

Plainfield Families Collection, 1796-2013



Gilman family portrait, 1916

Overview of the Collection

- Title:** Plainfield Families Collection, 1796-2013
- Creator:** Various
- Accession(s):** Various
- Size:** 4.5 linear feet of records, comprised of:
 Two (2) record storage boxes
 One (1) oversize box
- Repository:** Plainfield Public Library, Local History Department, 800 Park Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060
- Abstract:** The Plainfield Families Collection documents families, and some individuals, who resided in Plainfield, mainly during the 19th and 20th centuries. This collection remains open to accommodate future donations of family-related material. Record types include: manuscripts, speeches, letters and postcards, journals, report cards, certificates and diplomas, deeds, ephemera, clippings, and photographs.
- Language:** The records are in English.

Biographical Information

Please note that currently we do not have biographical information for all of the families and individuals contained within this collection.

| Name | Dates | Bio |
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| Atterbury family | 1920s | Albert Hoffman Atterbury was involved in Plainfield civic affairs and was a prominent Democrat. He was a member and officer of the Plainfield Country Club. Atterbury was appointed to the Plainfield tax appeals and assessment commission and was a practicing attorney. He died in 1955 at the age of 95. He was married to |

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| | | Emma Baker, an active member of the Plainfield Musical Club and Garden Club, as well as a member of the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church. She died in 1950 at the age of 88. The Atterbury's had a house built at 922 Hillside Avenue in 1921. A photograph of their garden is in <i>Plainfield and Vicinity in Pictures</i> . |
| Babin, Stefan | 1950 | Stefan Babin (d. 1951) was the caretaker for the Mali family for 52 years; they lived on the former Johnston estate. |
| Beardsley family | 1925-1928, 2013 | |
| Brokaw, Caleb | 1935 | |
| Brooks, Van Wyck | 1910s | Van Wyck Brooks (1886-1963) was a literary historian, critic, and biographer. He was born and raised in Plainfield and lived at 563 West Eighth Street. He graduated from Plainfield High School in 1904 and Harvard University in 1908. The Van Wyck Brooks Historic District, which includes his house, was named for him. |
| Brotman family | 1942-1950 | |
| Brown, Sarah S. | 1924 | |
| Carman, Dr. Myron | 1902 | |
| Cartledge family | 1883 | |
| Case, J. Herbert | 1926 | James Herbert Case was born in Plainfield in 1906. He was a board member of the Plainfield Public Library, and resigned in 1926. He died in New York in 1965. |
| Ciampa, Andrew | 1931-1935 | |
| Collier, Asa | 1892 | Asa Collier was the father of photographer, Paul Collier. |
| Cook, Frederic W. | 1944-2002 | Frederic W. Cook was the Superintendent of the Plainfield Schools until his death in 1944. He was active with many civic and welfare organizations in Plainfield, and was also a member of the Plainfield Public Library board of trustees. |
| Cook, Irene Bell Wright | 1891-1979 | Wife of Frederic W. Cook. |
| Cortelyou family (SEE: Miller family) | 1809-1940 | Records also include Blackwell, Conover, Houston, Mattison, Quick, Ribble, Schenck, Slaughter, Stevenson, Stryker |
| Dickson family | 1917-1988 | Alexander S. Dickson, a chauffeur, who at one point worked for the Talmadge Estate, owned the Netherwood Garage, located at his residence, 1001 South Avenue in Plainfield. His daughter, Sophia Tavers Dickson was a physical education teacher, who worked in the Plainfield Public School System. She never married and lived with her parents until 1956, when her father died. By 1957, she and her mother, Marie Ericksen Dickson were living with Sophia's brother, Alexander Donald Dickson, in his home at 905 Sterling Street in Plainfield. Marie Ericksen Dickson's widowed mother Dorothea C. Eriksen lived with the family at 1001 South Avenue, until her death in 1929. |

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| Doane, Thaddeus O. | 1866 | Thaddeus O. Doane (1844-1928) was Plainfield's first fire chief and served as the building inspector for the city. In 1862, he enlisted as a private in the 11 th New Jersey Infantry. He was wounded in the Battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, and then transferred to the 20 th Veteran Reserve Corps where he served until he was discharged in 1865. Mr. Doane was a member of the GAR Winfield Scott Post 73 and a Mason. |
| Drinkwater family | 1929-1954 | Herbert Allen Drinkwater (d. 1954), a machinist, and his wife Carrie K. Drinkwater purchased a house at 939 Arlington Avenue from the Board of Education in 1929. The Board planned to build an addition onto the Plainfield High School that would extend across three properties on Arlington Avenue. The Board received bids for the sale of the houses (numbers 937, 939, and 941) on condition that the buyers have them removed. The Drinkwaters bought their house for \$200 and moved it to its new location at 984 Arlington Avenue, near Stelle Avenue. The house no longer exists. Rachel Drinkwater, Herbert and Carrie's daughter, attended Plainfield High School and graduated in 1937. |
| Finch family | 1890s-1966 | Dr. Edward L. and Annie Ridley Crane Finch lived at 1160 Park Avenue, also known as "Graystone," a large house that no longer exists. They had six children: Edward R., a New York appellate judge, Henry L., Rufus C., Marie Louise, Charlotte T., and Norman Finch. The Finch family owned horses and participated in hunts and horse races. Norman Finch, who wrote music, married Dorothy Louise Langford, a graduate of the Plainfield Seminary. They had one daughter, Anne Wainwright Finch, a musician. They lived at 303 West Eighth Street. |
| Giese family | 1890-1915 | Charles Giese (d. 1907) was an officer in the Plainfield Police Department in the 1880s-1890s. His son, Philip Giese (1865-1949) was a Plainfield letter carrier for 34 years. He married Augusta Mazer in Newark in 1890. Their son, William H. Giese (d. 1968) was married to Grace Powell Karr (1886-1949), who taught piano at her studio in the Babcock Building from 1910-1915. |
| Gilbert, Alexander | 1907 | Alexander Gilbert was mayor of Plainfield from 1891 to 1896. He also worked as a New York City banker and president of the New York Clearing House. He resided at 318 West 8th Street. |
| Gilman family | 1890s-1992 | Charles Gilman was a civil engineer and pioneer of reinforced concrete. Among many activities and board seats, he was a member of the Plainfield Board of Appeals in 1938. Sons Karl and Roger were also engineers. Charles married twice. First wife Alva died in 1934. In 1935, he married his second wife, Marion Smith Carter of Westfield. He was with Massey Concrete Products for 45 years. He was Elder in the Crescent Avenue Church in Plainfield. Roger was a director of the |

