

## Finding aid for Virginia Shaw Collection

**Date range:** ca. 1900s-2000s, bulk 1910s-1990s

**Finding aid created by:** Elizabeth Jones-Minsinger, November 2017

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**Extent:** 1.0 linear foot

### Abstract:

This eclectic collection assembled by Virginia Shaw and other residents of the Ardens contains materials related to various Arden institutions as well as the villages' planning, safety, and community planning committees. It also includes material on the Single Tax movement from the early 20th century, documents related to the management of town records, materials from the Arden Arts assessment, and various newspaper clippings and ephemera related to life in the Ardens.

**Accession number:** 2017.017

**Language:** Materials primarily in English, a few items in Esperanto

**Acquisition Information:** Found in collection

**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](http://ardencraftshopmuseum.com).

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**Cite as:** [item], folder, Virginia Shaw Collection, Arden Craft Shop Museum

### Biographical Note:

Virginia Shaw was a long-time resident of Arden, Delaware. Born in 1906, Shaw worked in the Delaware State Archives' office for more than 30 years and was assistant state archivist at the time of her retirement in the 1970s. She was also a member of the

Merry-Go-Rounders, a women's group in the Ardens whose motto was "We go round and round doing good and having a merry time of it." Virginia Shaw passed away in 1989.

A number of items in this collection pertain to events that took place after Shaw's death, suggesting that they came from another source.

### **Scope and Content:**

This eclectic collection assembled by Virginia Shaw and other residents of the Ardens contains materials related to various Arden institutions as well as the villages' planning, safety, and community planning committees. It also includes material on the Single Tax movement from the early 20th century, documents related to the management of town records, materials from the Arden Arts assessment, and various newspaper clippings and ephemera related to life in the Ardens.

A large portion of the collection relates to civic organizations and standing committees within the villages. Materials from the planning, safety, and community planning committees show discussions of budgets, zoning, and historic preservation in the community. The collection includes permission forms issued by the Arden Civic Committee between 1979 and 1989 for use of the Arden Commons. There are also several items pertaining to the Arden Library, Arden Craft Shop Museum, and the Montessori School located in the Buzz Ware Village Center.

Another grouping of documents illustrates the villages' interactions with Delaware state government, especially the Department of Highways and Transportation. These include materials regarding the widening of Marsh Road, a safety study of Harvey Road, and a project to diminish flooding around Naaman's Creek. Correspondence with the Delaware State Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs shows the community's interest in erecting an historical marker.

In the mid-1980s, the Village of Arden undertook an inventory of its town records, gathering information on documents held by the assessors, town clerk, and several standing committees. Materials in the collection suggest that the village was applying for a records management grant from the state of Delaware. This grouping includes records management procedures from the state of Delaware and lists of documents from the Ardens held by the Delaware Historical Society. Given her background as an archivist, it's possible that Virginia Shaw spearheaded this effort to manage Arden's records.

This collection also contains a small grouping of materials pertaining to the Single Tax movement in the early 20th century. This grouping includes correspondence between Joseph Fels and Daniel Kiefer regarding the land nationalization movement and letters and newspaper articles discussing William S. U'Ren's attempts to implement Georgist principles in Oregon dating between 1911 and 1916.

The Virginia Shaw collection also includes several poems by Frank Stephens, artistic collaborations between Stephens and Buzz Ware, songs, and album pages featuring theater programs, telegrams, newspaper clippings, and annual reports from Arden institutions.

The collection contains a small grouping of materials created after Shaw's death and likely assembled by another resident. These items include documents related to the Arden Arts Assessment, the National Planning Landmark Award, and a manuscript copy of David Clark's 2000 master's thesis on Arden.

**Subjects:**

Arden (Del.)

Single Tax

Stephens, Frank, 1859-1935

**Separated Materials:**

Five sketches of Fels cottages have been removed and housed separately in flat storage as part of the Virginia Shaw Collection.

**Container List:**

	<b>Virginia Shaw Collection</b>
F1	Arden Arts Assessment, 1997-1998
F2	Arden Commons Permission Forms, Part I: 1979-1982
F3	Arden Commons Permission Forms, Part II: 1983-1986
F4	Arden Commons Permission Forms, Part III: 1987-1989
F5	Arden Craft Shop Museum, undated
F6	Arden Library, 1981-1985
F7	Arden Planning, Safety, and Community Planning Committees, Part I: 1968-1983
F8	Arden Planning, Safety, and Community Planning Committees, Part II: 1986-1989 and undated

F9	Delaware State Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, 1976-1977
F10	Harvey Road Study, 1971-1983
F11	Marsh Road Widening, 1969-1972
F12	Naaman's Creek Project, 1971-1974
F13	National Planning Landmark Award, 1997-1998
F14	Records Management Grant Award and Records Inventory, 1984-1987
F15	Wilmington Montessori Association, 1981-1982
F16	Jacob Ostro Bungalow, 1927-1937
F17	Single Tax Movement, 1911-1916
F18	Frank Stephens Poems with Buzz Ware Designs, ca. 1920s-1930s
F19	Frank Stephens' Death, 1935
F20	Songs, undated
F21	Stencils, undated
F22	Exhibit Materials, 1958-2000
F23	Programs, 1908-1930
F24	Manuscript of David Clark Master's Thesis on Arden, 2000
F25	Album Pages, 1923-1940
F26	Clippings--Ardens, ca. 1930s-2000s
F27	Clippings--Bluma Goldberg, 1953
F28	Clippings--Upton Sinclair, ca. 1900s
F29	Miscellaneous Flyers and Ephemera, 1908-1986