Collection 3111

Virginia Bassett Little collection on the Townsend, Bassett, and Little families

Creators: Little, Virginia Bassett
Little, Donald T.

circa 1819-2010
49 boxes, 20.1 linear feet

Contact: The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
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Processed by: Donald T. Little
Processing Completed: December 2010
Restrictions: none
Related Collections: See page 8
Abstract
The Virginia Bassett Little collection on the Townsend, Bassett, and Little families is a collection of family papers that consists of documents, journals, letters, scrapbooks, photographic slides and prints, published materials and basic facts generated from years of research. The collection is focused around the Townsends, Bassets, and Littles, but also contains information on allied families, such as the Ogdens, Hallowells, and Kirks.

Background
In the seventeenth century, the Townsend, Bassett, Ogden, Hallowell, and Kirk families immigrated to America from The United Kingdom and Ulster. They became early colonial era residents of Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania. All were members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

The Townsends settled in Philadelphia at 6th and Walnut streets in 1715, having relocated from Kent County in Delaware. Their abode prior to Delaware may have been in Philadelphia with the country of origin being England, perhaps Norfolshire.

The Ogden name, in the personage of John Ogden, came to Philadelphia in 1682 aboard the ship Welcome with William Penn, the proprietor of Pennsylvania. Another branch of the Townsend family made their way to southern New Jersey as early as 1680.

Early in the eighteenth century, the Arndt family (Lutherans) emigrated from the Palatinate region of Germany to Pennsylvania. During the French and Indian wars, Jacob Arndt joined the militia and assumed the responsibilities and rank of Captain and later Major. When the American Revolution broke out and the Penn family proprietary government was superseded by a provisional government, Jacob Arndt was elected to represent North Hampton Township, in the newly formed Pennsylvania Assembly. He was subsequently appointed to the Committee of Safety, a position he held through the duration of the American Revolution.

In the early nineteenth century the families of Little, Webber, Korns and Druar intermarried with Townsend, Bassett, Ogden, Hallowell, and Kirk which introduced Presbyterian Scots.
Irish families from Ulster; Ireland, a Congregationalist family from Devonshire; England, a Catholic from Alsace; France, and Huguenot from France.

In the twentieth century, adoption and marriage have added Korea, Hungry and Slovakia as countries of origin.

The Townsend family settled (or resettled) in Philadelphia in 1715. They resided at the SW corner of 6th and Walnut St. until the land was procured for the new Pennsylvania State House.

Another Townsend branch settled in Cape May County, New Jersey about 1690 and later those two branches joined with the marriage of Edward Townsend and Ann A. Townsend. She being descended from John Ogden, a Quaker, who arrived in Philadelphia on the ship Welcome with William Penn in the year 1682.

John Hallowell, the emigrant, was born about 1650 in the parish of Huchnall in Nottinghamshire, England. He married Mary Holland. They were members of the Society of Friends and arrived in Philadelphia, most likely from England, in 1683. John purchased land which eventually totaled 250 acres in what is now Secane, Pennsylvania.

Five generations later a descendant, Anthony Hallowell, lived in Abington, Pennsylvania and married Jane Shoemaker. The Schumacher (Shoemaker) family immigrated to Philadelphia in June of 1762 having left their home town of Kriegsheim in the Palatinate region of what is now Germany. The Shoemakers were Quakers.

Anthony and Jane had a son named Benjamin, born in 1799. Anthony was conspicuously absent in family life and Benjamin was raised under difficult financial conditions by his mother and extended family.

Benjamin married Margaret Farquhar, who was herself a teacher and the daughter of a teacher. They were married in 1824 and started their married life in Alexandria, Virginia, living in a large double house which also served as their newly founded school. The other half of the house being the domicile of Mrs. ‘Light Horse’ Harry Lee and her son, Benjamin’s most famous pupil, Robert E. Lee.

As a teacher with a keen mind, Benjamin had gifts in mathematics, chemistry and natural philosophy. He was the owner of a proprietary school in Alexandria, Virginia, as well as being an innovative farmer in Olney, Maryland. Among his other responsibilities and honors he was briefly the first president of the Maryland Agricultural College (a forerunner of what became the University of Maryland). Additionally he was a highly influential leader in the establishment of Swarthmore College.

The Bassett family is said to have sailed on the Ship Abigail and landed in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635. The family progenitor being William aged nine, who sailed with his mother Ann Holland Bassett and her 2nd husband Hugh Burt. By 1638, the research
determines that they were living in Lynn, Massachusetts. The line of descent goes: William, Elisha, Elisha, Elisha, Joseph, Edward, Franklin, Arthur, Virginia, Donald (this writer).

In the year 1691 Elisha Bassett (42 years old) and his wife Elizabeth removed from Lynn to the Fenwick Colony in Salem, New Jersey. The Bassett family had become members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and that they were no longer welcome in puritan Massachusetts. A realization of hostility was likely precipitated by a 1669 complaint against Widow Burt for witchcraft (filed in a Salem, Massachusetts court). No charge was rendered.

This collection is mostly concerned with Edward, Franklin, Arthur, and his wife Vernon, all of whom lived in the 19th and 20th centuries. Franklin was the first in this Bassett line to bypass a life as a yeoman in Salem, New Jersey. He became a student of engineering at Swarthmore College and then went to dental school in Philadelphia and became a dentist. His son Arthur also became a dentist while his daughter Virginia married an engineer. Arthur was an active participant of the Swarthmore Boro school board and served for a time as its President during a time of significant physical expansion. This story also reflects the larger cultural shift that was taking place in the nation as the United States was in transition from an economy that was predominately farming to an economy of trades and manufacturing, professions and service industries.

