1840s to 1850s, fire insurance information, a Sunday school record book owned by Mary Snowden, 1872 and a booklet, "Address of Governor Albert C. Ritchie of Maryland on the Occasion of His Second Inauguration, Annapolis, Md January 9th, 1924."

Related Materials: Gladys B. Brigham Document Collection was donated by the same person as this collection a year later. Contains similar land related documents. Accession number 2004.002.01

Gordon Kirwan Collection contains letters written to Rachel Snowden from her elder sister Anna Marie Snowden.
Accession number 2000.002.01.

FOLDER LIST

Series I: Correspondence

Box 1

- Fd. 1 Correspondence from the 1830s to 1860s. Various senders and recipients. Some letters deal with financial issues.
- Letter to Mrs. Elizabeth Snowden of Prince George's County widow of Mr. Nicholas Snowden. Sender unknown. February 1832
 - Letter to Mrs. Snowden of Montpelier from [?] Capron, April 29, 1835. With a receipt enclosed regarding payment of bills dated December 15th, 1835. Both documents address the Estate of Nicholas Snowden.
- [Please handle documents by the white folded paper.]***
- Letter to W.W.W. Bowie from Dobbin Talbot, December 9, 1837
 - Letter to Nicholas Snowden from Horatio Dyer, July 12, 1855
 - Letter to N. Snowden from [?] Lancaster from Georgetown College, May 15, 1856. Dr. Arthur M. Snowden is written on the back and there is handwritten plat drawing.
 - Letter to Nicholas Snowden from [?] Stabler, [?] 1851[?]
 - Letter to Nicholas Snowden from [Charles?] Hill, February 26, 1860

Oversized Box 1

- Fd. 1 Correspondence from the 1840s to 1860s.
- Letter to Elizabeth W. Snowden from Emily (?), July 8, 1846.
 - Letter to from an unidentified person to another unidentified person, January 19, 1860. Nicholas Snowden is named.
 - A collection of three letters found in an orange envelop addressed to Ellen Stabler.
 - *Letter from Nicholas Snowden to his mother (Elizabeth Thomas Warfield Snowden) addressed from Georgetown College, December 23 [?], 1844.
 - *Letter from Henrietta Stabler Snowden to her [sister?]. March 4, n.d.
 - *Letter from Henrietta Stabler Snowden to Ellen (Stabler) January 26, 1862.

[Please handle documents by the white folded paper.]

Series II: Receipts

Box 1

- Fd. 2 Various Receipts to the Snowden Family from the 1830s through the 1850s. [6 total]

Series II: Receipts (continued)

Oversized Box 1

Fd. 2 Two receipts to the Snowden Family both dated 1859.

Series III: Land Deeds and Land Related Documentation

Box 1

Fd. 3 Land Deeds and Related Documentation

--Surveyor's Notes. Locations uncertain. n.d.

--Deed executed by [Aquila?] Beale for John Banks to Thomas Sparks, November 11, n.d. Plus possible cover page that is dated April 18, 1827. ***[Please note this cover page may be a separate document.]***

--Notations about the Snowden's New Birmingham Manor. Rachel Snowden is named. n.d.

Oversized Box 1

Fd. 3 Land Deeds and Related Documentation, 1800 to 1836, plus one undated document.

--Survey Report document describing the divisions of Ann M. Hopkins part of Duvall's Delight. n.d.

--Plat Certification document for Federal Hills in Prince George's County, assigned to be resurveyed June 15, 1799 for Francis Magruder. Final date on document June 9, 1800 and contains surveyor notes and a plat drawing.

[This item contains a white paper notation of portion of document not seen. Please handle only if necessary.]

--Indenture document made between William Cecil of Prince George's County and Samuel Owens [?] of Prince George's County, January 3, 1811.

--Deed between Singleton Townsend, George Townsend and John L. Townsend to Walter W. Robey regarding "Stevens Adventures and "Mill Seat" areas in Prince George's County, May 9, 1833.

--Indenture document between Richard [Lundes?] of Prince George's County, Francis L. Darnall of Prince George's County and Benjamin [Studdert?] of Georgetown, May 15, 1834.

[Fragile. Please ask for staff assistance when handling this item. Please do not strain string binding.]