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| | | New York Port Authority in 1957. Karl, a Navy Seaman, was Third Assistant Engineer on the Flying Clipper. |
| Hadley, William L. | 1920s-1993 | William L. Hadley (d. 1967) was active in civic, religious, and Masonic affairs in Plainfield. Before moving to the city, he and his wife lived with his parents in South Plainfield, on land now known as Hadley Airport. The field was named for Hadley's mother and was one of the first landing fields for air mail to NYC. In 1947, Hadley was selected as the Union County delegate to the State Constitutional Convention in New Brunswick, where he also served as the historiographer. He served on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army in Plainfield and was a member of Grace Episcopal Church, the Plainfield Old Guard, and both the Anchor Lodge and Jerusalem Lodge. He was also an avid golfer. At one point, Hadley lived at 1111 Putnam Avenue. |
| Hans family | 1946-1959 | Thomas Hans (1899-1978) was a builder, inventor, and machinist who emigrated from his native Germany to Argentina, Brazil, and finally to America in 1926. He lived in Middlesex, NJ with his wife Clara Landgraf Hans (1907-2000). In 1944, Thomas was employed as a millwright at International-Plainfield Motor Co., later known as Mack Trucks. He retired in 1962. Clara was a seasonal employee at A.L. Siegel Co. in Middlesex, where she sewed raincoats. She was a dues-paying member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Local 149 in Plainfield. |
| Hickman, A.E. | 1910-1923 | Arnold E. Hickman was a traveling photographer who worked in Plainfield; he lived in Bound Brook. |
| Ladd family | ca. 1811, 1979 | |
| Laidlaw, Elliot C.R. | ca. 1942 | Elliot C.R. Laidlaw (d. 1960), who lived at 758 West 8 th Street, was senior partner in Laidlaw & Co., a private banking firm in New York founded by his father, Henry Bell Laidlaw. |
| Lapsley, Josephine | 1960s | |
| MacDonald, Bernard and Ruth | 1932 | Bernard and Ruth were brother and sister. |
| Marsh, A.L.C. | 1905 | Augustus Marsh was an architect and designer of many of Plainfield's public buildings. He was a noted bicyclist in his youth. He resided in Plainfield with his wife Grace E. and their daughter Molly. His parents were Richard and Anna Robinson Marsh. |
| Miller family (SEE ALSO: Cortelyou family) | 1938-1980 | Donald W. Miller (1920-2006) was the son of Frank and Elizabeth Miller. He graduated from PHS in 1938, attended Union County College, and volunteered for the Army during World War II. His brother, Robert W. Miller, served in the Army as well. After the war, Donald worked for Summit Engineering and Bell Laboratories. In 1952, he married Helen Stevenson Benson and they lived in her home at 106 Westervelt Avenue in North Plainfield. |

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| | | Helen was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Stevenson, granddaughter of Edgar C. Schenck, and niece of Victor Houston (the latter two both lived at 106 Westervelt at one time with their respective families). Helen's great-aunt was Cornelia Cortelyou Schenck Conover and she had a sister, Gladys. |
| Morris-Ryno family (SEE ALSO: Related Items) | 1865-1928 | |
| Paulson, Beverly | 1930 | Beverly Paulson, a graduate of the Hartridge School in Plainfield, was the granddaughter of Catherine Thompson Loizeaux. |
| Pittis family (SEE ALSO: Related Items) | undated | |
| Price family | 1842-1906 | |
| Roth, Mary Eleanor (SEE ALSO: Zweifel family) | 1900 | Mary E. Roth was a teacher and principal at the Eleanor G. Hewitt School, Ringwood for 44 years. She was the daughter of Martin Roth and Mary Zimmer Roth, sister of Marguerite Roth Zweifel and the aunt of Eleanor and Florence Zweifel. Her father, Martin Roth was a shoemaker in Plainfield at 120 Exchange Alley. Mary died in Scotch Plains in 1981. |
| Saums, George W. | 1920s-1930s | George W. Saums (1865-1944) was an inventor who came up with the formula for an oil-based wood and concrete preservative in 1894 or 1896. Saums originally set up his business in the Babcock Building, but moved operations to a new laboratory at 55 Elm Place in 1926. This unpatented preservative was used on the reconditioning of the U.S.S. Constitution (also known as Old Ironsides) and such places as the Asbury Park boardwalk, St. Paul's Chapel in New York City, the Plainfield High School, and the old Courier News building. It was also used in the manufacture of automobiles, buses, street cars, and railway coaches. The formula for the preservative remained a secret and was only known by Saums. Shortly before his death he wrote it down and kept it in an unmarked, sealed envelope along with a copy of his will in a vault at the Plainfield Trust Company. The will stipulated that if the formula was not destroyed by Saums himself, it was to be sold within six months of his death along with the manufacturing plant. It was not until 1945 that A. Wendell Eld purchased the sealed envelope containing the formula as well as the building from Saums' estate. Eld started manufacturing the preservative again in limited quantities in 1949, after the end of World War II when supplies became more readily available. In 1952, Eld and others formed the Saums Associates to try and market the preservative on a larger scale. Saums lived in |