The Waddell family were Scots. They had, however, apparently emigrated from Tyrone County in Ulster and landed in St. Johns, Lower Canada (now New Brunswick) and when things were not going well, James the son, bought a farm in Perth (now Ontario, Canada). Apparently the family, prior to coming to North America had enjoyed the status and responsibility of a Laird. The Canadian experience never quite met that status and income threshold. One of the sons, raised on the farm in Perth, lived both in Brooklyn, New York and Key West, Florida. That story is under the name: James A. Waddell.

James A. Waddell was raised in Perth, Ontario, Upper Canada. He spent many years living in and out of Brooklyn, New York working as a pharmaceutical salesman and traveling broadly in the Midwest and North East. After the death of his first wife, he moved to Key West, Florida and was the teller and later the owner of the John White Bank of Key West. He married a second time to May Virginia Rose. James bought 1100 acres of beach property on Middle Cape on Cape Sable, Florida, to establish a coconut plantation. His story is written up in Virginia’s World.

The Little family emigrated to America in 1819 in the person of John Little from Armagh, Ireland. He was a watch maker and later a Dentist. His parents came somewhat later with adult children. They settled in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania and farmed. John married Susan Webber who with her family came from S. Moltron, Devonshire, England. They lived primarily in Martinsburg, Virginia (now West Virginia). Their children included Samuel Trawin Little, named for his Uncle by marriage who went to India as a missionary and died there. Samuel Little became a watch maker and started his own business in 1851 in Cumberland, Maryland. Four more generations of Littles were raised in Cumberland and the S. T. Little Jewelry Company was in business on Cumberland Street until 1985.
The Ralph Vinton Little branch of the family lived in western Pennsylvania for a number of years while Ralph worked as the superintendent of water works in two locations. Eventually the family settled in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Ralph undertook the oversight of construction for the National Lead Company plant in Philadelphia and then stayed on to oversee the production for the next quarter century. His son Ralph Vinton Little, Jr. also an engineer worked for RCA Victor or 25 years and was involved in early stages of Theatre Television. His wife Virginia is significantly responsible for this collection.

Mary Webber, sister of S.T. Little’s mother Ann, married Samuel Trawin and traveled to India to become missionaries. He later died of fever. Mary and two surviving children returned to her home town, South Moltron, England briefly and then traveled to Martinsburg, WV to teach in her sister’s school. (Her parents and sister and brother had emigrated earlier to the United States from South Moltron, via Swansea, Wales.)

John Webber was said to be a math professor and he married Sara Brett from a well connected and comfortable family in Devonshire, England. She was well educated as was common among the upper middle classes. Their children also had the advantage of a good education, likely from family and private instruction. John, perhaps foolishly, signed a note for someone and when it went bad the family was essentially financially ruined. They all moved to Swansea, Wales. John set up a printing business. Mary, his daughter, left with her fiancée and a designated chaperone for the Indian mission field. In 1820 John Webber, Sara Brett Webber, two daughters and a son sailed for Baltimore. Later, John Little married Ann Webber, John and Sara’s daughter, in Greencastle, Pennsylvania. John Webber, after living in Mercersburg as a teacher, died of Cholera. The daughters then ran a girls school in Martinsburg, and the son went to medical school and eventually moved to Delphi, Indiana. Sara Brett worked in a school and died from a falling accident. Sadly her life path was full of change and evolved from privilege to hardship.

Ralph Vinton Little, Jr. Graduated from Fishburne Military Academy and Penn State. He worked for RCA Victor, and Brush Instruments and elsewhere. He was a manager of product development, by in large. Married Virginia Bassett in 1937 and had three children. Donald, Shirley and Janet. They lived in Swarthmore, Shaker Heights, Beech Creek and Blue Bell.

Margaret Trawin Little, born in Warren Pennsylvania, graduated from Mary Baldwin School and Boston University. Degree in physical education, later trained as librarian and finally as a Physical Therapist. This work suited her dedication to God and service to humanity. She rose to be the head of the Physical Therapy Department at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. In the early 1950’s she married Henry A. McComas.

May Virginia Bassett was the eldest daughter of Arthur E. Bassett and Vernon Waddell Bassett. She was born in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania in 1913. She developed a keen interest in her forbearers and a warm pride in her father’s accomplishments. This resulted in her collecting as much family information as possible. Her interest in diary entries and photographs adds to the depth of this collection and is a window into the suburban life of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the 1950’s and beyond. This collecting and protecting
combined with materials from research by her son Donald, resulted in the donation of this collection to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Another example of a comprehensive collection is Series VIII, that of Margaret Trawin Little McComas. Margaret, having worked in physical education as well as a librarian, gained certification in the developing field of physical therapy in the 1940’s. This was in direct response to the polio health crisis in the US, infused with a sense of Christian calling. Margaret eventually assumed the responsibilities of Chief of the Physical Therapy Department at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital.

Scope & content
The scope of the Virginia Bassett Little collection on the Townsend, Bassett, and Little families is both broad and fragmentary. The available resources for this collection depended on the temperament of the generations. Some were savers and curious about those who preceded them. Alternately, in a characteristically American manner, many became so focused on the complexities of their own lives and creating opportunities for themselves and the next generation that they seldom gave any thought to antecedents.

This collection is comprised of the collections of many savers, researchers and writers in the family. Notable among them is Benjamin Hallowell who wrote an autobiography, Vernon Bassett who saved letters, travel journals and photographs, and Catharine Craig who diligently researched the Little/Korns line. Another notable is Barbara Bassett Cochrane for her keen memory regarding family matters.

Donald Little has published several works that present some of the biographical material for easy reading and referral, and most notable is May Virginia Bassett Little, who at an early age succumbed to the fascination concerning the women and men who went before her. She was a natural saver of letters and photographs. She regularly wrote in a diary, and as a teen, she wrote a letter to her descendents to be opened fifty years hence.

Virginia remained the family genealogist during her life time. She and Shirley Little Myers (her daughter) expanded and updated a family tree in the 1960s. Subsequently Katherine Fox Little (her sister in law) further organized the Little family tree data. She too, drew heavily on the work of Catharine Palmer Craig.

