



Guide to the Gillingham-Stith family papers, 1836-1932

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

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Summary

Collection Title:

Gillingham-Stith family papers, 1836-1932

Creator:

Gillingham-Stith family

Abstract:

Mine owners and speculators residing in Cid and Thomasville (Davidson County), North Carolina. Collection consist chiefly of correspondence, along with wills, deeds, and other personal, business, and legal papers of Mrs. Alberta Stith Jones Gillingham and of her brother, Fred H. Stith, mining speculator, of Cid and Thomasville (Davidson County), North Carolina. Most of the papers are Mrs. Gillingham's and center around the operation of gold, silver, copper, sulphur, and zinc mines in the Cid district of Davidson County, North Carolina, and the complications caused in family relationships because of contested inheritances and property rights. Alberta Gillingham was also a music composer, writer, and teacher; one of her compositions, "General Harrison's inaugural quick-step," was transferred to the post-bellum sheet music collection. Includes materials concerning Furnifold Simmon's campaign for U.S. Senate in 1930, letters from Stith's children in Trinity College (now Duke University), and correspondence between Mrs. Gillingham and William H. Bailey, a lawyer of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Extent:

4.5 Linear Feet
Approx. 4,074 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Language:

English

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.00452

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/gillinghamstithfamily/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Gillingham-Stith family Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

Collection consist chiefly of correspondence, along with wills, deeds, and other personal, business, and legal papers of Mrs. Alberta Stith Jones Gillingham and of her brother, Fred H. Stith, mining speculator, of Cid and Thomasville (Davidson County), North Carolina. Most of the papers are Mrs. Gillingham's and center around the operation of gold, silver, copper, sulphur, and zinc mines in the Cid district of Davidson County, North Carolina, and the complications caused in family relationships because of contested inheritances and property rights. Alberta Gillingham was also a music composer, writer, and teacher; one of her compositions, "General Harrison's inaugural quick-step," was transferred to the post-bellum sheet music collection. Includes materials concerning Furnifold Simmon's campaign for U.S. Senate in 1930, letters from Stith's children in Trinity College (now Duke University), and correspondence between Mrs. Gillingham and William H. Bailey, a lawyer of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Biographical/Historical

Alberta Bassett (Stith Jones Gillingham) was the daughter of Dr. Nicholas Long Bolling Stith, who graduated in medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 1829 and who lived in Halifax County and then in Raleigh. He had at least two other children, Anna Guion and Fred H. Stith. Dr. Stith and his brother, A.B. Stith, bought 1000 shares of stock in the Ward gold mine in 1854, one of the largest mines in the Cid mining district of Davidson County, N.C. Mrs. Gillingham inherited at least part of the properties which she came to hold in the Cid mining district. It appears from the papers that her mining interests included gold, silver, copper, sulphur, and zinc. One of the mines she came to own was the Ward mine. Her first marriage in 1881 was to J. Howard Jones, also a mine owner, who died in 1884. She also became involved with a lawyer from Charlotte, William H. Bailey. She married her second husband, Captain H.R. Gillingham, in 1905. By then, Alberta and her brother and sister had become

estranged, and a long legal battle ensued during the late 19th and early 20th centuries over the ownership of the mines.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Gillingham-Stith family papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift from 1935 to 1960.

Processing Information

Processed by Rubenstein Library staff

Encoded by Matthew Warren and Paula Jeannet, March 2014

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: 48-667 and later accessions.

The papers of Alberta B. (Stith) Jones Gillingham were incorporated in 1968 with the Fred H. Stith and Alberta B. (Stith) Jones collection.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Music score book (F:6424), Anna P. Stith, Thomasville (Davidson County), N.C., undated Rubenstein Library, Duke University

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Names and Subjects

- Davidson County (N.C.) -- History
- Gold mines and mining -- North Carolina
- Industries -- North Carolina
- Bailey, William H.
- Trinity College (Randolph County, N.C.) -- Students
- Stith family
- Stith, Fred H.
- Gillingham, Alberta B. Stith Jones
- Duke University -- History
- Gillingham family

Collection Inventory

Gillingham-Stith family papers, 1864-1932

Physical Description: 9 boxes

Letters, 1846-1883 Box 1

Physical Description: 3 folders

Letters, 1884-1886 Box 2

Physical Description: 2 folders

Letters, 1887-1889	Box 3
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Letters, 1890-1898	Box 4
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Letters, 1899-1909	Box 5
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Letters, 1910-1924	Box 6
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Letters, 1925-1932	Box 7
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Letters, undated	Box 8
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Bills and receipts, 1849-1931	Box 9
Physical Description: 3 folders	
A.B. Stith receipt book, 1836-1866	Box 9
Ward Gold Mine Company minute book, 1854-1869	Box 9

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