

Spring 2017

WVRHC Newsletter, Spring 2017

West Virginia & Regional History Center

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NEWSLETTER

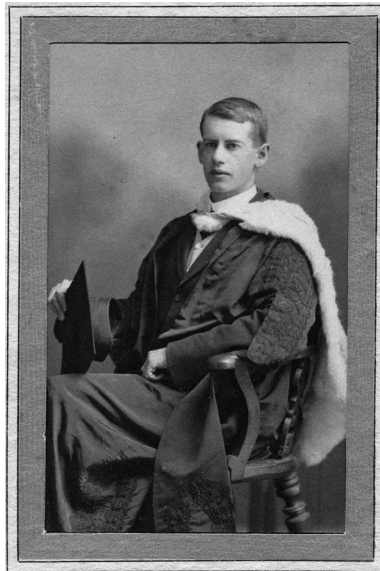
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West Virginia University Libraries

Spring 2017

WVU's First Rhodes Scholar: Charles Frederick Tucker Brooke

In October 1904, West Virginia University's first Rhodes Scholar, Charles Frederick Tucker Brooke, or "Tucker Brooke," as he was known, set off for England to study literature at St. John's College, Oxford University. Brooke earned an A.B. at WVU in 1901 and a M.A. the following. He had begun a fellowship at the University of Chicago when he was awarded the Rhodes scholarship. The Rhodes Scholar program had just been established in 1902, making Brooke among the first group of Rhodes Scholars from around the world.

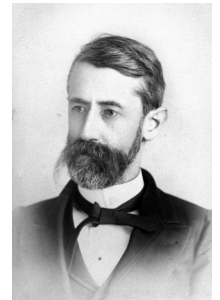


*Charles Frederick Tucker Brooke,
ca. 1906*

A recent donation of letters by Brooke to the West Virginia & Regional History Center detail his experiences at Oxford and his travels around England and Europe. From 1904 to 1906 Brooke wrote to his family and others with regular updates on his studies, social engagements, and travels. The letters are an addition to an existing collection, A&M 3865, the C.F. Tucker Brooke Papers, which is comprised of family photographs, Brooke's WVU, Oxford and Yale diplomas, and other artifacts including a program for the dedication of Brooke Tower which was named for him in 1989.

Charles Frederick Tucker Brooke was born in Morgantown in 1883 a son of St. George Tucker Brooke and wife Mary Harrison Brown. He entered the University's Preparatory Department (equivalent to high school) in 1896. During his tenure at WVU he was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity and served as Class Poet in his senior year.

His father, St. George Tucker Brooke, became WVU's first professor of law 1878, having trained at the University of Virginia. During the Civil War, St. George served in the Confederate Navy and then in the 2nd Virginia Cavalry, Fitz Lee's Brigade. Tucker Brooke's mother, Mary was a native of Charles Town, West Virginia.



*St. George Tucker Brooke,
first law professor at
WVU, ca. 1900*

The new cache of Tucker Brooke letters presents a genial and devoted young man embarking on an exciting new opportunity. In addition to the status of his studies, Tucker Brooke provided detailed descriptions of the people and places he encountered all with a subtle and good natured sense of humor. His letters begin on his journey across the Atlantic in 1904. Brooke describes the trip and his new acquaintances, including other Rhodes Scholars onboard.

