

Montgomery-Gapen Collection

Repository: Rockingham Co. Historical Collections
Gerald B. James Library
Rockingham Community College
P. O. Box 38
Wentworth, NC 27375

Title: Montgomery-Gapen Collection

Accession No.: 93-056

Extent: 12 boxes

Provenance: This collection of miscellaneous papers came from Mrs. Nettie Harris Montgomery and her cousin, Reida Overman Gapen, both residents of Reidsville, NC. After their deaths, the materials were given to Mrs. Montgomery's son, Rev. Hugh Reid Montgomery of Davidson, NC. He then donated them to the Rockingham County Historical Collections

Inclusive Dates: 1893-2004

Subject Headings: Daughters of the American Revolution
Farming – Rockingham County (N. C.)
Gapen, Elizabeth, 1914-1961
Gapen, Myra D., 1916-1990
Gapen, Reida Overman, 1892-1986
Gapen, Robert D.
Gapen, Robert D., 1920-1980
Graves, Caroline h.
Harris, Mrs. John W.
Harris, Nettie Reid
Harris, Robert
Lawson, Annie E. Scales
Montgomery, Alvis D.
Montgomery, Nettie Harris, 1899-1990
Montgomery, Hugh Reid
Montgomery, Robert S., d. 1937
Overman, Bettie Lea Reid
Overman, Charles H.
Reid, David Settle, 1813-1891

Reid, Hugh Kearns, 1817-1897
Reidsville Garden Club
Rockingham County (N. C.) -- Genealogy
United Daughters of the Confederacy – Reidsville (N. C.)
Womack, Margaret R.

Items Separated: Robert Gapen photos filed in the photograph files, some newspapers removed and stored with other newspapers, one box containing a nurse uniform and handmade quilt stored with oversized and 3-D objects

Related Collections:

Preferred Citation: *Montgomery-Gapen Collection. 93-056. Rockingham Co. Historical Collections, Gerald B. James Library, Rockingham Community College.*

Descriptive Note: The collection has not been separated into various categories in the usual manner, but some of the materials of similar nature have been grouped together in storage boxes. A survey of the material shows the following subjects: history, The North Carolina History Booklets, 1901-1921; historical newsletters; family papers and correspondence; farming records 1940s-1960s; materials from various organizations in which the families were active, local D.A.R., UDC, etc; the Alvis D. Montgomery Store ledger 1878 Reidsville NC, genealogy files on 53 families; Reidsville Garden Club material; collection of early 20th Century newspapers from Reidsville, Greensboro, Charlotte, N. C., Danville, Va. and New York City; collection of news clippings on North Carolina history, Rockingham County, Reidsville, NC and other subjects; church history in Caswell & Guilford counties; copies of NC Historical Review and Confederate Veterans; box of photographs and negatives, 1930s-1940s; World War II materials and photos and several old books, including 1894 cookbook; high school and college workbooks of Mrs. Gapen's children (1930s); a collection of *The North Carolinian*, a genealogical journal, issues 1955-1961, 1963 and other miscellaneous booklets on North Carolina and Virginia history.

Family Sketch: The Montgomery-Gapen Collection of materials were gathered by two ladies who were lifelong residents of Reidsville, North

Carolina, Nettie Harris Montgomery and her first cousin, Reida Overman Gapen were prominent members of the community. Both were active in a number of local organizations in the mid-20th Century.

Mrs. Nettie Harris Montgomery was the daughter of Robert Harris, a Reidsville tobacco manufacturer. Her mother Nettie Reid Harris was the daughter of Hugh Kearns Reid 1817-1897 and Caroline H. Graves. Hugh K. Reid was a brother of Gov. David Settle Reid. Hugh had two other daughters, Bettie Lea Reid who married Charles H. Overman and they had one surviving child, Reida Overman Gapen. The other Reid daughter Caroline G. Reid married N. C. Thompson of Reidsville.

