

Key to the Past

STEWART BELL JR.
ARCHIVES

◆
Winter 2025



A snowy day in Winchester in 1899. This image shows a streetscape with 18, 22, 24, 28 South Loudoun Street in the background.

Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society Collection, Stewart Bell Jr. Archives, Handley Regional Library

From the Archivist

January begins a new year of programs and events from the Archives.

Family History Hunters returns with a new series of topics, as does our lineage society workshop with Kat Collins.

We are also continuing our Archives After Hours series. These quarterly events are designed to allow the public a close up view of items in our collections. On January 30th, we'll be showcasing the Handley Plaques and learning more about the fallen servicemen of World War I which they commemorate. Space is limited and registration is required.

Looking forward to the rest of the year, in April we will be taking a look at highlights from our photograph collections. Maps will be our topic for July and in October will feature selections of ephemera, items that are sometimes overlooked but often provide fascinating glimpses of the past.

To keep up to date with our programs and events, go to our website or scan the QR code below.



If you have questions about our collections, services, or programs, please email us at archives@handleyregional.org.

Lorna Loring

Archives Manager

Events and Programs

Archives After Hours: World War I Veterans of Winchester and Frederick County: The Handley Plaques

Thursday, January 30

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Benham Gallery, Handley Library

Registration Required

Lineage Society Workshop: Applying to Daughters of American Colonists, United States Daughters of 1812 Society, with Kat Collins and Lorraine Sims

Saturday, February 8

10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Benham Gallery, Handley Library

Family History Hunters: Google your Ancestors

Thursday, February 13

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Benham Gallery, Handley Library

Lineage Society Workshop: Applying to the Mayflower Society, with Kat Collins

Saturday, March 1

10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Robinson Auditorium, Handley Library

Family History Hunters: Using Maps for Genealogical Research

Thursday, March 13

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Benham Gallery, Handley Library

Getting the most from Court Records: Order Books, Minute Books, & Associated Loose Papers, with Victor Dunn

Saturday, March 15

10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Robinson Auditorium, Handley Library

Collection Highlights: Leather Fire Bucket of Adam Douglass, circa 1800

Before the Archives was formally established in 1979, the Handley Library collected documents and artifacts related to the history of Winchester and Frederick County. These items would later form the basis for our collections.

Among those early items collected by the Library was a leather fire bucket which once belonged to Adam Douglass. Douglass was born in Belfast, Ireland, on November 1, 1790, to a family of Scots Irish heritage.

Following the Irish Rebellion of 1798, he left Ireland with an uncle and moved to America, before once again returning to Ireland and joining the British Army. He served and was injured in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

Douglass returned to America and settled in the Shenandoah Valley. A copy of an insurance policy issued by the Mutual Assurance Company indicates that in 1795 he owned the property at 28 South Loudoun Street in Winchester. This is the building now known as the Godfrey Miller House.

Douglass was a merchant, teacher, and surveyor. He was also the author a book entitled *The Irish Emigrant: A Historic Tale Founded on Fact*, published in Winchester in 1817. The Archives has copies of this two volume work in its Rare Books collection.

Douglass and his wife, Nancy Pennebaker, eventually moved to Kentucky. He died in 1849 and is buried in a Baptist cemetery in Laconia, Indiana.

The fire bucket measures approximately 13 inches high and just under 10 inches in diameter at the top. Buckets such as these would have been an essential part of a household where they would be used to extinguish fires occurring within the home as well as fires affecting neighboring houses.

When the alarm was raised to let people know a building or home was on fire, neighbors would gather water with their buckets and form chains to douse the flames. While such actions did not always result in saving a burning house, they may have slowed the fire and prevented it spreading to other homes. Buckets were identified by name and number to ensure they were returned to their owner. The No. 2 on the bucket owned by Douglass indicates that he owned multiple buckets.

Fire buckets similar to the one in our collections can be seen in museums around the country, and often can be highly decorative, an indication of their importance to their owners.

Dollars in all.

property is not, nor shall be insured
e policy that may issue in my name,
le sum do not exceed four-fifths of the
e to the Constitution, Rules and Re-
established by a majority of the insured,
eting to be agreed upon for the said
Master - the first
Adam Douglass
declare and affirm that we have ex-
Douglass - and that we are of
two hundred Dollars to build
two hundred Dollars in ready
to the best of our knowledge and belief

Residing in Winchester



IRISH EMIGRANT.

AN HISTORICAL TALE FOUNDED ON
FACT,

—○○○○—

BY AN HIBERNIAN.

—○○○○—

"Never, Oh! never, while she has her memory
left her, can Ireland forget the home of her Emi-
grant, and Asylum of her Exile."

PHILIPS.

VOL. II.

—

WINCHESTER, VA.

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J. FOSTER, PRINTER,



LINEAGE SOCIETY WORKSHOPS

*With Katherine
Collins, MLISc*

**Saturday, February 8 & March 1, 2025
10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Handley Library**

The Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mayflower Society, and the Jamestown Society are just a few of the many lineage organizations open to people with qualified descendants.

If you have ever wanted to join one of these societies but don't know where to begin, join us for a monthly workshop with Kat Collins.

Kat can help you understand what kind of proofs you need to establish lineage and the requirements for each organization. She can also help you locate information online.

The February 8th meeting will focus on the Daughters of American Colonists and the United States Daughters of 1812 Society. On March 1, Kat will discuss the Mayflower Society for descendants of the Mayflower Pilgrims.

Meetings are free. No registration is required.



Contact

Tel.: (540) 662-9041, ext. 17
Email: archives@handleyregional.org
Website: www.handleyregional.org/archives

Reading Room Hours

Monday - Tuesday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Wednesday: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Thursday - Saturday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Please note that we close for lunch daily from
12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

GETTING THE MOST FROM COURT RECORDS



With Victor Dunn, CG

**Saturday, March 15, 2025
10:30 am to 12:30 pm
Robinson Auditorium, Handley Library**

Was your ancestor illegitimate, a "gentleman justice" of the court, a horse thief, or an insolvent debtor? Court records may provide answers and connect generations.

In this lecture, genealogist and expert researcher Victor Dunn examines the important genealogical and biographical information found in county court records, information which is often not found in other court documents such as probate and land documents.

He focuses on locating and accessing records along with search strategies. Chancery, common law and criminal records are discussed along with the various types of information that may be found in often overlooked loose papers.

Victor Dunn is a professional genealogist specializing in brick-wall problem resolution.

This event is free. No registration is required.