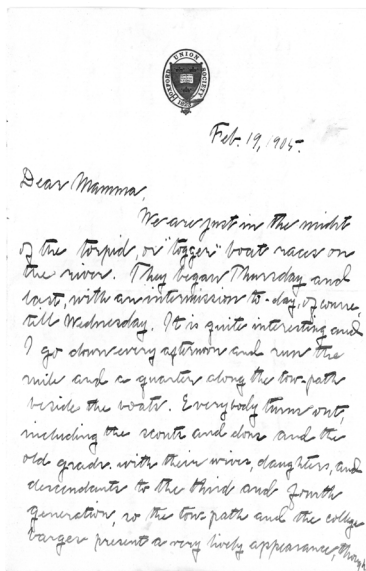
The voyage has been delightful; we have a very congenial party and have had, comparatively speaking, I believe, a very calm passage... The fellows are all very pleasant, though one or two of the Westerners are rather unpolished, among them my only companion at St. John's, Murray from Kansas... My room-mate on board is Carothers from Ark. whom I mentioned, I think, in my postal from Boston. His is one of the few undergrads, but is very pleasant and quite the soul of fun. Fleet from Va. is exceedingly good mannered and gentlemanly, as, in fact, the others are, almost without exception. I don't think I have seen a more altogether agreeable crowd. (October 3, 1904)

West Virginia and Regional History Center NEWSLETTER

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A letter from Tucker Brooke to his mother in 1905 on Union Club stationary.

Upon his arrival in England, Brooke proclaimed, "Oxford looks beautiful in its antiquity and quaintness and I know I shall like the life here very much." But his initial reaction to some British customs came with some cynicism. Lamenting the lack of hot water for baths, he noted, "Regular bathrooms are unknown in this country and all the hot water on the island, so far as I can ascertain, is taken internally in the form of weak tea."

Still, Oxford provided care and comfort for its students. Brooke was assigned two "scouts" that looked after his domestic needs. He wrote to WVU President Daniel Purinton, "I expect I shall become so lazy after a year or two of this, that I shan't know how to wait on myself when I get home."

As he settled in, his letters provide additional insight into the routines of Oxford students at beginning of the twentieth century. All students were provided with tutors who served as advisors, proscribed assignments, and kept upon them pursue their work. Brooke's first tutor was a Mr. Snow who assigned him a paper to write each week and then discussed the paper during a weekly meeting. Brooke describes Mr. Snow as "very learned and very pleasant to me personally, and I feel quite fortunate in having had him assigned to me as tutor." Brooke joined the Union Club,

"that being considered the thing to do." He described the Union as "a kind of combination of debating society, circulating library, club, and news agency with a restaurant and numerous other accessories attached." Many of his letters are written on Union Club stationary.

Brooke's correspondence does not dwell much on the subjects of his studies, but certainly reveals his studious and scholarly nature. In his first year, Brooke was especially concerned about the time spent on social calls and appearances instead of rigorous study. He relayed to his family that

Classes meet only once or twice or at most three times a week and students are left to work on much more by themselves than at home. I like the system very much, but really there is so much to do always at the university in the way of athletics and social visits from other fellows or the like, that I don't see where anyone finds much time for hard study. (October 18, 1904)

As time passed, Tucker Brooke found a balance between his studies and social activities. He did very well on his review at the end of his first term. He described the scene in detail for his mother.

I got through the last formality of the term, collections or "coleggers" as the students call it. It is quite an impressive ceremony and for those who have neglected their work a quite painful one. A long line of dons [professors] with the president in the middle sit on one side of a big table in the hall and the students are called up one by one and made to sit in solitary grandeur on the other side of the table facing the dons. One don reads the president then a short notice of the work which the student in question has done and the amount of industry he has shown. For the purposes of discipline they take care to never make this report too flattering...I fared very well as my report stated that my industry had been satisfactory, that I was by no means a beginner in English literature, and that I was adapting myself to English methods of instruction – which last point they regard evidently as a sign of considerable progress." (December 4, 1904)

A few months later Brooke remarked on the comradery that developed between the Americans at Oxford which he estimated to be about 150 in February 1905.

I don't think very many people have 150 acquaintances they are in as close touch with, as each of us is with the other members of the American colony here. I really think it is more likely that we shall Americanize Oxford than that Oxford will Anglicize me in any serious way.



Tucker Brooke and Family, ca. 1920.

