

Finding Aid for Arden Archives Collection

Date range: 1900 - present

Bulk dates: 1970 - present

Finding aid created by: Kelsey Ransick, January 2014

Updated by: Kelsey Ransick, February 2015;

Kelsey Ransick, May 2016; Elizabeth Jones-Minsinger, September 2017; Elizabeth Jones-Minsinger, January 2018; Elizabeth Jones-Minsinger, April 2018; Elizabeth Jones-Minsinger July 2019

Extent: 13.5 linear feet

Note: This is the current extent. The collection is expected to continue growing and the extent will be updated yearly to reflect any changes.

Historical Note: The three Ardens, consisting of Arden, Ardentown and Ardencroft, are Single Tax and Arts and Crafts communities. "Single Tax" was an economic theory proposed by Henry George, an American economist and philosopher in the late nineteenth-century. George felt that a land value tax was the most fair and equitable tax and felt that any income tax was unfair by nature. The Ardens also were founded on the ideals of William Morris, as an "Arts and Crafts" community. The Arts and Crafts movement was a reaction against the industrial revolution and valued hand-crafted goods and the incorporation of individualistic design.

The Arden Archives began amassing materials in 1907, about seven years after the village of Arden was founded. Residents and other visitors collected photographs, letters, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, playbills, flyers, and other general ephemera and stored them in affiliated residents' houses. Occasional displays of materials from the Arden Archives took place in the Craft Shop in the 1970s. The Buzz Ware Village Center housed the collection in the late 20th century. In 2004, the Arden Archives found their permanent home in the Arden Craft Shop Museum.

Abstract: The collaboratively amassed ephemera of the villages of the Ardens include correspondence, newspaper clippings concerning the villages and their events, theatre media, local periodicals and other publications, published and unpublished writings of resident authors, and personal files of residents.

Accession number: 2014.001

Language: English, Esperanto

Acquisition Information: Material has been collected by various residents of the

Ardens since 1907 and staff/volunteers of the Arden Craft Shop Museum since the museum's founding in 2004. Future additions to the records are expected, as members of the museum and community frequently drop off miscellaneous items that fit into this collection because of their subject matter and nature of acquisition.

Access Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use: Use of materials from this collection beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law. Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. Please contact Arden Craft Shop Museum, ardencraftshopmuseum.com.

Cite as: [item], folder, Arden Archives Collection, Arden Craft Shop Museum

History: The three Ardens, consisting of Arden, Ardentown and Ardencroft, are Single Tax and Arts and Crafts communities. "Single Tax" was an economic theory proposed by Henry George, an American economist and philosopher in the late nineteenth-century. George felt that a land value tax was the most fair and equitable tax and felt that any income tax was unfair by nature. The Ardens also were founded on the ideals of William Morris, as an "Arts and Crafts" community. The Arts and Crafts movement was a reaction against the industrial revolution and valued hand-crafted goods and the incorporation of individualistic design.

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The materials were organized by volunteers of the Arden Archives (c. 1907-2003), by the members of the Museum & Archives Committee (2003-present), and by volunteers and staff members of the Arden Craft Shop Museum (2004-present). Individual collections/donations were not maintained, so the majority of the material is organized by person, subject, or geographic location. This structure represents the way the volunteers and staff members believed would be most useful to researchers, a majority of them local.

Scope and Content: The assembled collection of the Arden Archives (forerunner to the Arden Craft Shop Museum) represents over 100 years of archival material collection across the three villages (Arden, Ardentown, and Ardencroft). The bulk of the material is from 1970 to present. The Arden Archives began amassing materials in 1907, about seven years after the village of Arden was founded. Residents and others collected photographs, letters, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, playbills, flyers, and other general ephemera and stored them in village residents' houses and garages. Most photographs were removed before the collection was arranged and are now part of the Arden Archives Photographic Collection.