Series III: Land Deeds and Land Related Documentation

Oversized Box 1

Fd. 3 (continued)

[Next items are two related documents. Please handle documents by the white folded paper.]

--Cover letter to the indenture document listed below signed by Thomas Bruce and Robert Harper.

--Indenture document between John B. Brooks of Prince George's County and Horatio Dyer of Prince George's County, December 31, 1836.

Fd. 4 Land Deeds and Related Documentation, 1845-1849

--Incomplete Indenture document between Joanna Boswell and John Boswell, 1845.

--Deed between Henry Tolson, his wife and other to Alexander H. Tolson for the tracks called "Millford," "Saturday's Work," and "Tolson's Purchase," April 3, 1849.

--Deed between Alexander H. Tolson and his wife Helen B. Tolson to Henry Tolson regarding "Tolson's Purchase," April 3, 1849.

Fd. 5 Land Deeds and Related Documentation, 1850-1853

--Land dispute document between [?] Brown and George Brown with Israel Jackson, dated October 5, 1850, document contains property description and a surveyor's drawing.

[This item contains a white paper notation of portion of document not seen. Please handle only if necessary.]

--Land Office document to Rich Young dated February 17, 1852 for a track of land called "Inclosure." Document contains survey notes, drawing and fees.

--Land Office document transferring a tract of land called "Whitlantine" in Charles County owned by Col. Henry Darnall to Christopher Thompson of Calvert County dated September 3, 1852

--Legal dispute document written to instruct the surveyor in the case of Francis L. Darnall versus Fielder Magruder dated July 22, 1853.

Series III: Land Deeds and Land Related Documentation

Oversized Box 1 (continued)

- Fd. 6 Land Deeds and Related Documentation, 1854-1861
--Indenture document between Goodwin G. Williams of Baltimore County and Eduard Simms of the City of Washington, January 7, 1854.
[Please ask for staff assistance when handling this document.]
--Deed between Charles Carroll with his wife Mary L. Carroll of Howard County and Thomas I. Talbott of Prince George's County for the tracks of land called "The First Discovery", November 13, 1856.
[Please ask for staff assistance when handling this document.]
--Deed between Thomas Lee with his wife Harriette Lee of the City of Baltimore and Thomas I. Talbott of Prince George's County for the a portion of a track of land called "The First Discovery," December 12, 1856.
[Please ask for staff assistance when handling this document.]
--Land Office document transferring a tract of land to Thomas Latchford dated January 5, 1861. On the bottom it is signed: "Nicholas Snowden, Surveyor of P. G. Co". There is a note written in pencil on the back.

Series IV: Photographs

Oversized Box 1

- Fd. 7 Two photographs showing the carriage side of the house. House is covered with ivy and shutters are still in place. Photos are glued to mat board. c. 1930's

Series V: Ledgers, Log Books and Scrapbooks

Oversized Box 2

- Fd. 1 SCRAPBOOKS Receipts and related correspondence dating from the 1820s through the 1860s and one journal article about Montpelier Mansion (dated May 25, 1930) found in a black three-ring notebook lined with black paper and acetate film sleeves. Removed and placed in mylar to facilitate long-term preservation and access to researchers. [38 total mylar sleeves.]

Series V: Ledgers, Log Books and Scrapbooks (continued)