During holiday and summer breaks, Tucker Brooke traveled across England and to continental Europe. This time away gave him a chance to go sightseeing but also the opportunity for solitary study. Many letters detail his long walks up mountains and across the countryside. He also eventually took up bicycling. "Bicycles are cheap here and very popular, as nearly

everyone has one and uses it to the limit. I expect to see a lot of country this spring that I could not reach by walking. For pleasure, however, and enjoyment of scenery I prefer walking very much." In April 1905, he compared a walk near Lynton in Devon, England to the scenes from his home in Morgantown.

[We] started again by a path up the Lyn river. The river is about the size of Quarry Run and very much like it, the water being equally clear and rapid. Our foot path wound along the left side at the bottom of steep, wild hills and the views here were as fine as any I have ever seen on the Cheat and rather like them. (April 29, 1905)

Tucker Brooke also spent time in Germany in Heidelberg, Freiberg and Holstein. He hoped to improve his German language speaking abilities and immersed himself while in the country. In England, Brooke traveled to London and all the cities nearby. He investigated Stratford-on-Avon which was of particular interest to him as his research focused on Shakespeare

After a year at Oxford, in November 1905, Tucker Brooke was living "my usual Oxford life with twelve or fifteen disconnected lectures a week, two tutors for whom I write papers, and enough regular work of my own to keep me occupied without preventing me from enjoying the mild frivolities of Oxford." In early 1906, he moved into new lodgings which he shared with a roommate "Tandy." In this last year, he also traveled to the islands of Guernsey and Jersey over break. He found them to be especially beautiful and an excellent place for uninterrupted "work" in preparation for his examinations.

This time for concentrated study paid off. A letter to his mother in June 1906 relays, "I was given the only first-class among the men who took the examination...."

Getting a first at Oxford is regarded as so much a matter for rejoicing that I have been kept busy answering notes of congratulation, etc."

He also enclosed a "rather gushy" note from a Miss Aglionby of London. She writes, "your parents have just cause to be proud of you; then to think an American - & a West Virginian & son of a Virginian did it -, took the only first; you have honored us all & I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

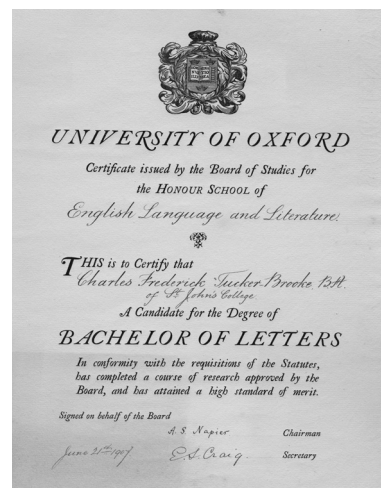


Mary Harrison Brown Brooke, ca. 1890.

Throughout his letters Brooke commented frequently on his expenses repeatedly assuring his family that the cost of living was not as expensive as expected and that he was in good financial shape. He also entreated upon his family to visit him in England also with the appeal that the cost of travel and lodgings was very low. In his later letters, his eagerness for his family to visit was a frequent topic with Tucker Brooke outlining many possible activities and ventures across England. Finally, in May 1906, he received word from his father St. George that he would visit beginning in July. Tucker Brooke's last letter in this collection was sent to his mother from Edinburgh in August and details his travels with his father.

Ultimately, Charles Frederick Tucker Brooke received B.A. (1906) and B. Litt. (1907) degrees from Oxford. In 1909, he married Grace Brakeford in Charles Town, West Virginia, with whom he would have three children. That same year, he began a long teaching career at Yale University, eventually becoming the Sterling Professor of English and a leading authority on Shakespeare and Elizabethan literature. Tucker Brooke died in Connecticut in 1946.

Through his Oxford letters, we get a rare glimpse of the life of one of WVU's distinguished alumni.