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| | | Plainfield for more than 50 years. He was married to Emma Luella Saums, who died in 1939. |
| Sharp, Joseph S. | 1866 | |
| Shotwell family | 1848-1850 | |
| Smith, Arthur family | 1865-1952 | Arthur E Smith, Sr. was married to Grace L Emmons in 1905. He was a surveyor, contractor, and structural engineer, according to Plainfield directories. There are several sepia prints of the Arthur Smith Lumber Yard with Grady photos. Grace Smith died in 1969. She was a member of Trinity Reformed Church and Fellowship Circle of Kings Daughters, among other associations. She organized the first auxiliary of Boy Scouts at Monroe Methodist Church in Plainfield. She was survived by two sons, Arthur E. Jr. of Long Island, and Robert E. of Plainfield, and a daughter, Mrs. William O. Grant of St. Petersburg, Florida. Maria Louise Brown Emmons Smith, was the daughter of Arthur Smith, Jr. and Jane Foster. William C. Smith was a Civil War veteran. |
| Smith, Britton family | 1930s | Briton Oliver Smith, a native of Montreal, was married to Margaret Goodman of Maine. They lived at 820 Third Place in Plainfield from the 1930s through the 1980s. Briton Oliver Smith was the chief executive engineer for the New York naval architects and marine engineering firm of Gibbs & Cox. He assisted William Francis Gibbs, the designer of the S.S. United States. Smith died in 1986. Margaret Smith was a member of the Grace Episcopal Church and the Altar Guild. During World War II, she was a supervisor with the British War Relief organization in Plainfield. She died in 1981. |
| Speiden, Robert T. | 1830s-1962 | Robert T. Speiden (1922-2008), known as Bob, moved to Plainfield in 1969. He promptly set up a recording studio behind his house at 1216 Denmark Road, first known as Quality Sound, then Netherwood Recording. Here, Speiden recorded famous musicians and bands. He invented the original SF-12 stereo ribbon microphone for studio recordings. He used this during his annual recording of the Plainfield Symphony. Speiden was directly related to William Speiden (1797-1861), a purser in the United States Navy who was on the expedition to Japan under Commodore Matthew Perry in 1853. |
| Stewart family | 1860s-1971 | Walter Eugene Stewart, a broker, was married to Anna Green Leper (daughter of Christopher and Anna Leper, sister of Elizabeth "Lizzie" Leper Gale). They lived with their six children at 60 West 7th Street and 526 West 7th Street in Plainfield. Walter and Anna's son Percy Hamilton Stewart was the mayor of Plainfield 1913-1914 and a U.S. Representative in the 1930s. He was married to Elinor DeWitt Cochran and they lived at 563 West 8th Street, Plainfield (Van Wyck Brooks' house). They were Louise Clausel Mino's godparents. Walter and Anna's daughter Ida Stewart (twin sister to Irving Stewart) |

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| | | married Louis Albert Clausel, the Vice-Counsel to Cuba, in 1916. Their daughter Louise Stewart Clausel married John Daino in 1946 and lived in Florida. They divorced and she later married Dr. Guido Mino in 1958 and lived in New Providence, NJ. |
| Stillman family | 1861-1862 | |
| Strong family | 1900s-2002 | George Arthur Strong (1849-1926), a New York lawyer, and Harriet Efner Wheelock (d. 1931) built the house at 1030 Central Avenue in 1896. This was considered their "winter home." Their children were Harriet Efner ("Effie"), Agnes ("Tonta"), Malcolm, and Helen. Harriet Efner Strong, known as Effie, married Thomas McCready in 1903. They met at the mansion built by her maternal grandfather, William Almy Wheelock, at 158th Street in New York City. The McCreadys had four children, including Lauren McCready. Agnes Strong, known by her nephew Lauren as "Tonta" married Howard Huntington in 1913. They resided at 334 Franklin Place, Plainfield. Agnes died in 1948. Malcolm Strong moved out to Los Angeles and was a playwright and writer and producer for the Jesse S. Lasky Film Company and the Universal Film Manufacturing Company. He died in an automobile accident in 1916 at the age of 28. Helen Strong married William Belknap and moved to Louisville, Kentucky. They divorced in 1935 and Helen died in 1982. |
| Talmadge family | 1860s-1930 | |
| Tracy, Howard Crosby | 1886-1889 | Son of J. Evarts Tracy, architect who designed Muhlenberg Hospital. |
| Tyler family (SEE ALSO: Related Items) | 1870-1955 | Mason Whiting Tyler was born in Massachusetts in 1840. In 1869, he married Miss Eliza M. Schroeder. The couple had two sons: William Seymour and Cornelius Boardman. The family moved to Plainfield in 1871, where Tyler maintained a personal library collection of rare and valuable works. He resided at 525 West Seventh Street. During his lifetime, he was involved with many civic organizations including two terms on the Plainfield Common Council. He was a co-founder and Vice President of the board of directors of the Plainfield Public Library, and one of the first trustees of Muhlenberg Hospital. Colonel Tyler died on July 2, 1907, just nine months after his beloved wife. He bequeathed \$10,000 to the Library with the stipulation that the investment income be used for the purchase of books chosen by the Library Board. Honoring a personal interest of Tyler's, the Board selected books that dealt with United States history and Americana. |
| Vail family (SEE ALSO: separate collection) | 1895-1900 | |

