

Ruth Davis Thrall Collection

Finding Aid

Windsor Historical Society
96 Palisado Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095

Creator: Ruth Davis Thrall (Mrs. Howard C. Thrall, Jr.)

Dates: 1880s-1950

Extent: 1 linear foot

Accession #: 2002.25

Biographical Note

Horace Thrall (1795-1865), a descendant of one of the founders of Windsor, was the 6th generation to farm the original 1635 land grant in the northern part of Windsor. Many members of this extended family have been prominent in the community and as progressive tobacco growers. Thrall family farming activities have also included dairying, field crops, and raising turkeys for the commercial markets. Many family members still live in the Windsor area.

This branch of the Clark family was originally from Granville, MA. About 1909, Benjamin W. Clark (1862-1924), a lumberman and dairy farmer, and his wife Mary Winchell Clark (1861- after 1934) moved to the Poquonock section of Windsor. There they purchased property on Pigeon Hill and established a large and successful tobacco plantation. In time many of their eleven children became involved with the local tobacco industry as well.

The collection reflects the intermarriage of the large and extended Thrall and Clark families in Windsor, CT. In the early part of the 20th century, two of the Clark daughters married Thrall men, and two of the Clark sons married Thrall's granddaughters.

Scope and Contents

This collection primarily consists of photographic studio portraits of members of the Benjamin W. Clark and Horace Thrall families of the Windsor, Connecticut area. It also contains some pieces of family memorabilia such as wedding announcements, programs, and newspaper clippings. Windsor Historical Society has compiled a basic genealogy of the families and added it to the collection for the user's benefit.

Arrangement/Organization

- I. Thrall family photographs
- II. Clark family photographs
- III. Unidentified and non-family photographs
- IV. Thrall family ephemera
- V. Clark family ephemera
- VI. Miscellaneous ephemera
- VII. Genealogical materials compiled by Windsor Historical Society

Custodial history

The collection was received with no supporting or identifying documentation. Occasional Clark and Thrall family researchers visiting the Windsor Historical Society library have been shown the photographs, and have provided some of the identification. WHS volunteers have compiled a basic genealogy to provide context for the photographs. Newspaper articles that were not directly related to family activities but were of local historical interest were photocopied and placed in the appropriate WHS library subject files.

Sara Hawran and Susan Smoktunowicz processed the collection in the fall of 2007. Genealogical materials were compiled by Susan Smoktunowicz and the finding aid was prepared by Barbara Goodwin in December 2007.

Related Materials

Subject files:

- Agriculture
- Businesses – Tobacco
- Organizations and Clubs – Eastern Star

Family files:

- Clark family
- Thrall family
- Thrall, Flavia

Subject Terms

- Clark family
- Sullivan, Hazel Thrall, 1915-2000
- Thrall family
- Tobacco industry – Connecticut -- Windsor