The materials cover members of the community, events, local groups and institutions, buildings and other structures, and other relevant topics. The collection includes information on a number of individual residents and families. The portion of the collection is particularly strong for residents of Arden. There are also series for other Single-Tax communities, Frank Stephens, Will Price, and prominent local theatre companies. The guilds of the Ardens (such as the Shakespeare Guild, Gardeners Guild, Poetry Guild, and Musicians Guild) are prominent in the collection.

Because the the Arden Archives Collection covers the activity and residents of three related but separate villages, the collection is arranged, when possible, both geographically and thematically. Material that deals exclusively or primarily with one of the villages, it is arranged thematically within that village's series. When activities that the material covers involve two or more villages or external subjects, material is arranged in thematic series. See container list for details. The collection is arranged into 26 series:

- 1: Arden
- 2: Ardentown
- 3: Ardencroft
- 4: Publications
- 5: Theatre
- 6: Guilds and the Arden Club
- 7: State and Federal Relations
- 8: Arden Community Recreation Association (ACRA)
- 9: Arden Fair
- 10: Literature of the Ardens
- 11: Rose Valley
- 12: Single Tax Issues, Experimental Communities, and Related Political Movements
- 13: Russian Reconstruction
- 14: Religion: Religious Groups, Institutions, Events, and Ceremonies

15: Esperanto
16: Residents
17: George (Family)
18: Stephens (Family)
19: Ware (Family)
20: Mother Bloor
21: Sinclair, Upton
22: Frank (Family)
23: Grubb (Family)
24: Education
25: Maps
26: Aumack (Family)
27: Arden artists

Subjects:

Single Tax
Arden Club
Arden (Del.)
Arden Croft (Del.)
Ardentown (Del.)
Arden (Del.)--History--Pictorial works
Esperanto
 Fairhope (Ala.)--History
 Fairhope Single Tax Corporation
 Free Acres (Berkeley Heights, N.J.)
 George, Henry, 1839-1897
Gilpin Point (Md.)
Nearing, Scott, 1883-1983
Philadelphia International Airport
Robin Hood Theatre (Arden, Del.)
Rose Valley (Pa.)
Rose Valley (Pa.)--History
Russian Reconstruction Farms Project
Sinclair, Upton, 1878-1968
Stephens, Frank, 1859-1935
Thaddeus, Victor, 1896-
 Utopian socialism--Alabama--Fairhope--History
 Utopian socialism--United States--History
 Ware, Hamilton Disbrow, 1892-

Related Materials:

2014.002 Arden Archives Photographic Collection
 2014.003 Arden Archives Slide Collection
 2014.004 Arden Archives Oral History Collection
 2014.005 Arden Archives Media Collection

Separated Materials:

Two unaccessioned cassette tapes from Marti Holden/Berger

Container List:

Note that due to the collection's continually growing nature, some folders may be empty at present in anticipation of the future deposition of materials. Where possible, these are denoted by an asterisk (*) next to the subseries or file number. Items with a ^ denotation indicate material that is stored elsewhere in the archives for format reasons.

1	Arden
1.1	Media: Focuses on external media produced about Arden, including news clippings, magazines, and online articles
1.2	Leasehold Records: Includes leasehold records for Arden--Rae Gerstine's notes
1.2.1	Original Arden Land Lease (Scott Nearing)
1.3	Institutions and Businesses: Focuses on materials concerning or produced by local businesses and institutions
1.3.1	Arden Nurseries
1.3.2	Arden Water Company
1.3.3	Blue Bird Dining Room
1.3.4	Arden Inn
1.3.5	Wilmington Co-Op
1.3.6	Woolery's Grocery Store
1.3.7	Arden Building & Loan
1.3.8	Arden Films, Inc.
1.3.9	Arden Printery
1.3.10	Arden Forge
1.3.11	Weave Shop
1.4	Houses, Inns, Other Buildings, and Other Features: Focuses on deeds, articles, and other information and materials related to specific houses, inns, studios, and other buildings and features (organized by location)