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| Van Norden family | 1890-1909 | Local Plainfield family who resided on Lyman Place. William (Sr.) was a physician; his wife Agnes M. was a teacher. They had three children, Frederick, Marguerite and William Jr. |
| Van Oss family | 1993 | |
| Van Winkle, John H. | 1901 | |
| Vanderweg, Robert E. | 1920s | |
| Ward family | 1831-1925 | |
| Warn(e) family | 1796-1838 | |
| Webster (Vail) family | undated | |
| Whitford family | 1922-1942 | Otis Benjamin Whitford (1874-1942) was a dentist and married to Mabel Crandall. They had three daughters, Helen, Janet, and Mary, all of Plainfield and a son Harold of New York. The Whitfords lived at 318 East 6th Street and 1410 Evergreen Avenue. Otis was a charter member of the Plainfield Rotary Club and involved with the West End Heights Improvement Company, the YMCA, American Sabbath Tract Society, Community Chest, and the Plainfield Board of Education. Otis's father, Abert Whitford was president of Plainfield Grocery & Supply Company. He was married to Ella and they lived at 1242 Lenox Avenue. Otis's sister Lucy was a school nurse. He had three brothers, Dr. Edwin of Rhode Island and Ernest C. and Paul of Plainfield. |
| Zweifel family (SEE ALSO: Roth family) | 1923-1954 | Henry Zweifel, Jr. worked at PSE&G Co. as a collector and book keeper. He was married to Marguerite Roth. Eleanor Ruth Zweifel, worked as a clerk at TSN Bank in Plainfield, but resided in Scotch Plains. Florence M. Zweifel, twin sister of Eleanor, was a clerk at the Plainfield Trust Company, and formerly with Permaseal Products. She graduated from PHS and Drake Business College. She died in 1954 at the age of 29. |

Scope and Contents

The Plainfield Families Collection includes a variety of record types that span from 1796 to 2013, with bulk dates in the first half of the 20th century. The collection is composed of manuscripts, speeches, letters and postcards, journals, certificates, deeds, ephemera, newspaper clippings, and photographs. Certificates include those for births, baptisms, and marriages. Education records include report cards and diplomas. Oversize items include a family tree and property maps. There are also a large number of loose photographs and negatives. This collection remains open to accommodate future donations of Plainfield family-related material.

Arrangement

The Plainfield Families Collection is arranged alphabetically by last name.

Index Terms

People:

See list above.

Organizations:

Muhlenberg Hospital
Plainfield High School
Plainfield Public Library
Woodhull and Martin
Wood Brook Farms

Places:

Plainfield (N.J.)

Subjects:

Plainfield (N.J.)--History

Related Items

Collections:

[Albert D. Pittis Papers, 1926-2003](#)

[Marjorie and Roger Vail Family Collection, 1772-2005](#)

Bruce and Ruth Ryno Family Collection, 1828-2009

Book and Manuscripts:

Boardman, Samuel Ward. *Biographical Sketch of Dea. Timothy Boardman*. 1885 (Tyler)

Tyler, Cornelius B. *Ancestry of Professor William S. Tyler, D.D. LL.D.* 1890-1899? V.1 & 2

Tyler, Cornelius B. *Genealogies*. 1890

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

This collection consists of paper documents that do not require any additional technology for access.

Administrative Information

Access & Restrictions

The Plainfield Families Collection is available for research.

Access is restricted to materials prepared by the Local History department staff. All materials must be viewed in the Plainfield Room and may not be removed to another area of the library without permission of the Library Director or designee. Materials must be handled carefully and kept in

order. Materials must not be leaned upon, altered, folded, ripped, or traced upon. Marks may not be added or erased from materials. Materials must be returned directly to Local History department staff and inspected before the researcher leaves the Plainfield Room.

One photocopy may be made (by Plainfield Public Library staff) of each document for the purpose of research; official Local History departmental reproduction fees may apply. Permission to publish must be obtained by the Plainfield Public Library Board of Trustees as delegated to the Library Director. Permission to publish does not constitute a copyright clearance. The researcher is responsible for further copyright restrictions. The Plainfield Public Library is not responsible for the misuse of copyrighted material.

Preferred Citation

Identification of item; Date (if noted); "Plainfield Families Collection", Box and Folder Number, Local History Department, Plainfield Public Library, Plainfield, New Jersey.

Acquisition Information

The collection was started with donations made by John Grady; subsequent donations were made by various donors.