Phase Box

- Box 1 LEDGER Ledger book entitled, "The Resurvey of Snowden's Birmingham Manor 1777" of Anne Arundel, Prince George's, and Frederick Counties Containing detailed land survey notes for all of the properties adjoining and contiguous. There is also a record of surveys dated 1851-1853; a poem entitled "On Death," by Sarah B. Stabler of Sharon, MD; "Select Verses for Autograph Albums"; and on the back page an "Index to Surveys".
[FRAGILE. Please handle with care.]
- Box 2 SCRAPBOOK A mathematics practice book c. 1820's that has been turned into a scrapbook of receipts. Most of the receipts date to the 1840s-1850s.
[FRAGILE. Please handle with care.]
- Box 3 LEDGER Ledger book where the financial transactions regarding the Estate of Nicholas Snowden during 1831-1835 are recorded. Left side is received from the estate and the right is paid to the estate. Ledger includes the financial transactions of Edward Snowden, DeWilton Snowden, Henry Snowden, Eliza Snowden, Emily Snowden, Nicholas Snowden and Arthur Snowden for the same dates. Then there is a general account of transactions roughly from 1836 to 1844.
[FRAGILE. SOME PAGES ARE LOOSE. Please handle with care.]
- Box 4 SCRAPBOOK A post binder book once used as a door hardware catalog for P. and F. Cobin of New Britain, New York, Philadelphia and Chicago. The pages were turned into a newspaper clipping scrapbook filled with articles related to the Civil War. On the front page there is a handwritten index of articles.
[Fragile. Please handle with care. Please keep interleaving paper in place.]
- Box 5 SURVEYOR'S POUCH A small leather pouch with multiple pockets and a leather strap for securing the pouch closed. The pouch contained many of the deeds and land documents found in the listing above.
[FRAGILE. Please handle with care.]

Series VI: Newspaper Clippings and Other Loose Items (continued)

Oversized Box 2

Fd. 2 Three loose items found in mathematics practice book turned into a scrapbook of receipts. (Series V, Phase Box 2 above). The items are:

--A Land Office document related to the survey of "Snowden's Manor" for Richard Snowden dated November 23, 1715.

--Survey notes regarding the "Courses for the "Second Addition to Snowden's Manor". n.d.

--Promissory Note from Nicholas Snowden to pay \$75.00 dated July 23, 1857.

Fd. 3 Items found loose in the accounts ledger (Series V, Phase Box 3 above).

--Receipt to Nicholas Snowden from Joshua Harvey dated September-December 1856.

--Receipt to Nicholas Snowden from Avondale Stone dated May-June 1856.

--An account ledger page dated 1816-1826 with title of, "In acct with Nicholas Snowden"

--An account ledger page with no date entitled "The Estate of Peoli Lloyd." [1828?] On back it is written: "Statement for Mrs. Snowden".

--An article of agreement between Nicholas Snowden and Thomas R. Benson to sell a piece of land near the Laurel Factory. Mr. Snowden is to act as an agent for a Mr. Theodore Jenkins. May 18, 1854.

--Six letters found in one envelop addressed to Elsie Brooke Stabler on the Hawaiian Islands from a (?) Benty in Philadelphia. The envelop is dated October 1884. Letters are from several different people.

***No Date. Small writing on a single page of paper written on a Sunday Morning from Sister (?) at (?) Hill to her Sister Elsie.

***May 22 no year. Written from "Home" from Cora (?) Bentley to Elsie, with an enclosed note. (2 sheets of paper)

***February 17, 1884 written from Paoli from Sister (?) to Sister Elsie. (2 sheets of paper)

***November 16, 1884 written from Paoli from Sister Marion to Sister Elsie.

***April 19, 1885 written from "Home" from (?) to Elsie. (2 sheets of paper)

***April 21, 1885 written from Sunnyside, Spencerville, MD from Alice B. Stabler to Elsie.

[Please handle documents by the white folded paper.]

Series VI: Newspaper Clippings and Other Loose Items

Oversized Box 2 (Continued)

- Fd. 4 Loose newspaper clippings from the newspaper clipping scrapbook (Series V, Phase Box 4 above). Articles are similar to those found in the scrapbook, with some articles about historic houses including Montpelier (9 mylar sheets)

Series VII: Miscellaneous

Box 1

- Fd. 4 Various items that do not fit into the other categories.
- Booklet: Sunday School Report Book Mary Snowden 1872 Sandy Spring, School No. 7. Names of Stabler and Snowden family members included.
[FRAGILE! Please ask for staff assistance before handling this item.]
 - Booklet: "Address of Governor Albert C. Ritchie of Maryland on the Occasion of His Second Inauguration, Annapolis, Md. January 9th, 1924"
[Please ask for staff assistance before handling this item.]
 - Receipt: Receipt to Nicholas Snowden, Laurel, Md. regarding fire insurance, dated April 29, 1861.

Oversized Box 2

- Fd. 5 List of slaves to be freed. Dates range from 1840s through the 1850s.
- Fd. 6 Two fire insurance documents. One blank and one dated 1859.