1.4.1	Buzz Ware Village Center
1.4.2	The Green
1.4.3	Arden Memorial Garden
1.4.4	Grubb Family Burial Ground (<i>See also 23</i>)
1.4.5	Historic Marker/Arden Day
1.4.6	Derrickson Farm
1.4.7	Sow's Ear (2117 Meadow Lane)
1.4.8	The Lodge
1.4.9	The Jungalow/Mary Bruce Inn
1.4.10	The Milky Way (Path)
1.4.11	Playground
1.4.12	Arden Forest
1.4.13	Whitman Memorial
1.4.14*	Cosy Corner
1.4.15	Craft Shop/Red House
1.4.16	The Monastery
1.4.17	The Camp
1.5	Arden Games
1.6	Governance: Focuses on committee meetings, by-laws, and other local governmental concerns
1.6.1	Incorporation (<i>See also 4.11</i>)
1.6.2	By-Laws
1.6.3	Meeting Minutes
1.6.4	Trustees of Arden
1.6.5	Safety Committee
1.6.6	Assessors and Land Rents
1.6.7	Registration Committee
1.6.8	Civic Committee
1.6.9	Community Planning Committee
1.6.10	Budgets
1.6.11	Playground Committee
1.7	Elections
1.7.1	Proportional Representation (Hare System)
1.7.2	Voter Registration

1.8	Anniversary Celebrations
1.8.1	50th Anniversary
1.8.2	75th Anniversary
1.8.3	80th Anniversary
1.8.4	Centennial
1.9	National Register of Historic Places Nomination
1.10	Postal Service
1.11	Events
2	Ardentown
2.1	Media: Focuses on external media produced about Ardentown, including news clippings, magazines, and online articles
2.2*	Institutions and Businesses: Focuses on materials produced by local businesses or institutions
2.3	Houses, Inns, Other Buildings and Other Features: Focuses on deeds, articles, and other information and materials related to specific houses, inns, studios, and other buildings and features (organized by location)
2.4	Governance: Focuses on committee meetings, by-laws, and other local governmental concerns
2.4.1	Assessors and Land Rents
2.4.2	Harvey Road Train Station
3	Ardencroft
3.1	Media: Focuses on external media produced about Ardencroft, including news clippings, magazines, and online articles
3.2*	Institutions and Businesses: Focuses on materials produced by local businesses or institutions
3.3	Houses, Inns, Other Buildings and Other Features: Focuses on deeds, articles, and other information and materials related to specific houses, inns, studios, and other buildings and features (organized by location)
3.4	Governance: Focuses on committee meetings, by-laws, and other local governmental concerns
3.4.1	Ardencroft deed and related information
4	Publications: Focuses on periodicals published regularly in the villages

4.1	<i>Arden Leaves</i> (1910-1938)
4.1.1	Correspondence Regarding
4.2	<i>Town Crier</i> (1917-1946)
4.3^	<i>Arden Page</i> (1974-Present)
4.4	<i>Arden Club Calendar</i> (1910-1938)
4.5	<i>Arden Club Talk</i> (1908-1910)
4.6	ACRA Directory (1975-2014)
4.7^	Arden Cookbooks
4.8	<i>The Warehouseorgan</i>
4.9	<i>Arden Advocate</i>
4.10	<i>Highlights</i>
4.11	Arden Book
5	Theatre
	<i>See 6.2 for Ardensingers/Arden Chorus</i>
5.1	Field Theatre
5.2	Moonlight Theatre
5.3	Candlelight Theatre
5.3.1	Original Candlelight Theatre
5.3.2	New Candlelight Theatre
5.4	Robin Hood Theatre
5.4.1	Anthony Perkins
5.4.2	Programs
5.4.3	Media
5.4.4	Advertisements and Admissions
5.4.5	Theatre Wilmington at the Robin Hood
5.4.6	Repertory Players, Inc. at the Robin Hood
5.4.7	Acorn Company Theatre at the Robin Hood
5.4.8	History and relationship to Ardentown
5.5	Shakespeare Gild
5.6	Players Gild
5.6.1	Programs
5.6.2	Administration