Tucker Brooke's Oxford Bachelor of Letters Certificate, 1907

West Virginia Day 2017 to Celebrate WVU's 150th Birthday

This year, West Virginia University marks 150 years as a center of education in the Mountain State. Having been granted lands to sell to fund an agricultural college through the Morrill Act, the West Virginia legislature established the Agricultural College of West Virginia on February 7, 1867. The new school occupied the properties of the Monongalia Academy and the Woodburn Seminary in Morgantown and was renamed West Virginia University in 1868. The rest, as they say, is history.

To mark this significant anniversary, the West Virginia & Regional History Center's annual West Virginia Day Celebration will focus upon the history and achievements of the university. On Tuesday, June 20, 2017, join us in the Milano Reading Room of the Downtown Campus Library for a continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m. The keynote speaker, Dr. Ron L. Lewis, Professor Emeritus in the WVU History Department, will speak at 10:00 a.m. Well known for his research in Appalachian and West Virginia history, Dr. Lewis is the author of WVU's most recently published history, *Aspiring to Greatness: West Virginia University Since World War II*, (WVU Press, 2013).

Following the keynote address, a new exhibit, "Flowing Outward and Beyond: West Virginia University 1867-2017" will open in West Virginia & Regional History Center's Davis Family Galleries. The exhibit will showcase 150 years of WVU history through documents and artifacts from the collections of the Center. Commemorative posters will be distributed to all in attendance. West Virginia birthday cake will be served in Library Atrium after the exhibit opening.

Please mark your calendars and join us on June 20. All events are free and open to the public.

WVU Monticola Yearbooks Available Online

In recognition of WVU's 150th birthday, readers might want to take a look back at University history by perusing the *Monticola* yearbooks. Digitized several years ago, the yearbooks are available to the public on the Internet Archive (<http://www.archive.org>). The yearbooks can be viewed and downloaded from this site. Just search for *Monticola* in the main search box and you can turn through the pages of the annual just like you were holding the physical book. To look for a specific year, add the year to the search terms to get that yearbook. The first *Monticola* was published in 1896. Later issues span the years 1900-1943, 1947-1948, 1954-1986, 1992 and 2000.

Selected Recent Acquisitions

American Association of University Women, Morgantown Branch. Records. 1980, 1992-2014, 6.5 in., Gift in 2016. A&M 4207.

Records documenting the Morgantown Branch of the American Association of University Women. Includes "yearbooks," minutes, newsletters, programs, and other material. There is a scrapbook dating from 1980-1981 that includes clippings and photographs.

Andrews, Tom, Author. Papers. 1972-2013, 2 ft. 6 in., Gift in 2016. A&M 4209.

Papers of author and critic Thomas Chester "Tom" Andrews (1961--2001). A native of Charleston, West Virginia, Andrews graduated summa cum laude from Hope College in 1984 and received an MFA from the University of Virginia three years later. He is best known for his poetry and his memoir, *Codeine Diary: True Confessions of a Reckless Hemophiliac* (Little Brown, 1998). Andrews was a Guggenheim fellow and winner of a Poetry Fellowship to study at the American Academy in Rome. The collection includes correspondence, manuscripts, and other material.

Annual West Virginia State High School Basketball Tournaments Programs. 1922-1932, 1 in., Gift in 2017. A&M 4216.

Collection includes six Annual West Virginia State High School Basketball Tournament programs -- the 9th, 13th, 15th, and 17th thru 19th annual tournaments played at West Virginia Wesleyan College. Also includes one football program from a high school game played at WV Wesleyan in 1928. These programs were collected by Rush Dew Holt, Sr., who was at one point the secretary of the Monongahela Valley Athletic Conference and Director of Publicity for the West Virginia Athletic Conference in 1929.

Bennett, Sallie Maxwell, Artist. Photograph Album. 1902, ¼ in., Acquired in 2017. A&M 4221.

Photograph album of sculptures by Sallie Maxwell Bennett (1857-1944), wife of Weston lawyer Louis Bennett Sr. (1849-1918), and mother of World War I flying ace Louis Bennett Jr. (1894-1918). The photographs document sculpture by Sallie Bennett, and facilities and activities of the Art Students League of New York.