Virginia used her relatedness with Jacob Arndt to become a member of the DAR. While this activity was a minor part of her interest in family, it became a gateway to interesting conversations. Virginia lived her life fully and thus created the saga of her own family both with her husband and with her three children and seven grandchildren.

Later in life, she made a considerable effort to organize family records, photographs, and excerpts from her diaries. She also wrote an autobiography and gave summaries of her children’s interests and volunteer work.
Virginia created her master work of family history, assembled in notebooks, which require approximately 30 inches of shelf space. This work was scanned, biographical material added and published as *Virginia's World*.

Some of the notable career paths for some of the Little family have included: Submarine Captain, Hospital Administrator, CIA engineer [electronic surveillance manager], Electronic product design, Vacuum tube design, Lawyer, Nurse, Jewelry store owner, Optometrist, College Professor, Scientific Translator, Facilities Administrator, Teacher/Counselor, Landscape Architect, Software developer, Water works Superintendent, Advertising Executive, Museum Curator, Graphic Designer, Composer/Church Organist, Photographer, Landscape Contractor, Scientific translator, Medical Doctor, Solar Panel sales, and Life Coach.

By 1990 there were 433 documented descendents of the Benjamin and Margaret union. A Hallowell reunion was held at the Alexandria Lyceum. Of note, the reunion was held in the same building that Benjamin had helped design and superintend during construction. The name Lyceum refers to the original purpose of the building as a forum for ideas. Benjamin was the first president of the Lyceum.

This collection is notably strong in the category of travel journals. European travels are recorded by Helen and her mother Clara Bate Druar. The originals are in the collection and cover the years 1906/07 as well as Clara’s return trip to Germany in 1913. Note: these were transcribed and printed in the book called *Clara and Helen*. Vernon Waddell Bassett kept a travel journal for her 1929 European trip. Virginia Bassett Little did the same for her return trip to Europe in the 1970’s. These too are in the collection.

Another aspect of depth in this collection is in correspondence in the form of hand written letters. That is, mail that was sent by post and kept either directly kept by recipient or returned to sender decades later. This correspondence includes letters to and from Virginia Bassett Little; letters from and to Virginia’s mother and father; and letters from two of her children, Donald Little and Janet Little Maidment. These letters, along with diary entries, calendar entries cover most years from the 1920’s up to the early 1990’s.

In many cases the fragmentary nature of this collection is either due to lack of effort by family researchers and most notably and frequently as a consequence of not having found any meaningful level of information. In other cases, the record is comprehensive as in the case of the biographies of Arthur Bassett, Vernon Waddell, Ralph V. Little, Sr., and Helen Druar, all contained in *Virginia’s World*. 
Overview of arrangement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Box/Boxes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Townsend family, 1950-2000</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Hallowell family, 1970-1998</td>
<td>2-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Bassett family, 1880-1990</td>
<td>4-14</td>
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<td>IV</td>
<td>May Virginia Bassett, 1830-1932</td>
<td>14-15</td>
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<td>V</td>
<td>Waddell family, 1950-2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Little family, 1850-1990</td>
<td>17-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Ralph V. and Virginia Little, 1903-1995</td>
<td>21-37</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>Margaret Little McComas, 1911-1995</td>
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<td>IX</td>
<td>Druar family, 1819-2000</td>
<td>43-47</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Bell and Bate families, 1819-2000</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>XI</td>
<td>Rose, King, and Arndt families, 1896-1900</td>
<td>48-49</td>
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Related materials

At other institutions:
John Kirk Townsend letters and collection specimens may be found at Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; American Philosophical Society; and Smithsonian Institution.

Benjamin Hallowell materials are housed at the Lloyd House of the Alexandria, Virginia public library as well as the Sandy Spring Museum, Friends Historic Library in Swarthmore and the University of Maryland historical archives.

Virginia Bassett Little’s family history books, later published as *Virginia’s World*, are in the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College.

Separation report

Some dozens of books were donated with this collection. They were all related to places and the history of those places that were inhabited by people remembered in this collection. For example, Benjamin Hallowell resided in Alexandria, Virginia as well as Olney, Maryland and books related to those and other places may be found at HSP.

Bibliography


Howe, Dana Dunbar. *A Collection of Townsend Family Letters, 1810-1858: Letters provided by Charles Townsend Spackman, Frederick Townsend Spackman and Donald Townsend Little*. [Richmond, VA?: D.D. Howe?], 2009. (call number Fa 929.2 T748c 2009 v.1)


________. *Samuel Trawin Little, Maria Catharine Korns.* Newtown, Pa.: Donald Townsend Little, 2005. (call number Fa 929.2 L778L 2005)

Little, May Virginia Bassett and Donald Townsend Little. *Virginia's World & Pathways Beyond: 100 years of family stories & poses, born in love, lived in love & created in turn by each generation.* Newtown, Pa.: Donald T. Little, 2008. (call number Fa 929.2 L778L 2008)


**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions**
The collection is open for research.

**Acquisition information**
Gift of Donald T. Little, 2006.
Gift of Janet Little Maidment, 2010


**Preferred citation**
Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Virginia Bassett Little collection on the Townsend, Bassett, Little, and families (Collection 3111), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
Box listing

Series I: Townsend family

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>The folders contain biographic and family records include Charles Townsend, clock maker, his wife Pricilla, Quaker minister and mother, their children: Elisha, Edward, Charles, all of whom were dentists and John Kirk, a well know naturalist and early member of the Academy of Natural Science. Some material can also be found about the Holmes family of Cape May County Courthouse, to which belonged the wife of John Kirk Townsend, Charlotte Holmes Townsend</td>
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</table>

Series II: Hallowell family

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<tr>
<th>Box number</th>
<th>Box number</th>
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</table>
| Box 2-3    | • This series is primarily about Benjamin and his descendants.  
• In the biographic folder are papers written by Michael Miller, Dorothy Pugh, Lynn Rozental, Bruce R. Smith, Roger Brooke Farquhar and a history class of the University of Maryland. |