Processing Information

The collection was initially processed and the finding aid written by Sarah Hull. Additional donations were processed and the finding aid updated by Sally Weiner. Finding aid content follows the guidelines suggested by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*. Initial processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Collection Inventory

Box 1

| Name | Items | Dates |
|-------------------|---|-----------|
| Beardsley family | History and copy photos of 1412 Evergreen Ave. | 2013 |
| | Builder and general contractor receipts, 1412 Evergreen Ave. | 1925-1928 |
| | Note with figures written by A.P. Beardsley, 1412 Evergreen Ave. | 1925 |
| Cartledge family | Executors' deed between John and Anne Cartledge (executors of James A. Falkner) and Kezia A. Todd concerning property in Plainfield | 1883 |
| Case, J. Herbert | Illuminated book bound in leather, commemorating Case's retirement from the PPL Board | 1926 |
| Cook, Frederic W. | Tribute items (speeches, poems, ephemera, clippings) | 1944 |
| | Obituary | 1944 |
| | Service, First Unitarian Church, June 19, 1944 | 1944 |
| | Program, presentation ceremony of Frederic W. Cook Memorial Book Shelf at PHS, December 21, 1944 | 1944 |

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| | Letter, from PPL to Mrs. Frederic W. Cook, re: use of Frederic W. Cook Memorial Collection, September 8, 1944 AND clipping about collection | 1944 |
| | Photos (2), portrait proofs | undated |
| | Photos (2), window display of Cook Memorial Book Collection at PPL | undated |
| | Program, dedication of Frederic W. Cook School, November 8, 1944 | 1944 |
| | Publication, "The Plainfields in New Jersey" | 1963 |
| | Printed obit for Helen Cook Naismith and copy photos (published in Courier News, June 2, 2002) | 2002 |
| Cook, Irene Bell Wright | Birth certificate transcript | (1891) |
| | Obituary, memorial service program, prayer | 1979 |
| | Biography | undated |
| | Pencil drawing of Irene, with note | 1972 |
| Dickson family | Typed poem by Sophia Dickson about F.W. Cook School | undated (post-1957) |
| | Confirmation card for Sophia Dickson | 1921 |
| | Empty legal sized envelope with Sophia's address as 905 Sterling | 1988 |
| | Font Roll certificate for Alexander Donald Dickson from St. Stephen's Church | 1920 |
| | Confirmation certificate for Alexander Donald Dickson from St. Stephen's Church | 1932 |
| | Receipt for property interest, Alexander S. Dickson at 1001 South Ave. | 1920 |
| | Copy photos, Alexander S. Dickson as chauffeur | undated |
| | Hillside Cemetery Association deed for Dorothea C. Ericksen | 1917 |
| Gilbert, Alexander | Commemorative dinner booklet | 1907 |
| Gilman family | B&W photos (19) of Gilman family and 1228 Lenox Ave. house | 1912-1916, undated |
| | B&W photos (28) and slide (1) of Gilman family and 954 Kensington Ave. house | 1920s-1930s |
| | Color and B&W photos (34) of Gilman family and 950 Hillside Ave. house and gardens | 1961-1980, undated |
| | B&W photos (17) of extended Gilman family at Spring Lake, NJ | 1916, undated |
| | B&W photos (13) of Gilmans and miscellaneous people | 1890s-1930s |
| | B&W photos (13) of Karl and Roger Gilman and other children | 1910s-1920s |
| | B&W photos (4) of Charles Gilman and Marion Smith Carter Gilman | 1920s-1972 |
| | Print photo of Charles Gilman, from National Cyclopedia of American Biography | undated |
| | B&W photos (3) of Roger Gilman | 1992, undated |
| | Negatives (15) of Crescent Church ruins, Rock Ave. Animal Shelter, Kensington Ave. house | undated |

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| | Letter, to Mr. Tunis from Charles Gilman, re: biographical info about Gilman, February 26, 1972 | 1972 |
| | Handwritten family history by Charles Gilman | undated |
| | Certificate of Instruction from Harvard College for Charles Gilman | 1903 |
| | Clippings (5), Karl Gilman and Charles Gilman | 1948-1973 |
| | Printed obituary for Roger Gilman (published in the NY Times, May 31, 1992) | 1992 |
| Ladd family | Printed wedding thank you note | 1979 |
| | Bible, includes Albany, NY records (<i>Located on shelf</i>) | ca. 1811 |
| Lapsley, Josephine | Postcards sent to Josephine Lapsley at 114 Cresent Ave. | 1960s |
| MacDonald, Bernard and Ruth | Certificates, Nature Study Club of Jefferson School, Plainfield, awarded to Bernard MacDonald and Ruth MacDonald | 1932 |
| Marsh, A.L.C. | Woodhull and Martin affidavit, July 11, 1905 | 1905 |
| Roth, Mary Eleanor | Clippings (2), obituary and bio article | undated |
| | Birth certificate | 1900 |
| | Colorized B&W portrait photo | undated |
| Smith, Arthur family | B&W photos (2) of Arthur Smith in Muhlenberg Hospital, with letter | 1980 |
| | PHS report cards (3) for Robert E. Smith | 1923-1925 |
| | Telegram, from Chick O'Neill to Smith family, New Brunswick, NJ | undated |
| | Storage receipt and agreement, Faucetts Cleaners and Launderers in Plainfield, for Robert Smith | 1952 |
| | Baby journal for Robert Emmons Smith | 1908 |
| | B&W photo of Robert E. Smith at 9 months old | 1908 |
| | B&W photo (in folder frame) of William C. Smith, Sr. at 95 years, shown with military medals | undated |
| | B&W photo (mounted) of William C. Smith, Sr. at Grandview Ave. home | undated |
| | B&W photo (mounted), interior of Arthur & Grace Smith's first apartment at 315 E. 6th Street | undated |
| | B&W 5x7 photo of 1470 Rahway Road, Scotch Plains, March 15, 1964 | 1964 |
| | B&W photos (5) of 1470 Rahway Road, Scotch Plains | undated |
| | B&W photos (2) of interior, 1470 Rahway Road, Scotch Plains | undated |
| Stewart family | Wedding invitations for Ida Stewart and Louis Clausel and Louise Clausel and Guido Mino | 1916, 1958 |
| | Louise Mino correspondence | 1960-1971 |
| | Watercolor painting of 563 West 8th Street (Percy Stewart's house) | undated |
| | Book, "Prayers of Hope and Gladness" by Elinor C. Stewart | 1925 |
| | B&W photos (46) of Stewart family | 1860s-1950s |
| Stillman family | Letters to and from George Stillman, NY and Eddie and Luty Stillman, RI | 1861-1862 |