5.6.3	Cast Lists and Scripts
5.6.4	Media
5.6.5	Play Festival
5.6.6	Correspondence
5.7	Little Theatre Guild
5.7.1	Sonia Schorr
5.8	Media: Focuses on external media (that is not covered by a more specific subseries or file elsewhere) produced about the theatre in the Ardens, including newspaper clippings, magazines, and online articles
5.9	Delaware Play Festival
5.10	Puppeteers
5.11	The Highway Ensemble
5.11.1	Administration
5.11.2	Rules and Bylaws
5.11.3	Programs
5.11.4	Performers and Members
5.11.5	Scripts, Cast Lists, and Rehearsals
5.11.6	Proposed Plays and Ballots
5.11.7	Grant Applications
5.11.8	Newsletters and Mailings
5.11.9	Media
5.12	Arden Club Theatre
5.13	ACRA Theatre
5.14	Wilmington Drama League
5.15	The New Century Club
5.16	Arden Play Festival
5.17	Miscellaneous Arden Theater
5.18	Other Delaware Theater
6	Gilds and the Arden Club: Focuses on the Arden Club, which is the organization that oversees all the gilds of the Ardens. Note that other non-Arden Club social groups or organizations may be included in this section and are denoted with an asterisk (*).
6.1	Gild Hall: Focuses on the establishment and operation of Gild Hall
6.2	Ardensingers/Arden Chorus*
6.3	Concert Gild

6.4	Dinner Guild
6.5	Folk (Dance) Guild
6.6	Gardening Guild
6.7	Georgist Guild
6.8	Library Guild
6.9*	Poetry Guild
6.10	Scholars Guild
6.11	Swimming Guild
6.12	Jazz Guild
6.13	Merry-Go-Rounders*
6.14	Musicians Guild
6.15	Raiffeisen Guild
6.16	Yeomandry Guild (Fire Brigade)
6.17	Music Guild
6.18*	Tennis Guild
6.19	Arden Club
6.19.1	Meetings and Finances
	<i>See Shakespeare Guild (5.5), Players Guild (5.6), and Little Theatre Guild (5.7)</i>
6.20	Old Men's Club
6.21	Arts & Crafts Guild
6.22	Arden Pool
7	State and Federal Relations: Focuses on federal and state legislation and issues that affect the villages, including zoning, traffic laws, and national landmark status
7.1	Home Occupation
7.2	Court Cases
7.3	Roads
7.3.1	Harvey Road, Grubb Road
7.3.2	Meadow Lane
7.4	Philadelphia Airport
7.5	Fires and Fire Protection

8	ACRA: Focuses on the Arden Community Recreation Association, which organizes residential directories, a children’s summer camp, and other community events
8.1	Governance
8.2	Programs
8.3	House and Garden Tour
8.4	ACRA Summer Camp
8.5	ACRA Arden Quilt
9	Arden Fair
9.1	Media: Focuses on external media produced about the Arden Fair, including news clippings, magazines, and online articles
9.2	Pageant
9.3	Art Show
9.4	Finances
10	Literature of the Ardens: Focuses on the literature that is not published and/or does not fall under the scope of collections for the library
10.1	Scripts
10.1.1	Grubb’s Corner
10.1.2	The Ithacan
10.2	Poetry
10.3	Miscellaneous Pieces
10.4	Songs of the Ardens
11	Rose Valley: Focuses on the nearby community of Rose Valley
12	Single Tax Movements, Experimental Communities, and Related Political Movements: Focuses on booklets, essays, articles, reports, and other forms of information about the Single Tax system, experimental communities, and related political movements
12.1	Single Tax
12.2	Free Acres
12.3	Fairhope, AL
12.4	Gilpin Point