Series III: Bassett family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box number</th>
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| Box 4      | • Family history: Various, Edwards Hicks Bassett  
• Correspondence: Franklin L. Bassett, Anna Elgar Hallowell  
• Journal: Anna Elgar Hallowell Bassett: log of letters and a book of thoughts |
| Box 5      | • Photos centered around Frank L. Bassett  
• Photos: children of Frank L and Anna Bassett  
• Booklets: The Bassett Family, In the Shade of the Old Oak, Open House in Fenwick’s Colony, Gates to Swarthmore and miscellaneous printed materials pertaining to the allied families. |
| Box 6      | • Vernon’s scrap book of memories, 1910  
• Vernon’s will, estate inventory, cash books (1940’s)  
• Correspondence: to Vernon from Frank B. Rose, her grandfather. Vernon from E. A. Waddell, her uncle. Vernon from A. A. Willets, her great uncle.  
• Wedding book: 1910 |
| Box 7      | • Correspondence: Letters to Vernon from her father James A. Waddell. Written in 1895, 1896, 1897. Approx. Sixty in number.  
• Some letters from Vernon to Arthur, her husband, from Europe in 1929. |
| Box 8 | Approx. 25 in number.  
|       | • Note: letters from Vernon to her daughter Virginia may be found under Virginia Bassett Little  
|       | • Letters written by friends and family re: Vernon’s demise and saved by her daughter Virginia.  
|       | • Journal: 1909-1910 and into 1930’s. Includes a list of books read.  
|       | • Diaries: four in number from Bassett family  
|       | • 1917 children’s book  
|       | • Diaries: Auto trips by Vernon and Arthur. Two volumes. [Logged - 19470 miles.]  
|       |   - July - Sept  
|       |     - 1946 Swarthmore to Grants Pass, OR.  
|       |     - 1947 Nova Scotia  
|       |     - 1948 Warm Springs, VA  
|       |     - 1948 Williamsburg, VA  
|       |     - 1948 Catskills and NY  
|       |     - 1949 Trip to Pocono’s  
|       |     - 1950 Hershey, PA  
|       |     - 1949 Maine  
|       |     - 1949 Salem, MA  
|       | • Arthur Bassett, three letters to Arthur from his mother Anna E. Bassett.  
|       | • Twelve photos and an album of Swarthmore College, Philadelphia from city hall tower and some country scenes.  
| Box 9 | • Genealogy, biographic, and correspondence:  
|       | • Includes: Barbara King Bassett and James Waddell Bassett.  
|       | • Cards and notes to Barbara from her mother in 1951  
|       | • Correspondence: Letters from Vernon W. Bassett to her daughter Virginia Bassett Little. Approx. 80 in number. 1940’s and 1950’s  
|       | • Media: Several dozen Bassett family photos  
| Box 10 | Correspondence: Letters to Virginia Bassett from her mother Vernon W. Bassett, father Arthur Bassett, grandmother Anna E Bassett and friends. Approx. 260 letters. Written mostly in 1920’s and 1930’s  
|       | • Schedule calendars with notes: 1939-1955 (missing 1947)  
| Box 12 | Travel: Scrap books of European trip. June 19, 1929 to August 30, 1929. Volume I. Note: pages very brittle.  
| Box 13 | Travel: Scrap books of European trip. June 19, 1929 to August 30, 1929. Volume II. Note: pages very brittle.  

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
### Series IV: Virginia May Bassett

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box number</th>
<th>Description or list of contents</th>
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</table>
| Box 14     | - May Virginia Bassett: 1913-1937 time span  
- Biographic  
- Family records: birth certificate and ‘baby’ book.  
- Family records: three folders  
- Album with photos: 1913-1919  
  o Album with photos: 1913-1919  
  o Album with photos: 1919 Ocean City, NJ, etc.  
  o Note: all assembled by Vernon W. Bassett  
- Media: Miscellaneous photos of Bassett family |
| Box 15     | - Biographic: Miscellaneous file of notes, 20 letters, hair sample  
- Printed materials: Swarthmore High School yearbooks.  
  o 1931 Garnet Record  
  o 1932 Garnet Record |

### Series V: Waddell family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box number</th>
<th>Description or list of contents</th>
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</table>
| Box 16     | - Genealogy  
- Family records (with some photos)  
- Family records: James Waddell’s will, militia commissions.  
- Note: James was a Captain of the 5th company of the 3rd Lanark Regiment.  
  Note: spelling written was Waddell, which is not correct.  
- Media: James A. Waddell. Photographs of Key West, including apartment on Duvall St.  
- Family records: re: Coconut plantation on Cape Sable, Florida  
- Family records: Edwin A. Waddell, a brother of James and a founder of Miami, Florida  
- Family records: John Augustus Waddell, a memorial text from his church. Bedford St. Baptist Church, Brooklyn. Brother of James and Edwin. |

### Series VI: Little family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box number</th>
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| Box 17     | - Genealogy  
- Biographic: Summary of the Little, Korns and Webber families compiled by Donald T. Little. (work superseded by Samuel Trawin Little.) |
- Robert Little Ebert’s account of the S. T. Little Jewelry Store of Cumberland, MD, 1980’s
- A summary of Little family history by Catharine Craig
- A letter from Aunt Lumie, to Bowen relatives. Lumie was Mrs. William M. Price
- Genealogy: Various iterations of family tree charts by Catharine Craig, Kitty Fox Little. Miscellaneous raw research all of which was used to assemble the S. T. Little book written by Donald T. Little
- Genealogy: John Little, Sr. and Farm search in Chambersburg, PA
- Genealogy, biographic, family records: Jesse Korns
- Korns. Catharine Palmer Craig research on Korns.
- Plank. Caution for the H. Plank papers dated 1/12/1905 may not link to Mary Plank.
- Trawin