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| | Receipt for coal from Levi Hetfield, Plainfield | undated |
| Talmadge family | Sepia photo on thin paper of young girl | 1860s |
| | Letter, from Henry Talmadge to daughter Lucy | 1899 |
| | Letters, from Lucile to Cousin Henry | 1904-1905 |
| | Invitations, to Vassar College and wedding | 1869, undated |
| | Calling cards | undated |
| | Handwritten genealogy, Henry Talmadge? | undated |
| | Handwritten list of deeds | 1910 |
| | Typed genealogy, "Talmage or Talmadge Family of New Jersey" | undated |
| | Pamphlet, Colonial Families of America | undated |
| | Account pages, Henry P. Talmadge | 1930 |
| Tyler family | PPL Board memorial book for Col. Mason W. Tyler, July 2, 1907 | 1907 |
| | Common Council memorial book for Col. Mason W. Tyler, July 16, 1907 | 1907 |
| | Abstract of title search for Eliza M. Tyler, West 7th St. property (525 W. 7th) | 1870 |
| | Abstract of title search for David H. Rowland, West 7th St. property (525 W. 7th) | 1898 |
| | Deeds, agreements, bonds, mortgages, releases for West 7th St. property (525 W. 7th) | 1870-1908 |
| | Booklet, hearing at Connecticut Supreme Court about will and estate of William W. Boardman | 1907 |
| | "Ancestral Tablets: A Collection of Diagrams for Pedigrees" published 1885, handwritten Tyler family tree, entered by Cornelius B. Tyler | undated |
| | Deed, property in Pittsfield, MA, Cornelius B. Tyler | 1914 |
| | Tax receipts (NY, Seattle, Pittsfield, MA), Cornelius B. Tyler | 1915-1946 |
| | Wood Brook Farms certificate of incorporation and deeds (copies); letter about papers, Cornelius B. Tyler | 1912-1947 |
| | Stock share proxies, Rossendale Reddaway Company and Rossendale Ruboil Company, Cornelius B. Tyler | 1948-1955 |
| | "The Corn Sermon" by W.S. Tyler | undated |
| Van Norden family | Remembrance card, William E. Van Norden | 1890 |
| | Table card | undated |
| | Memorial Day card, from Mayor Charles J. Fisk | 1898 |
| | Postcard, Babcock Building's "Ritz table for High School students" | undated |
| | Hershey bar wrapper | 1900s |
| | Certificate of Promotion to seventh grade, from Irving School, Marguerite Van Norden, June 18, 1903 | 1903 |
| | English class notebook, A. Marguerite Van Norden | 1906 |
| | Typed poem or song about PHS graduation | 1909 |
| | Handwritten Jekyll and Hyde character part | undated |

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| | "The Mystical Journal" handwritten children's newsletter | 1904-1905 |
| | Photo, house at 329 Lyman Place | undated |
| | Photo (mounted), Van Norden children (William E. Van Norden, Jr., Frederick R. Van Norden, Agnes M. Van Norden) in costume for "Queen Esther" play | 1901 |
| | Ephemera - handwritten notes on paper; cover of music magazine | undated |
| Van Oss family | Letter about blueprint donated to library, 226 East 9th Street | 1993 |
| Warn(e) family | Bible records | 1796-1838 |
| Whitford family | B&W photos (4) of 318 East 6th Street, residence of Otis B. Whitford and family | undated |
| | B&W photos (48) of interior & exterior of 1410 Evergreen Ave., residence of Otis B. Whitford and family | 1939-1942, undated |
| | B&W photo of 1242 Lenox Ave., residence of Abert & Ella Whitford | undated |
| | Invitation, 50th anniversary party for Abert & Ella Whitford | 1922 |
| | Father's Day telegram, to Otis B. Whitford from Orphy & Tom | undated |
| | Clippings (2), Crandall anniversary (parents of Mabel Whitford and sister); obit for E. Frank Champlin (sister's husband) | 1929, 1946 |
| | Clippings (11), Otis B. Whitford obits | 1942 |
| | Typed tributes, resolutions, letters about Otis B. Whitford | 1942 |
| Zweifel family | Remembrance card for Henry Zweifel | 1940 |
| | Remembrance card for Marguerite Zweifel | 1944 |
| | Remembrance card for Florence Sweifel [sic] | 1954 |
| | Obituaries (2) for Florence Zweifel | 1954 |
| | Baptismal certificate for Eleanor Zweifel, Reformed Church in America (Trinity Church) | 1929 |
| | Confirmation certificate for Eleanor Zweifel, Church of the Holy Cross, North Plainfield | 1948 |
| | Certificate of Admission to High School for Eleanor Zweifel, Plainfield Public Schools | 1939 |
| | PHS diploma for Eleanor Zweifel | 1943 |
| | B&W photos (42) of Eleanor, Florence, Marguerite Zweifel and family | 1923-1939 |

