

A Guide to the Hamilton Book Club Historical Project Papers, 1959; 1966; n.d.

Hamilton Book Club Historical Project Papers 1959; 1966; n.d.
1959; 1966; n.d.

A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library SC 0096
Thomas Balch Library
2006

Author: Elizabeth Preston

History

Processed by: Elizabeth Preston

Title Statement

A Guide to the Hamilton Book Club Historical Project Papers, 1959; 1966; n.d.

Subtitle: Hamilton Book Club Historical Project Papers

Collection: SC 0096

Author: Elizabeth Preston

Publication Statement

Date: © 2006 By Thomas Balch Library. All rights reserved.

Publisher: Thomas Balch Library

[Conditions of Use](#)

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word, created by Elizabeth Preston, 13 December 2011

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

SC 0096

Language

English

Abstract

This collection is made up of worksheets filled out by members of the Hamilton Book Club in 1966 as part of a research project. Club members researched topics like the origins of Hamilton, the Civil War battle that took place near the town, the 1926 fire that drastically changed the makeup of the downtown, and contemporary and past businesses. Also included in the collection are two historical sketches, a history of the Hamilton Masonic Lodge written by Ernest Shawen (1874-1964) in 1959, and a copy of a transcription of the charter of the town of Hamilton.

Creator

Hamilton Book Club, Hamilton, VA.

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open for research.

Use Restrictions

No physical characteristics affect use of this material.

Acquisition Information

Hamilton Book Club, Hamilton, VA.

Processing Information

Elizabeth Preston, 13 December 2011

Preferred Citation

Hamilton Book Club Historical Project, 1959; 1966; n.d. (SC 0096) Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Accruals

1995.0070

Alternative Form Available

None

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Norton, Donna, *The Hamilton Book Club*, 2010 (VREF 975.528 NOR); Norton, Donna, *Snippets of Hamilton's Past*, 2002 (VREF 975.528 NOR); Ruse, Richard, *Early Recollections of Hamilton*, n.d. (VREF 808 RUS).

Bibliography

Ancestry Library Edition, Thomas Balch Library, <http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/> (accessed 13 December 2011). The Washington Post Hamilton Book Club Historical Project Records, 1959; 1966; n.d. (SC 0096), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA. Loudoun County Will Books. Will Book W, page 241. Will of Charles Bennett Hamilton, 1835. The Hamilton Book Club Charter Members Recollections of Hamilton

Other Finding Aid

None

Technical Requirements

None

Historical Information

Hamilton, Virginia was founded around 1750 and originally had the name Harmony. Colonel James Hamilton (1720-1775) owned much of the land in the area; he served as a justice of the peace of Loudoun County, a trustee of Leesburg, and a vestryman of Shelby Parish. In 1826, a post office opened in a store owned by Hamilton's grandson, Charles Bennett Hamilton (d. 1835), and he was appointed postmaster. Because there was already a post office named Harmony in Virginia, the post office took the name Hamilton's Store. Eventually, the area became known as Hamilton. In 1875, the town was officially chartered and organized.

The Hamilton Book Club began meeting in 1911 in Hamilton when Lucy Ellen Harmison Whitacre (1859-1929) invited a group of women to meet in her home to organize a book club. The club operated as a small library with a rotating collection. Each year, members would submit one book for other members to read, and the members did not all read the same book at the same time. The club was meant to make a wide variety of books available to members and to increase interest in literature. The women met regularly at members' homes for entertainment and discussions. The Hamilton Book Club has operated continuously since its organization in 1911, and the books in its collection reflect the changing concerns, interests, and tastes of its membership.

In 1966 the club set out to gather historical information about the town of Hamilton. They spoke with older inhabitants about some of the events that took place in the area after the Civil War, researched the origins of the town and the town's name, and recorded information about businesses that had been in operation in the town for some time. The club preserved the research in typed worksheets, essays, and synopses. The research was eventually used by several local authors to write histories of Hamilton and the surrounding area.

Scope and Content

This collection is made up of worksheets filled out by members of the Hamilton Book Club in 1966 as part of a research project. Club members researched topics like the origins of Hamilton, the Civil War battle that took place near the town, the 1926 fire that drastically changed the makeup of the downtown, and contemporary and past businesses. Also included in the collection are two historical sketches, a history of the Hamilton Masonic Lodge written by Ernest Shawen (1874-1964) in 1959, and a copy of a transcription of the charter of the town of Hamilton.

Arrangement

Folder

Contents List

Folder 1: Worksheets, articles, charter, 1959; 1966; n.d.

Thomas Balch Library