Berkeley or Jefferson County Store Ledger. 1784, ¾ in., Acquired in 2017. A&M 4215.

Account ledger of a general merchandise store in the Eastern Panhandle of Virginia (later West Virginia), documenting transactions of goods purchased, services

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Diane Hackney-Oliver, Charleston, WV

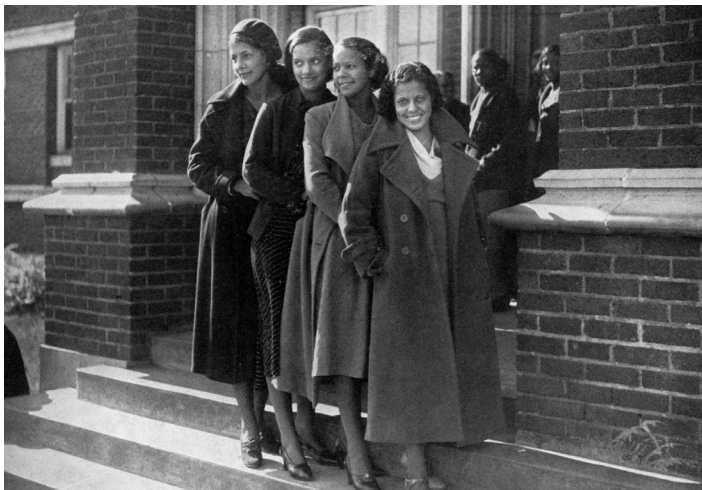
Brooks F. McCabe, Jr. Charleston, WV

R. Samuel Oliver, Charleston, WV

John E. Stealey, III, Shepherdstown, WV, Chairman

Richard R. Strother, Washington, DC

rendered as payment on accounts, and balances owed. Transaction values are recorded in English currency denominations. The store was probably owned and operated by the William Brown family. Several local family names listed as patrons include Morgan, Shepherd, Hoyt, Osborne, Jones, and Richardson. There are also two loose papers, one documenting a 1794 account for Alexander Brown, and the other documenting several undated dollar amounts and calculations written in pencil with the Maryland towns of Frederick, Boonsboro, and Cumberland listed at the top.



"A Charming Four," Students at West Virginia State College in Institute, West Virginia, from the WVSC Bulletin, June 1933.

Bickley, Ancella. Papers. 1937-2015, 12 ft. 9 in., Gift in 2016. A&M 4208.

Papers of Ancella Bickley, writer, educator, and historian. Includes writings, research materials, and more, with a special focus on history of African Americans in West Virginia. The collection includes correspondence, clippings, interview transcripts, photographs, slides, typescript writings, publications, pamphlets, ephemera, speeches, articles, military records, and more. Subjects include personal papers; Dr. Bickley's writings, which

include plays and short stories as well as her historical articles and other publications; and Dr. Bickley's historical research, focused on the history of African Americans in West Virginia. There is also an addendum of primarily transcriptions of oral histories related to black teachers and their memories of school integration.

Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute. Records. 1999-2000, 1 ft. 10 in., Transfer in 2016. A&M 4211

Records of the Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute (BRNI), one of the world's premier research institutes in the areas of human memory and diseases and disorders that impact human memory. Founded in 1999, it was named for U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller's mother, who died from complications of Alzheimer's. West Virginia University acquired the Institute in 2016. The collection includes primarily press materials, such as photographs, newspaper clippings, and videos.

Clarke, Alan. Railroad Research Papers. 1864-2012, 14ft 8 in., Gift in 2016. A&M 4212.

Papers of historian, researcher, and author Alan Clarke. Dr. Clarke authored a number of books relating to the history of railroads in West Virginia and the surrounding region. There are record series consisting of research notebooks, photographs, digital media, slides, publications, and oversize material (such as photographs, maps, certificates, etc.).



Coal & Coke Railroad Depot at Midvale, Upshur County, West Virginia, ca. 1910.

