

BROOKE WHITING HOUSE OF ART

BROOKE WHITING ARCHIVES

ALLEGANY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOK COLLECTION

Record Group 11 of the Whiting Archives

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The library of the Allegany County Historical Society contains over 800 volumes and mainly includes genealogical sources, Allegany County and Maryland histories, literary works, and military histories. The records date from 1608 through 2005. The bulk of the collection is from 1790 - 1919 and 1950 - 1999.

The collection is divided into three series and is arranged by topic. The series are genealogy, Western Maryland history, and Maryland history.

A considerable portion of the collection regards genealogy and is arranged by type and includes genealogical guides, individual family histories, genealogical books covering geographic areas, and historical and genealogical books. These records exist in various forms and include pedigrees, genealogies, biographical sketches, censuses, cemetery records, war registers, wills, assessment books, church records, city directories, local histories, and church centennial booklets. A strength of the collection is the various family histories that include, but are not limited to, ancestors of the Bayles, Bruce, Cresap, Cunningham, Eckhart, Foulke, Humbird, McCreary, Rohrbach, Tiernan, and Young families. Also noteworthy are Allegany County records such as land assessments from 1798-1803 and 1833-1841; the 1800, 1850, and 1870 Census; Rose Hill Cemetery records; city directories dating intermittently from 1884 - 1999; and the early records of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Centre St. Methodist Church, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Zion Reformed Lutheran Church, and Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Early histories of Maryland and Allegany County also comprise this series.

A significant aspect of the collection is the Western Maryland Series. These works are arranged by topic and begin with general histories of Western Maryland, Allegany County, and Garrett County and are followed by specific subjects of Western Maryland history such as archeology, cemeteries, churches, codes, disasters, the environment, historic events, historic sites, historic periods, hospitals, industries, internal improvements, literary works, military history, prominent individuals, reports, schools, and societies. Records of particular note include Scharf's 1882 *History of Western Maryland*, Thomas and Williams' 1923 *History of Allegany County*, Cumberland's St. Nicholas Hotel Register from the 1870s - 1890s, Western Maryland Hospital Ledger from 1892 - 1911, Griffin's 1899 *Cumberland, Its Industries and Its Men*, Georges Creek Coal and Iron Company Register from 1838 - 1840, and Abbott's 1865 *History of the Civil War in America*. This series includes sources of historically significant topics such as Fort Cumberland, the National Road, the C&O Canal, the B&O Railroad, the Western Maryland

Railroad, Queen City Station and Hotel, Downtown Cumberland, Queen City Era businesses, and more.

There are several early histories of Maryland with the oldest dating to 1850. The Maryland history series also provides information regarding Baltimore's history, Jewish life in Baltimore, the coal-mining and brewing industries, historic bridges, and the history of Maryland Masons. The weaknesses of the entire collection are the incomplete volumes, unknown authors and dates, and several outdated sources. However, the collection extensively covers Western Maryland's history and Allegany County's genealogy; and thus, provides a valuable research tool for the interpretation of the region's past. Such holdings will greatly contribute to the preservation and awareness of Allegany County's heritage. Moreover, by studying the genealogical works, numerous descendants of Queen City Age residents will discover their Western Maryland roots.

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CMP