**Box 18**
- Genealogy, biographic, family records: Samuel Trawin Little
- Maria Catharine Korns
- Robert Little Webber
- Biographic: Biographic accounts for: Samuel Sears Little, Margaret Trawin Little, Robert Bell Little, Charles Holmes Little
- Correspondence: Catharine Palmer Craig’s family files, 1951-1996
- Biographic and family records: John Little and Ann Webber and Sarah Brett Webber

**Box 19**
- Webber and Bowen in Delphi, IN
- Records: S. T. Little Jewelry Company, established in 1851
- Correspondence and journals: Writing by Mary Susan Little, circ. 1850’s. *Family Visitor* 1860, Mary Little, Editor
- General research: Second Regiment of the Potomac Home Brigade, 1861-65. Cumberland, MD (Union)
- General: Webber/Brett & life in Georgian times
- Education/vocation: Ralph Vinton Little, (Sr.)
- Printed materials: Letters of Sallie Little Holmes, written to Anna K. Davis

**Box 20**
- Family papers: Little family reunions 1951-1991
- Genealogy, family records: Cara Little Ebert and her son Walter Ebert
- Biographic: Ralph V. Little, Sr.
- Biographic: Ralph V. Little, Sr., places lived
- Family records: Ralph V. Little Sr. and Helen D. Little. Mortgage papers for 133 Park Ave. Swarthmore, Delaware County, Pennsylvania
- Media: Scrapbook photos of Ralph and Helen Little and family. First third of 20th century.
### Series VII: Ralph V. and Virginia Bassett Little

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box number</th>
<th>Description or list of contents</th>
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| Box 21     | Note: material in this series can be found in finished form in *Virginia’s World*.  
  *Biographic:* Birth certificate, death notice, memorial service essay.  
  *Biographic:* Penn State diploma, tax return for IRS in 1952, news articles, press photos  
  *Biographic:* Resume, job descriptions, summary of RCA experience.  
  *Records:* Financial, budgets, income, health as 1990. Donald Little’s letter to sisters urging financial support for their Parents, will, investments, inheritance tax forms.  
  *Papers:* Nursing care issues when in final decline. Medical reports and notes by Donald. Memorial service writings. |
| Box 22     |  
  *Correspondence:* Notes, cards, letters and photos to RVL, Jr. in his last years. Mostly sent after he entered assisted living at Brittany Point, Lansdale, PA. Cards start in 1988. Approx. 70 items.  
  *Papers:* Will, death certificate, estate matters, burial at West Laurel Hill, Bala Cynwood, PA  
  *Vocation:* Mostly work at Radio Corporation of America, Corp. (RCA) in Camden, NJ. Description of the level of development of color theatre television in the 1950’s. Also Kinescope recording equipment in 1950’s.  
  *Avocation:* Activities, houses owned, family interests he held in his 80’s. Included are materials from activities at Central YMCA in Cleveland, OH, Plymouth Congregational Church in Shaker Hts. OH. Fellowship of Christian Athletes of Cleveland, OH  
  *Records:* List of personal belongings to be found in E212 of Normandy Farm Estates that had to be vacated when Ralph Little could no longer live independently. 2000/2001 |
| Box 23     |  
  *Printed material:* Vocationally relevant materials. Slide rule instruction booklet, transistors listed by RCA in 1953, Broadcast News of May 1948. See page 28 for RVL article on 16 mm film projector and television interface.  
  *NB Broadcast Engineering Conference in April of 1949, Chicago, Ill.* RVL gave a presentation on kinescope recording equipment.  
  *Published materials:*  
    - RCA Engineers Digest for March of 1953. See page 8 on Theatre Color TV, RVL, supervisor  
    - RCA Victor model T12K-12 Television Little family had a TV set like this in mid 1940’s Second TV in the town of Swarthmore.  
    - Proceedingsof the I.R.E. October 1951. Describes the technical aspects of color TV  
    - Electronics World, December 1965. Special issues on color TV  
    - Televisions first year, RCA 1939 |
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- SMPTE, April 1955
- Large Screen color TV projection by Evans and Little, page 169
- Broadcast News, RCA, April 1949
- Television and Film Recording, p. 32. RVL, Jr.
- Theatre Television Highlights for 1949, RCA
- Engineers Digest, RCA, May 1954
- Radio Age, RCA, January 1949
- Large Screen Television, p.26 by RVL, Jr.
- Journal of Society of Motion Picture Engineers, July 1948.
- p. 37, RVL
- Brush Biomedical Display Instrumentation. Ralph worked for Brush Instruments in Cleveland, OH starting in 1956/57
- RCA book developed for the FCC on the occasion of their inspection of the Camden laboratories. Shows RVL as TV terminal equipment engineer.
- Miscellaneous

Box 24
- Biographic (see Virginia’s World)
- Obituary, etc.
- Letters from Virginia’s brother: James Waddell Bassett, 1963 and from Uncle Herbert in 1962
- Includes daily calendar entries for 1948-1949
- Autobiographic notes.
- Collection of letters for the 50th wedding anniversary of Ralph and Virginia. A scrap book by Virginia: narrative and photos by VBL with emphasis on the moving to Normandy Farm Estates in Blue Bell, PA. 1977
- Account of hospitalization
- Notes on three months in Europe in 1929
- Materials on TIP camp on Grindstone Island, 1000 Islands, New York
- Will and mostly end of life issues and memorial service.