Giardina, Denise, Author. Papers. 1939-2016, 1 ft. 6 in., Gift in 2016. Addendum to A&M 3740.

Papers of Appalachian author Denise Giardina, whose 1987 novel "Storming Heaven" received the W. D. Weatherford Award, and 1992 novel "Unquiet Earth" received the American Book Award and the Lillian Smith Book Award for fiction. This addendum includes biographical information, correspondence, publications and clippings about Giardina, and photographs, among other material.

Grubb, Davis, Author. Draft of Play “The Night of the Hunter.” 1971-1976, ½ in., Gift in 2016. A&M 4210

Bound copy of the fifth draft of the play *The Night of the Hunter* by Davis Grubb (1976). Grubb was born in Moundsville, West Virginia in 1919, and wrote *The Night of the Hunter* as a thriller novel in 1953, basing the plot on the true story of murderer Harry Powers. The novel was made into a movie in 1955 and a musical version premiered in 2004. This typescript draft of the play includes inscriptions and the author’s signature on the title page.

Hagers Cemetery Photos. 2016, 34 digital files, Gift in 2016. A&M 4213

Digital photographs from Hagers Cemetery, in Stone Branch, just outside Chapmanville, in Logan County, West Virginia. The photos were taken by Brandon Ray Kirk and mostly show gravestones. Family names on the gravestones include Hager, Elkins, Justice, Stamper, Hale, Moore, Williamson, and more.

Henry, Rene A., Compiler. West Virginia Historical Material. 1915-2016, 6 in., Gift in 2017. Addendum to A&M 3720.

Personal items and collectibles of Rene Henry. A native of Charleston, WV, Rene Henry’s professional career has been multifaceted, including work in public relations, sports marketing, housing and construction, presidential campaigns, and higher education, among other activities. This addendum includes European postcards from locations in Belgium and France (ca. 1920s); William and Mary



WVU football players after practice, Bobby Moss, Sam Huff, Bruce Bosley, Joe Marconi, and Fred Wyant, with signatures from Huff and Wyant, 1955.

Alumni award announcements (2 items, 2011); article by Henry (1 item, 2013); book by Henry (1 item, 2016); collectible pins, patches, and badges (ca. 1930-2000); cap with attached pins and badges (ca. 1915-1940); wooden club inscribed with “Lester Maddox’s Pickrick Drumstick” (undated); vinyl sound recording of Lester Maddox entitled

“If I Go To Jail” with autograph by Lester Maddox (1973); and a photograph of WVU football players after practice, including Bobby Moss, Sam Huff, Bruce Bosley, Joe Marconi, and Fred Wyant (1955).

Knight, Gordon A., Compiler. Slides of Mower Lumber Company. 13 digital files, Gift in 2017. A&M 4216.

Photographic slides of Mower Lumber Company operations in the vicinity of Cass, West Virginia. Includes 13 images taken by Gordon Knight during a 1959 field trip by students of the Forestry program at West Virginia University.



Capon Springs & Baths Letterhead, Hampshire County, West Virginia, 1896.

Letter from Capon Springs and Baths in Hampshire County. 1896, 1 item, Acquired in 2017. A&M 4226.

Personal letter regarding family matters from “John” to “George” on stationery of Capon Springs & Baths in Hampshire County, West Virginia. The stationery is elaborately ornamented with a letterhead illustration of Capon Springs.

Massullo, Matthew, Collector. World War II Ration Books and Newspaper Announcing Death of President Kennedy. 1942-1945, 1963, ½ in., Gift in 2017. A&M 4220.

Includes memorabilia collected by Matthew Massullo, including six World War II ration books and one ration coupon issued in Monongalia County, a Morgantown newspaper announcing the death of President Kennedy in 1963, and one Fairmont newspaper with a headline about the West Virginia Centennial in June 1963.