Nettie Harris became the second wife of Robert S. Montgomery on 10 August 1926. The couple had one child, Rev. Hugh Reid Montgomery. Robert S. Montgomery was a prominent businessman in Reidsville and founded two banks in town and once served a mayor and postmaster. By his first wife, Anna Withers, he had nine children. His father established the Montgomery homeplace on Lawsonville Avenue which remained in the family for over one hundred years. His mother was Annie E. Scales Lawson, the widowed sister of Gov. A. M. Scales. His father, A. D. Montgomery moved to Reidsville from Caswell County and in 1878 established a store in town. He and his father-in-law, Robert H. Scales were among the founders of the First Presbyterian Church in Reidsville.

Mrs. Nettie Harris Montgomery was interested in genealogy and was active in a number of patriotic organizations including the William Bethell Chapter D. A. R., the Thomas Graves Chapter Colonial Dames and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Through family connections and collecting materials, she accumulated a large mass of data that was left to her only child, Rev. Hugh Reid Montgomery. Mrs. Montgomery died in March 1990 at age 91 years.

Mrs. Nettie Harris Montgomery's first cousin, Reida Overman, married Robert D. Gapen in 1913 and also resided in Reidsville. Mrs. Gapen was also active in many of the same organizations that her cousin, Mrs. Montgomery, was active in. Over the years, she accumulated many family papers, family genealogy, North Carolina history materials and much miscellaneous information. Mrs. Gapen was born 1892, and died on 5 July

1986.

Mrs. Gapen had three children: Elizabeth (1914-1961), Myra D (1916-1990) and Robert D. Gapen (1920-1980). None of the children married and following the deaths of all members of the family, the Gapen papers were given to Rev. Reid Montgomery who donated both his mother's papers and the Gapen material to the Historical Collections Room at RCC.

Bob Carter
March 2006

Contents:

Box 1:

9 blueprints of land plats, Reidsville NC area, early 20th century
9 copies, *NC Historical Review*, 1960s
31 copies the *Confederate Veteran* magazine, late 1920s-30s
Robert D. Gapen WWII leather pouch

Box 2:

Farm ledger and miscellaneous papers
Farm rental contracts, 1962-1963
Tobacco manufacturing lawsuit, 1893-1894, Australia Company
v. Robert Harris, Reidsville, NC
Correspondence, Brittain-Sloan family, 1936
Correspondence, Gapen family, 1944-1986
Correspondence, Montgomery family, 1923-2004
Gapen family materials:
 Autograph and memo booklet
 College materials
 High school materials
 World War II orders – Robert Gapen
 World War II ration books
Genealogy and history:
 Hillsborough Historical Society Newsletter 1964-65
 King & Queen Co., Va. Historical Newsletter 1956-61,
 1970-71 (incomplete)
Magazines – *State*, *Time* 1930s, 1960s, 4 issues
Booklets
 Coca Cola, Fort McHenry, Georgia historic homes,
 Hopewell Village
Ink blotters
Organizations: Colonial Dames, DAR, UDC and others 1930s-60s

R. S. Montgomery – Obituary (d.1937), floral arrangements,
flower tags, list of visitors to the home
Miscellaneous booklets, NC history
Scrapbook – poetry
Miscellaneous booklets, VA history

Box 3:

Gapen family bible, 1901
Elizabeth Gapen scrapbook, poetry
Gapen Sunday school certificates and diplomas, 1920s-30s
Robert D. Gapen high school notebook
Imperial Cook Book, 1894
Engraving, Rita Gapen, for the *Reidsville Review* newspaper
Small ledger book, 1950s
Portrait of Primitive Baptist Ministers, 1896 (book)
Address book, Gapen, 1950s
Blacksmith shop book, Calvin Graves, 1850s (all pages torn)
Algebra book, Bettie Lee Reid, 1873
Gapen ledger book, 1930s
A. D. Montgomery store ledger, 1878, Reidsville, NC

Box 4:

Garden Club materials:

Flower catalogs, 1948-64
Correspondence, 1929-1975
Flower arrangements, 4
Flower shows, miscellaneous, 18 items
Bulletins and newsletters, 1892-1934 (scattered)
Yearbooks, various garden clubs, 1920s-30s
Newspaper clippings, miscellaneous
NC Garden Club materials
Reidsville Garden Club miscellaneous items , 18
Reidsville Garden Club history
Reidsville Men's Garden Club, 14 items
Wildlife magazine, 1954, *Flower Grower*, 1949, 1950
Colonial gardens booklet

Box 5:

Genealogy – Family folders

Allison
Archdale
Beasley
Brown
Connelly
Courts
Cross
Douglas
Dula
Fagge
Gapen
Graham
Graves
Grogan
Harris
Heraldry
Hill
Hodges
Hume
Jacobs
Johnson
Lane
Lavender
Lea
Low
Laurance
Mayflower passengers
Montgomery
Morehead
Overman (5)
Patterson
Perkins
Probart
Rankin
Reynolds
Reid
Richardson
Robertson
Scales
Scott

Settle
Sherrill
Slade
Stubblefield
Symens
Washington
Windsor
Womack
Young

Box 6:

9 folders of newspaper clippings, history of NC, Rockingham Co., Virginia, churches, etc.

Box 7:

North Carolina Booklets, NC Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, many issues, 1901-1923

This publication contained many articles on the history of NC during the colonial, Revolutionary and Civil War periods. Many issues are original while others are photocopies. Some are not bound, but most have an index on the front page. The *North Carolina Booklet Index* for 1901-1921 was published in 1923 and a copy is filed with the booklets.

Box 8:

Miscellaneous booklets, journals, magazines:

D.A.R. Magazine issues from 1931, 1932, 1933 with genealogical index 1892-1950 and a 1938 issue on the history of W.Va.

Brief History of Indiana, 1953

Miscellaneous NC booklets: Rockingham history map by Bettie Sue Gardner, Guide to Military Organizations in the Civil War, History of NC State Archives 1903-1953, Mineral Localities of NC, Old Rowan Views & Sketches by James Brawley, State Ports of NC 1967, History of Lenoir County and Kinston, The Lost Colony

North Carolinian, Journal of Genealogy & History, 1955-63

(scattered)

Virginia booklets: *The Spur Magazine*, 1961, *Surry County, VA 300th Anniversary*, 1952

Box 9:

A collection of photographs and negatives (approximately 1200) taken between the mid 1930s and the 1950s by Robert Gopen. Includes high school students, activities, sports, Reidsville street scenes, homes, railroads, friends, class photos, holidays, portraits, college, WWII service scenes, Reidsville Armory dedication, and a 1938 parade. Also included is a scrapbook of photographs compiled by Margaret R. Womack of Reidsville, NC which includes one Reidsville school photo and a few other local photographs, along with travel photos.

Most of the photographs are filed separately from the collection in the photographic files.

Box 10:

Newspapers – 25 old newspapers dating from 1897-1975. Includes Reidsville, Greensboro, Charlotte, Hillsboro, Danville. *Some of these papers were separated from this collection and placed with other newspapers.

Webster's Weekly, 2 Dec 1897, 19 Mar 1903
Reidsville Review, 14 Mar 1905, 12 Apr 1905, 27 Jul 1939, 23 Dec 1949, 25 Nov 1963
Greensboro Daily News, 13 May 1932, 4 Apr 1936, 15 Apr 1945, 20 Apr 1951, 21 Apr 1951, 23 Nov 1963, 24 Nov 1963, 25 Nov 1963, 6 Apr 1975
Charlotte Daily Observer, 19 Jan 1909
The News of Orange, 28 Apr 1955
Danville Register, 23 Apr 1911
New York Times, 26 Jan 1936, 2 Feb 1936, 3 Feb 1936, 1 Mar 1936, 8 Mar 1936, 13 Dec 1936, 31 May 1959
American Weekly, 3 Sep 1939

Box 11 and 12:

Nettie Harris Montgomery nurses aid uniform, WWII era, Annie Penn Hospital

Mrs. John W. Harris (Nettie Montgomery's grandmother)
handmade quilt

These items stored in the oversized and 3-D objects area

Robert Carter, Jr.
March, 2006

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