Box 25
- Family records: book that lists engagement tea invitees. Lists wedding invitations and resulting list of presents given. Total listing of presents is 256. Record created by Vernon Bassett, V’s mother.
- Photo album by Virginia, highlighting activities of her grandchildren. 1989-1990.
- 1973 Letter to family.
| Box 26 | • Photo album by Virginia. Years 1963, 1964, 1965  
• Family events and travels. 40th anniversary of Swarthmore  
• Girl Scout troop #16  
• Family in Shaker Heights, 3147 Chadborne Rd.  
• Virginia as a volunteer in a hospital  
• Events around Donald and Polly’s wedding  
• Ralph and Virginia take trip to Ganado, AZ to Visit Polly and Donald  
• University of Colorado, summer courses by both Donald and Shirley.  
• Silver Bay Assoc. Conference Center, Silver Bay, NY location of summer jobs for Donald, Shirley, Janet and Lisa.  
• Photo album by Virginia years 1967, 1968, 1969, 1971  
  o Polly, Donald and new son Daniel  
  o Polly, Donald and Daniel at 490 Central Plk. Rochester, NY  
  o Thanksgiving in Shaker Hts., OH. 1969  
  o John C. Campbell Folk School, 1971  
• Cards sent to Virginia by Ralph. Love cards.  
• Letters from Virginia to her Father, Mother and Son  
• Letters to Ralph while he was apart from family in Cleveland, Ohio, 1957  
• Items from puppet convention: Dartmouth College  
• Miscellaneous correspondence |
| Box 27-29 | • Collection of letters written by Janet Marjorie Little (b.3/23/1945)  
• To her parents: May Virginia Bassett Little and Ralph Vinton Little, Jr.  
• Correspondence between 1963 and 1994. Virginia saved and returned to daughter. Letters after that to Ralph, were discarded. approx. 220 letters |
| Box 30 | • Correspondence: Donald and Mother, Father, Grandmother. While Donald was away from home at: Camp Sinking Creek 1948. Camp Delmont 1950. Hawkeye Trail Camp, 1952. approx. 53 cards and letters.  
• Donald to parents from Buck Hill Falls Caddy Camp, 1954.  
• Donald to parents from George School, 1955-1957  
• Summer job offer, announcement of launching of Leo Maris, letter about impending voyage on the M.S. Hassel,  
• Senior year grade report from George School. Approx, 19 items.  
• Donald to parents from Silver Bay Association, summer of 1959. Eight items.  
• Donald to parents from Penn State, 1957-1959. Letters including a four page cartoon about bombs by Jules Peiffer and a letter about four blind dates and ten phone calls. Fifteen items  
• Donald to parents from Wilmington College 1960-1962 and Boulder, Colorado, summer of 1961  
• Donald to parents from Ganado Mission, Ganado, Arizona 1963-1964. approx. 26 items. |
- Donald to parents from Ganado Mission, Ganado, Arizona, 1964-1965
  Includes long reflections on the job and the lack of impact that Donald was having in Ganado. Includes Camillus wedding and Nassau honeymoon trip. approx. 46 items.
- Donald to parents from Sitka, Alaska, 1965. Includes the Sitka CBD fire and a new resume as a key to gaining employment after civilian service. Approx 26 items.

Box 31
- Letters from Donald and Polly to Virginia and Ralph, 1972-78. From 1324 Academy St. Kalamazoo, Michigan. 41 items
- Letters from Donald and Polly to Virginia and Ralph, 1977-78. From 400 Burrows Hill Rd. Kalamazoo, Michigan. 28 items
- Letters from Donald and Polly to Virginia and Ralph, 1979-82
- Draft of an autobiography by Polly Louise Cowan, c. 1980

Box 32
- James Waddell Bassett correspondence. (brother of Virginia Bassett Little and son of Arthur and Vernon Waddell Bassett) This material was sent to JWB and family primarily by his sister Virginia. Earliest item is from 1929 while most of the correspondence is from the 1950’s and through the 1960’s. There are also letters from his uncle Herbert Bassett, and his aunt Lillian Waddell as well as his nephew: Donald Little. Approx. 70 cards and letters.
- Leanore H. Perkins correspondence. A lifelong friend of Virginia’s. Perkins lived at 530 Cedar Ave. with parents until they died and then moved to 340 Haverford Place, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. She was a librarian in the Swarthmore Public Library. Never married. Approx. 90 cards and letters in this category.
- Letters to Virginia and Ralph Little from: Polly Little, James Bassett, Donald Little, Daniel Little, David Little, Lisa Little, Marjorie Maguire, Ralph V. Little, Jr., L. Perkins, E. Bassett…. approx. 42 cards and letters.
- Letters and cards to Ralph V. Little, Jr. (as a widower, he did not keep much correspondence.) Includes from children and Lawrence Little, his nephew. Approx. 20 items.

Box 33

Box 34
- George School 50th reunion
- Original Doll Artists Council of America. [Virginia as officer and President.]
- Miscellaneous photos of family and places, May Virginia Bassett as a youth.
- 1937 Wedding photos from Swarthmore, PA. Ralph and Virginia
- Photos of Locust Lane Farm in Beech Creek, PA. Ralph and Virginia lived there from 1972-1983
- Photos of Bassett family that came from James W. Bassett, Wilderville, Oregon
| Box 35 | • Post cards of travels by Virginia and others 1950-1990s approx. 130 cards  
|        | • Photos: Normandy Farms wood shop…Ralph Little  
|        | • Locust Lane Farm, home for Virginia and Ralph 1972 to 1983  
|        | • Swarthmore photos of 413 Haverford, Little home from 1941-57 and 133 Park Avenue, Ralph V. Little, Sr. home from 1917-1972 |
| Box 36 | • 35 mm color transparencies  
|        | o Original dolls made by Virginia Bassett Little, 23 slides  
|        | o Miscellaneous images by Ralph V. Little taken 1960-1970, 15 slides  
|        | o Biltmore Estate, Ashland, North Carolina, by RVL, 15 slides  
|        | o Steam thrashing equipment show in Illinois, 1971, 43 slides  
|        | o Swarthmore College Campus, 1953-1954 by Vernon Bassett, 61 slides  
|        | o Tall Ship gathering, Newport, Rhode Island 1976 by RVL, 70 slides  
|        | o Donald Little and family by RVL, 1971 etc, 25 slides  
|        | o Janet Little and family by RVL, late 1960 to 1973, 44 slides  
|        | o Shirley Little and family by RVL, late 1960-1970s, 18 slides  
|        | • Magnetic tape recording, cassette size:  
|        | o Tape #1, Memorial service for Virginia Bassett Little.  
|        | o Tape #2, Memorial service for Virginia Bassett Little, edited.  
|        | o Sat. Sept. 10, 1994  
|        | o Tape #3, Virginia and Ralph Little re: Locust Lane Farm.  
|        | o Framed photo, 3 inch oval, Ralph V. Little and sister Margaret T. Little. 1917?  
|        | o Video Cassette, magnetic tape, VHS:  
|        | o Tape #1 Virginia Bassett Little memorial service of Saturday, September 10, 1994  
|        | o Tape #2 Little wedding? also Donald and Kingsland Camp slide show  
|        | o Tape #3 Bassett family images taken from 16mm film. Tip Camp, Europe?, Swarthmore.  
|        | o Tape #4 Family gathering at grave site for Virginia Bassett Little at West Laurel Hill Cemetery, Sept. 1995 |
|        | • Ralph V. Little, Sr. slides: Western MD, near and about Cumberland and Cruise to Saguenay, Que. 1943. Nova Scotia in 1948. Approx. 30 slides  
Series VIII: Margaret Little McComas