12.5	Helicon Hall
12.6	Tahanto, MA
12.7	Forward Party
12.8	Landlord Game
12.9	<i>The International Free Trader</i>
13	Russian Reconstruction: Focuses on the Russian Reconstruction Farms, Inc. movement and the involvement of Arden residents in that movement
	<i>See also 19.2</i>
14	Religion: Focuses on religious groups, institutions, events, and ceremonies in the Ardens
14.1	Arden Community Seder
14.2	Chapel
15	Esperanto: Focuses on the Esperanto language and its use in the Ardens
16	Residents: Focuses on various newspaper clippings, letters, and other items regarding the residents of the three Ardens that do not fall into another collection, series, or subseries. Persons with only one or two items in their file are included in a general folder for their associated town.
16.1	Arden (includes the following residents) Bratten, Al Brookes (Family) Bertha "Bertie" Earl Brown, George Burroughs, Betty Butler, Hayes Colgan, Tom Colgan, Joan Cook, Amy Potter English, Frank F. Finkelstein, Clara/I.B. Frankel (Family) Estella Rosalia Victor Gerstine (Family)

	<p>Emanuel Rae Harrison, Frank Hinson, Thomas L. Holcomb, Don Hetzl Donovan, Miriam (<i>also Ardentown</i>) Holden/Berger, Marti Huber (Family) Hurlong (Family) Bunni Jobson, Marjory Kazan, Margaret Kemp, Harry Kiefer (Family) Daniel Henry King, Albert Barnes Lanciano/Lance, Claude Lieberman (Family) Amy Cy Pat MacDonnell, Nora Mary Monfort, Harold Nearing, Scott Newcombe (Family) George Minnie Vera Price, Will Rautenberg, Robert Renzetti (Family) Marcus Aurelius Peter Roberts, Hadassah Ross (Family) Rothrock, Rick Santee, Ross Shedd, Charlotte Somerville, Sadie Tanis, Stephen Taylor, Mark Warren, Fiske Worthington, William P.</p>
16.2	<p>Ardentown (includes the following residents) Jaroslow, Ruth</p>

	Mabrey, Ken McClintock, Dave Pressman, Bill Thaddeus, Victor
16.3	Ardencroft (includes the following residents) Fels, Joseph Stephens, Dawn (See 18.7) Young, Pauline
16.4	Unaffiliated and Miscellaneous Residents (includes the following residents) Bower, Alexander Burrison, Bill Hoskins, Gayle Patterson, Pat
16.5	Obituaries: Contains obituaries for residents for which we have no other material
17	George (Family): Includes writings from and media about the George family, one of whom formulated the Single Tax theory of economics.
17.1	George, Henry
17.2	George, Henry III
18	Stephens (Family): Includes writings from and media about the Stephens family, one of the founding families of Arden.
18.1	Stephens, Frank
18.2	Stephens, Don
18.3	Stephens, Henry
18.4	Stephens, Ingeborg "Inky"
18.5	Stephens, Roger
18.6	Stephens, Elenor
18.7	Stephens, Dawn
19	Ware (Family): Includes writings from and media about the Ware family, residents of Arden.
19.1	Ware, Hamilton D. "Buzz"
19.2	Ware, Harold "Hal" M. (See also 13)
19.3	Ware, Edith "Jimmie"

20	Mother Bloor: Includes writings from and media about the the Arden resident known as Mother Bloor.
21	Sinclair, Upton (<i>See also 12.5</i>): Includes writings from and media about Upton Sinclair during his time in Arden.
22	Frank, Edith and William P. “Bill”: Includes writings from and media about Arden residents Bill and Edith Frank.
23	Grubb, Peter (<i>See also 1.4.4</i>): Includes writings from and media about local resident Peter Grubb.
24	Education: Includes material on the Arden School.
25	Maps: Includes lot surveys and other property details for buildings and plots of the three Ardens.
26	Aumack, Peg and Lewis: Includes writings from and media about residents Lee and Peg Aumack.
27	Arden Artists
27.1	William T. Young