Box 2

| Name | Items | Dates |
|------------------|---|----------------|
| Atterbury family | B&W and sepia photos (21) of 922 Hillside Ave. house and gardens, Albert and Emma Atterbury | 1920s, undated |
| | Calling card for Mademoiselle Escoffier | undated |
| | Envelope, "la maison de Mrs Atterbury 922 Hillside Ave" | undated |

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| Babin, Stefan | Photo card and envelope, sent to Babin | 1950 |
| Brooks, Van Wyck | Application form for Plainfield library card (new form glued to back of original) | 1910s |
| Brotman family | Merit Award, PHS, for Rita Brotman | 1945 |
| | PHS commencement program | 1944 |
| | Program, "School of Fashions" at Evergreen School, clothes provided by Teppers, Barbara Brotman was model | 1950 |
| | Program & invitation, Evergreen School Graduation Exercises, Barbara Brotman | 1950 |
| | Program, Plainfield Hebrew Institute Second Graduation Exercises, Rita Brotman | 1944 |
| | Program, Talmud Torah of Congregation Pri Eitz Chaim, First Graduation and Closing Exercise | 1942 |
| Brown, Sarah S. (Mrs. Wylie) | Vehicle registration | 1924 |
| Carman, Dr. Myron | Card with drawing and poem about Dr. Carman, April 15, 1902 | 1902 |
| Ciampa, Andrew | Courier-News certificate, Grade Champion Speller, Emerson School | 1931 |
| | Grammar school diploma | 1931 |
| | Book presented to Andrew Ciampa on completion of 8th grade, Emerson School | 1931 |
| | PHS diploma with summary of graduation credits on back | 1935 |
| | Emerson School pin (<i>Located in Artifact Box 1</i>) | 1931 |
| Drinkwater family | Autograph album, Rachel Drinkwater | 1934-1937 |
| | Application to Department of Buildings for house relocation, from 939 Arlington Ave. to 984 Arlington Ave. | 1929 |
| | Contract agreement for house sale, between Herbert A. Drinkwater and the Plainfield Board of Education | 1929 |
| | Estate appraisal papers for Herbert Allen Drinkwater | 1954 |
| | Specifications for sale and removal of dwellings on Arlington Ave. | undated |
| Finch family | B&W photos (12) of Finch family and houses at 1160 Park Ave. & 303 West 8th Street | 1890s-1940s |
| | Book, "A Tribute to Edward R. Finch" | 1966 |
| | Program, Junior League musical "Piracy" with music by Norman Finch | 1927 |
| | Program, Plainfield Seminary Commencement, Dorothy Louise Langford listed | 1915 |
| | Photo album of family, horses, horse racing, riding club, Finch house | |
| | B&W photos (11) of Finch family | 1890s-1900s |
| Giese family | Program for piano recital, pupils of Grace Powell Karr Giese | 1915 |
| | Police badge (<i>Located in Artifact Box 1</i>) | 1886 |

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|---------------------------|---|---------------|
| Hadley, William L. | Photographs of Hadley and house at 1111 Putnam Avenue | 1920s-1933 |
| | Certificate of Election (Board of County Canvassers of Union Co), notepad, letter - re: Delegate to State Constitutional Convention | 1947 |
| | Bio written by Hadley's niece | 1993 |
| Hans family | Pay stubs, International-Plainfield Motor Co./Mack Trucks (Thomas Hans) | 1948-1959 |
| | Pay stubs, A.L. Siegel Co. (Clara Hans) | 1946 |
| | Membership and dues cards, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Local 149, Plainfield (Clara Hans) | 1948-1951 |
| | Benefit card, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Local 149, Plainfield (Clara Hans) | undated |
| Hickman, A.E. | Postcards and letters addressed to Hickman requesting photographs; two personal postcards | 1910-1923 |
| | Letter and four photographic proofs | 1912 |
| Laidlaw, Elliot C.R. | Booklet, "A Century of Service" for Laidlaw & Co., NY | [1942] |
| Miller (Cortelyou) family | Photographs of Gladys and Mrs. Miller | 1946, 1967 |
| | Letters and postcards, addressed to Helen Miller | 1938-1977 |
| | Membership card in Animal Protection Institute of America for Helen Miller | undated |
| | Program, Ivy Tower Playhouse, Spring Lake, NJ | 1950 |
| | Employment paperwork for Helen Miller - pay receipt, temp agency card, letter of recommendation | 1971-1975 |
| | Genealogy of Miller family | 1973 |
| | Memorial certificate from Ronald Reagan honoring Robert W. Miller | 1980s |
| | Album page - photos of Donald Miller, his mother, and other children | 1910s-1930s |
| | Honorable Discharge record for Donald Miller (copy) | 1945 |
| | Recommendation letter for Donald Miller | 1953 |
| | Typed list of names and addresses | 1980 |
| | Diploma and folder, PHS, for Donald Miller | 1938 |
| | Award certificate, PHS Music, for Donald Miller | 1939 |
| | Certificate, The Texas Company, for Donald Miller | 1940 |
| | Certificate, Middlesex County Vocational Schools, for Donald Miller | 1951 |
| | Business card, M.W. Schenck, Carpenter & Builder, North Plainfield | 1880s-1890s |
| | Calling card, Josephine Cortelyou | 1860s-1870s |
| | Bible records, Cortelyou family | 1809-1940 |
| | Clippings, obituaries for Schenck, Cortelyou, Conover | undated, 1923 |
| | Wedding announcement, Horace Conover and Cornelia C. Schenck | 1899 |
| | Marriage certificate, John Cortelyou and Catharine Stryker | 1841 |