**Box 38**
- Biographic: resume, biography, death certificate, real estate papers, obituaries, Autobiography, miscellaneous photos.
- Will, executor’s records, lawyer records, real estate photos
- Passports, birth certificate, baptism records, wedding items, marriage certificate, academic records, MS from Univ. of Penn., PT certificate from Pennsylvania
- Husband: Henry Angle McComas, 1903-1987
- Further resource: *The McComas Saga* compiled by Henry Clay McComas
- Trust, investments, lawyer, tax returns, miscellaneous correspondence concerning the trust/estate.
- Correspondence: miscellaneous thank you letters sent, letters to her mother, articles about patients, the flotsam and jetsam that in total form a picture of what MTL valued.

**Box 39**
- Journal, two folders: Margaret’s spiritual journey as a Christian.
- Avocation: Piano music that she could play. Margaret was an artist as well.
- Education: Boston University, Diploma-1935, University of Minnesota-1946, Swarthmore High School, field hockey team-1926: photo
- Photos of Margaret and immediate family
- Photos of Margaret’s brother’s family (Ralph)
- Miscellaneous family photos

**Box 40**
- Photo album with images of Elder Hostel trips to Maine and the American mountain west: Zion National Park and Grand Teton National Park. Also photos of wedding of one her patients: Elizabeth Fetter and award to Pam Foster. approx. 120 images.
- Black photo album: Swarthmore, Mary Baldwin School, VMI when a
Virginia Bassett Little collection on the Townsend, Bassett, and Little families  
Collection 3111

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box number</th>
<th>Description or list of contents</th>
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</table>
| Box 41     | • Photo album, trip to Israel, immediate family of nieces and nephews, Little gathering, Holland, Mt. Washington, NH, Martha’s Vineyard [mostly 1980's]  
            • Photo album: Ralph Little family gathering in 1989 at Trout Lodge on Lake George. Robert Bell Little family photos  
            • Photo album: Elder Hostel, Rangeley Maine Canoe Trip, 1990  
            • Misc photos: Physical therapy patients at the University of Pennsylvania, PT department. The Farm School, Friends, Skiing. |
| Box 42     | • Sargent College year book 1935  
            • Journals/diaries  
            o Faith writing from 1941-1960's  
            • Bible study book 1933-1978 and 1960’s  
            • Family photos |
| Box 43     | • Druar family from Buffalo. Unique name as it was changed from Drouard after coming to US from France. German speakers.  
            • Records: 1882 Stock Company land ownership-Clara Bate Druar, trustee  
            • The Buffalo Exposition Land Company, 1891, one $200 share.  
            • Copy of Marriage Cert. Clara Bate to John Druar. 19 May 1874  
            • Forrest Lawn Cemetery. Photo of Druar houses in Buffalo  
            • Family records: Helen Druar Little. Various: including inventory of house when sold. [133 Park Avenue sold for $30,000 in 1972]  
            • General research re: Druar family in Buffalo and Black Rock, NY  
            • Newspaper notices on death of John Druar  
            • Accounts of old City Hall (now county building) and John Druar’s involvement.  
            • Helen B. Druar: miscellaneous letters and photos |
| Box 44 | • Book of passages Helen copied from books she had read. Also clippings of poetry she liked, 1922-1949  
• Diary notations, 1955-1959.  
• Some expenditure notations  
• St. Margaret’s School. Helen graduated in 1902.  
• 1906-07 European trip. Journals of Helen B and Clara B Druar. Note: these have been transcribed and published: *Clara and Helen, journals of their trip to Europe 1906-07.*  
• Photos: 1906-1907 travel in Europe mixed with other photos from 1921 to 1950's. Two photo books  
• Clara B. Druar: journal of her 1913 trip to Europe. Post card record of same trip in album.  
• Note: this journal is included in the Clara and Helen book mentioned above. |
|---|---|
| Box 45 | • Helen B. Druar  
• Photos of Helen  
• Photo album: 1920’s to 1950’s (very mixed order with respect to time)  
• Photo album: 1920’s of brother Fenimore’s camp on St. Croix River in Minnesota, photos of 1906/1907 Europe, photos of Margaret Little’s wedding, Ralph V. Little and Robert B. Little families, etc.  
• Photo album: various including Warren, PA, Connelsville, PA. Ruth Little Palmer, Ralph V. Little, Jr. and family, Fenimore and Clara Bate Druar.  
• Fenimore Druar: Photos, letters, army commissions,  
• 1908 Patent for an illuminated sign  
• 1936 letter that discusses the history of Custer’s last stand.  
• 1918 letter re: military service in Corps of Army Engineers.  
• Long personal letter to a Roscoe, a business partner.  
• 1936 Professional Engineers license. Wisconsin  
• 1918 letter to Secretary of the War College, suggesting improvements in the fighting plan for European war.  
• 1924, 1929, 1939 commissions as a Major in the U.S. Army, Corps of Engr. |
| Box 46 | • Helen B. Druar  
• 1924-1933 personal scrapbook. Includes programs from concerts and plays.  
• Scrap book covering special events in life of Helen. She started in 1899 and finished last entry in 1913. Donald Little (grandson) copied many of her entries and included here are ten pages of notations.  
• Helen compiled large baby book that includes notations, photos, play programs. Made for her daughter Margaret T. Little from birth to the 1930’s Margaret added material, including her wedding in 1950. Last entry was 1970’s made by Margaret.  
| Box 47 | • Passport from France to New York City in 1830 by John Drouard (later Druar) Sr.  
• John Druar (Sr.) exit passport ???. From De Breidenbach, France in April of 1830. |
• Naturalization paper for John Druar, 7 Oct. 1840. Finalized by State of New York on 13 December 1840
• Wedding certificate for John Druar (Jr.) and Clara Bate. 19 May 1874.  State of Ohio. Ceremony at St. Paul’s Church in Cleveland, OH
• Letter of administration from Her Majesty’s Court of Probate, citing inheritance of 300 pounds to William Wallace Waller (second husband of Isabella Bell Bate)
• Marriage License, State of Ohio. Isabella Bate to William W. Waller. 10 Nov. 1862 Ceremony at Trinity Church in Cleveland, OH
• Warranty Deed from Clara Bate Druar to Helen Druar Little and John F. Druar giving for $1.00 the properties at 284 and 288 Franklin (and another property).
• Mortgage from John Druar (Sr.) to George Pinchot (sp?) 12 April 1847. Five acres of a 25 acre parcel.
• 1839 Land deed from Herman Redfield and Holland Land Co. and John Druar (Sr.)
• 1834 certificate of marriage by John Druar (Sr.) and Margaret Feller November of 1834. Cert. dated on 15 Nov. 1834 in Diocese of New York, Albany. Marriage by Charles R. Smith, Pastor of St. Mary’s
• Newspaper copies taken from time period when the Bate family was running various eating and boarding establishments in Cleveland, Ohio. The Cleveland Leader of 1871 and 1872. Gives a view into the world when John Druar was building the lighthouse.
• Scrap book. Helen Druar Little, Covers events she attended from 1937-1945. What is remarkable is that these events were held in the middle of the titanic struggle of World War II.