S. George Company Flour Sack Collection. n.d., 1 in., Acquired in 2016. A&M 4206.

Seven original paper freight shipping bags printed by S. George Company of Wellsburg, West Virginia. All are 25 lb. flour sacks labeled for the Voigt Milling Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Contains a bag for Voigt’s Cream Flake Flour with a note on the label “Emergency Quality Milled in accordance with War Food Order No. 144” (suggesting it was made in the 1940s during World War II), Voigt’s Crescent Flour for Bread and Pastry, Voigt’s Crescent

Brand White Frost Flour, Voigt's Crescent Brand Self-Rising Pancake Flour, Voigt's Crescent Brand White Rose Flour, Carnation Brand Flour, and Carnation Brand Self-Rising Flour.

Strother, David Hunter. Letters Regarding Battles of Culpeper Court House and Cedar Mountain. 1867, 2 items, Gift in 2017. A&M 4227.

Two letters authored by David Hunter Strother (1816-1888), a nineteenth century American illustrator and writer for Harpers Magazine whose pseudonym, "Porte Crayon," was a household name. The letters date from 22 February and 29 June 1867; the recipient is an unnamed Union general. Their content concerns the Battle of Culpepper and the Battle of Cedar Mountain, of which Strother provides a partial eyewitness account. His account of the battle of Cedar Mountain appeared in Harpers as part of a series of articles he contributed to that magazine during the years 1866-1868 entitled "Personal Recollections of the War, by a Virginian."

Vehse, Charles H., Professor of Mathematics. Retirement Letters. 1965, ¾ in., Gift in 2017. A&M 4223.

Bound volume of commendation letters received by mathematics professor Charles H. Vehse upon his retirement from West Virginia University. Authors of the letters include Paul A. Miller, President of West Virginia University; Carl M. Frasure, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University; and Irvin Stewart, Professor of Political Science at West Virginia University, among others.

Weimer, David, Collector. Seneca and Houze Glass Records. ca. 1900-2005, 19 ft., Gift in 2017. A&M 4225.

Records of Seneca Glass (1891-1983) of Morgantown, West Virginia, and of Houze Glass (ca. 1920-2005) of Pt. Marion, Pennsylvania, collected by Dave Weimer, a former employee of both companies. Members of the Weimer family were employed by Seneca Glass. Materials include employee records, pattern records, chemist correspondence, catalogs, and advertising, among other material.



Selection of glass patterns, Seneca Glass Company, Morgantown, West Virginia, ca. 1930.

Weimer Family, Collector. Seneca Glass Records and Artifacts. ca. 1900-1970, 3 ft., Gift in 2017. A&M 4214.

Records and artifacts collected by the Weimer family of Morgantown, West Virginia. Members of their family worked for Seneca Glass in Morgantown. The collection includes company catalogs, brochures, photographs, paper glass patterns, glass molds, patterned glass tiles, and other material.

West Virginia University, Agricultural Extension Service. 4-H Records. ca. 1930-1995, 8 ft. 9 in., Transfer in 2016. A&M 5221.

Includes county-by-county records of all 4-H members who attended the National 4-H Congress in Chicago from the 1930s-1990s. This was a major national event, and represented the pinnacle of the National 4-H Awards Program. Each one of these records contains a fairly detailed report on project work, and many contain photographs, first person stories, and other information. Also includes National 4-H Alumni Recognition Award winners, scholarship winners, as well as a small amount of information on African-American award winners from the time when the program was segregated.

West Virginia University, College of Agriculture. Farmers' Week Prospectus. 1915, 1 item, Transfer in 2017. A&M 5222.

A prospectus advertising "Farmers' Week and the Farmers' Winter Courses to be held at the College of Agriculture, West Virginia University" starting on January 3, 1916 (11 1/2 in. x 27 in.). This item is Series 16, No. 3 of the West Virginia University Bulletin, and was separated from a bound volume for preservation.

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*Charles Frederick Tucker Brooke,
WVU's First Rhodes Scholar, ca. 1930.*