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| | Certificate, Life Member of Juvenile Missionary Society, for Kate A. Cortelyou | 1871 |
| | Ephemera (bible inserts) | undated |
| Morris-Ryno family | Copy photos of Mary Morris Ryno and Lewis Ryno and extended family (including Woodwards); Ryno farm in Tennent, Monmouth County, NJ [SEE ALSO: Ryno Family Collection] | 1865-1928 |
| Paulson, Beverly | Bible, given to Beverly by her grandmother, Catherine Thompson Loizeaux | 1930 |
| Price family | Bible records | 1842-1864 |
| | Small cabinet photo of a young man | 1878 |
| | Portrait photo of Lewis M. Price | 1906 |
| Saums, George W. | Photo, signed portrait of Saums | 1920s-1930s |
| | Photo, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Co. storage warehouse, Philadelphia, all concrete floors treated with Saums Preservative | 1923 |
| | Photo, man (Saums?) standing in front of brick building | 1920s |
| | Photos (2) of bus and trolley car | 1920s |
| | Photo by Collier, Geo. W. Saums Company office building, 55 Elm Place | 1920s-1930s |
| Shotwell family | Letter to John L. Shotwell from his cousin Henry Pemberton, re: death of his wife (with transcription) | 1848 |
| | Invitation to Miss Anna Manning and sisters from John Nelson | 1850 |
| Smith, Briton family | B&W photos (9) of Briton and Margaret Smith, their house at 820 Third Place, interior of home in Montreal | 1930s, undated |
| | Small color photos (6) of 820 Third Place interior | undated |
| Speiden, Robert T. | Speiden genealogy | 1957 |
| | Letter to Bob Speiden, re: answering question about recording | 1959 |
| | Receipt | 1962 |
| | Set of silverware, engraved with "Wm Speiden U.S.N." (<i>Located in Artifact Box 2</i>) | 1830s-1850s |
| | Naval uniform buttons, probably belonging to William Speiden (<i>Located in Artifact Box 2</i>) | 1830s-1850s |
| Strong family | Scans and copy photos of Strong family and house at 1030 Central Ave. | 1900s-1943 |
| | Christmas card (2) with drawing of 1030 Central Ave. and history of family and house, by Lauren McCready | 2002 |
| | Christmas card with drawing of Wheelock mansion in NYC and history of family and house, by Lauren McCready | 1989 |
| | Letter to John Grady from Lauren McCready | 2002 |
| Vanderweg, Robert E. | Invitation to reception at his home, 690 West Fourth Street | 1920s-1930s |
| Ward family | Bible records | 1831-1924 |
| | Memorial card for Henry Carr Ward | 1925 |

Box 3 (oversize box)

| Name | Items | Dates |
|-----------------------|---|--------------|
| Brokaw, Caleb | Certificate, member of the Telephone Pioneers of America, November 7, 1935 | 1935 |
| Collier, Asa | Civil War Commemorative Record | 1892 |
| | Certificate, Royal Arch Masons, Jerusalem Lodge | 1892 |
| Giese family | Program for piano recital, pupils of Grace Powell Karr Giese | 1914 |
| | Marriage certificate, Philip Giese and Augusta Mazer (copy) | 1890 |
| Dickson family | Grammar School diploma, Sophia Dickson | 1924 |
| Doane, Thaddeus O. | Civil War testimonial certificate, Thaddeus O. Doane, Co. B, 11th Regiment, NJ, July 4, 1866 (with transcription) | 1866 |
| Gilman family | Signed testimonial commemorating Roger H. Gilman's appointment as Assistant Executive Director of the Port Authority of NY-NJ, October 24, 1975 | 1975 |
| Hadley, William L. | Certificate of Election, Delegate to the State Constitutional Convention (<i>Located in Map Drawer D3</i>) | 1947 |
| | Blueprint, floor plan of Constitutional Convention, Rutgers University Gymnasium | 1947 |
| Pittis family | Map of owned lots | undated |
| Roth, Mary Eleanor | Baptismal certificate, Mary Roth, Trinity Reformed Church | 1900 |
| Sharp, Joseph S. | Civil War testimonial certificate, Joseph S. Sharp, Co. H, 15th Regiment, NJ Volunteers, [July 4, 1866] | 1866 |
| Smith family | Marriage certificate, Arthur E. Smith and Grace Emmons, Trinity Reformed Church | 1905 |
| | Civil War testimonial certificate, William C. Smith, Co. F, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, NJ Volunteers, July 4, 1866 | 1866 |
| | Civil War discharge document, William C. Smith | 1865 |
| Tracy, Howard Crosby | Certificate from Rutgers, diplomas from Yale and Columbia Law School | 1886-1889 |
| Tyler family | Map of property between Stelle Avenue and West 7th Street | undated |
| Vail family | Map of J.W. Vail estate | 1800s |
| | Photocopies from German newspaper, Newark Evening News, 1900 Newark Census schedule, Rudolph Leis | 1895-1900 |
| Van Winkle, John H. | Royal Arcanum Benefit Certificate | 1901 |
| Webster (Vail) family | Family tree | undated |