Series X: Bell and Bate families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box number</th>
<th>Description or list of contents</th>
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</table>
| Box 47     | • Genealogy: includes death records for John Bell and John Henry Bate and other family in Cleveland, Ohio as well as the Woodland Cemetery burial record for Section 8 Lot 70.  
• Family records. Basic research in Cleveland, Ohio  
• Family records: document issued by the principal clerk in His Majesty’s Navy Office, on 21st Day of July of 1819 to John Bate, (previously a) sailor aboard His Majesty's Ship Fame, for the purpose of granting permission to set up trades and exercise such trades within the Kingdoms of Great-Britain and Ireland (and that there should be no interference of said activity by anyone). In particular, John Bate was granted such rights within the city of London or the Liberties thereof, and the document was sealed with the Seal of the Office |
of Chamberlain (R. Clark, Chamberlin) of the City of London. Note: The act was from Parliament in the 56th year of the reign of King George III and directed to all varieties of military personnel who had served the King after the 22 of June of 1802.

- A letter written to Fred Waller, North Lake, Michigan and written by Henry Porter (sp?) from Dublin, Ireland 5 Feb 1837 and received in New York, NY 25 March 1837 and finally received in Michigan 16 April 1837. The handwriting is hard to read and some part of the letter is over written at right angles. The beginning content concerns financial affairs and difficulties in gaining funds that are due. There seems also to be an account of how to process sugar beets. So who was Fred Waller. Since the letter came down through family likely from Helen D. Little, via Margaret L. Mc Comas, if is most likely in my mind related to the affairs of William Waller, the man who married Isabella Bell in Cleveland, her second marriage.

**Series XI: Rose, King, and Arndt families**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box number</th>
<th>Description or list of contents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 48</td>
<td>• Biographic: Mary Anna King</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Letter to by MAK to her grandmother in Philadelphia, 1847</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 1896 Passport from Dept of State for MAK</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Photos of Virginia King Swayne and others. Wm. Swayne was a wealthy newspaper man.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Frank B. Rose, sketches in pencil</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Copy of commission, US Navy, signed by US Grant.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Family geological notes, including how related to J. Arndt</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Court Martial papers of 26 Aug 1863 per Chaplain Frank B. Rose</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Three sermons and other writing. FBR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Declaration for widow’s pension. Contains interesting facts per F.B. Rose. Same for Declaration for pension. Also included are the various assignments for Rose, including Army dates of service and Navy dates of service and all the various assignments both aboard ship and land based.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Essay by Vernon Waddell, per her grandfather’s account of a civil war battle at Cedar Creek.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Biographic: May Virginia Rose Waddell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Some photos, research, memorial program</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Major Jacob Arndt: DAR application by Virginia B. Little</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Research and photos</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Correspondence: by Marjorie Gideon Maguire. Contain clues to understanding the Rose family.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Correspondence: by James Waddell to daughter, Vernon Waddell in Swarthmore</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Box 49       | Journal of Mary Anna King Rose. Tour of Ireland, England, Belgium, Germany, France and Switzerland, 1896  
|             | (Additional notes on this journal are available in the box) |

- Mary Anna King Rose’s diary from 1914  
- Regulations 1875 -USN. Frank B. Rose used this book as a herbarium. Plants in-between the pages.