

GUIDE TO THE FRASER FAMILY PAPERS

Collection Abstract: The Fraser Family Papers include genealogical materials, memoirs, and reproductions of photos and documents relating to the history of the Fraser family in England and America.

Collection Title: THE FRASER FAMILY PAPERS

Inclusive Dates: ca. 1840-2002

Size: 2 Boxes (1 l.f.)

Source: Gift of Peter Fraser

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Repository: Port Washington Public Library Local History Center

FRASER FAMILY PAPERS

FAMILY HISTORY:

Alfred Fraser (1840-1915) was the first member of the Fraser family to be connected with Port Washington. Born in England, he was married to Mary Crocker in 1868 in Somerset, England. After several years in London, they moved their family to New York in 1878 and settled in Brooklyn. In 1895 Alfred Fraser purchased land in Sands Point from Eliza Mott and built a summer home. The home, known as Ashcombe, was one of five family homes referred to as Ashcombe. **(See list at the end of the Family History)**

Alfred Fraser worked in the fur trade, starting his employment with C. M. Lampson & Co. in England. He was among the founders of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Port Washington. After his death in 1915, Alfred Fraser's land was sold to Edgar F. Luckenbach. During the 1950's the property was developed into the area of Sands Point now known as Shorewood.

Two of Alfred Fraser's sons became residents of Port Washington: Alfred Valentine Fraser (d. 1931) and Robert William Fraser (1882-1959). Alfred Valentine Fraser was the eldest son of Alfred and Mary Fraser. He was married to Martha Mott, who was the daughter of Thomas and Martha Willets Mott. At the time of his death, Alfred V. Fraser was the vice-president of the Port Washington National Bank and a director of the Roslyn Savings Bank. He had also served as Mayor of the village of Sands Point. His grandson, Richard Denning Fraser (b.1932), currently resides in Flower Hill.

Robert William Fraser was a prominent resident of Port Washington and Sands Point. He was a member of the Manhasset Bay Yacht Club where he served as commodore from 1938-1940. He was also a member of the New York Yacht Club. Fraser had followed his father into the fur trade and was a board chairman of Lampson, Fraser & Huth at the time of his retirement in 1951. The company later became the Hudson's Bay Fur Sales, Inc. Robert William Fraser was married to Anie Franke, and had two sons: Robert William Fraser, Jr. (1918-1958) and Peter Fraser (b. 1925), both of whom settled in Port Washington.

Robert William Fraser, Jr. (known as "Bobby") attended local schools. According to his brother Peter, he was the first student to be registered at the Vincent Smith School. He later attended Hofstra University (at that time Hofstra College) and served in the Coast Guard Reserve during World War II. An avid sailor, he was a member of the Manhasset Bay Yacht Club and the Cruising Club of America. He and his wife, Carmela Sanford, lived at 15 Hampton Court with their two children, Anie Virginia (b. 1947) and Robert William 3rd (b. 1951). At the time his death in 1958, Robert William Fraser, Jr. was an officer of the Hudson's Bay Co.

Peter Fraser was born on June 3, 1925. He attended the Vincent Smith School, the Friends Academy (Locust Valley), the Main Street School and Port Washington High

School. Fraser graduated from Cornell University in 1948. After a year in the Army (1948-1949) he returned to his studies and received a Masters degree in Education from Hofstra University. In addition to teaching, Fraser traveled extensively, including a hitch-hiking trip from Venezuela to Bolivia and back, in 1953.

List of family homes known as “Ashcombe”

Ashcombe (I): Mary Crocker’s family farm in Somerset, England

Ashcombe (II): Alfred and Mary Fraser’s home in Putney (London)

Ashcombe (III): Original Sands Point summer home of Alfred and Mary Fraser (what is now Shorewood)

Ashcombe (IV): Home of Robert William Fraser and Anie Franke Fraser, Port Washington Blvd. and Vanderverter Ave.

Ashcombe (V): Second home of Robert William and Anie Fraser on Old house Lane in Sands Point, built in 1953

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The Fraser Family Papers include genealogical materials, memoirs, and reproductions of photos and documents relating to the history of the Fraser family in England and America. The collection also includes several books and bound periodicals which may have been part of the family’s library.

The images in the collection document the history of the Fraser family and also the history of Port Washington and Sands Point. Pictures of family members skating, sledding and boating depict some of the activities shared by Port Washington residents during the first half of the 20th century and show the Port Washington waterfront, local homes, Beacon Hill, and Munson’s Pond.

ORGANIZATION:

The collection is arranged into four series:

SERIES I: Biographical and Genealogical Papers

SERIES II: Peter Fraser Writings

SERIES III: Images (from Fraser Family albums)

SERIES IV: Books and Printed Matter

OTHER SUBJECTS:

Port Washington History

Port Washington Homes

Port Washington Waterfront

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS:

Series I: Biographical and Genealogical Papers, ca. 1851-1940 (1 folder)

Includes genealogical charts, indentures, clippings and obituaries relating to the Fraser family history.

Series II: Peter Fraser Writings, 1984; 2002 (1 folder)

Includes a biographical sketch of Alfred Fraser written in 1984, and Peter Fraser's personal history which he wrote in 2002.

Series III: Images (from Fraser Family albums), ca. 1840-1959

These photocopies and copy prints are duplicates of pages in Fraser Family albums. The images include family portraits, Fraser homes, waterfront scenes, boats, and skating scenes. In addition to pictures, the albums contained clippings, invitations, and announcements. The series also includes 2 original photos: a racing sailboat (probably on Manhasset Bay) and the Vanderbilt Cup Race in 1910.

Series IV: Books and Printed Matter, ca. 1859-1920 (7 volumes)

Several books and bound periodicals which may have been part of the family's library. Also included is a 1920 history of the Hudson's Bay Company which was presented to Valentine Fraser.

BOX LIST:

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	1	Biographical and Genealogical Papers
	2	Peter Fraser – Writings
	3-4	Images from Fraser Family Albums
	5	Copy prints from Fraser Family Albums
		1) Anie F. Fraser
		2) Frederick Christian Franke
		3) Helen Olivia Keplinger Franke
		4) Robert W. Fraser
		5) Mary Crocker Fraser
		6) Elizabeth Denning Crocker
		7) Michael Fraser
		8) Alfred Fraser
		9) Lucy Wells Keplinger
		10) Robert William Crocker
		11) Fraser Family Group at Sands Point, ca. 1884
		12) Elizabeth Mary (Klingham) Fraser
		13) Franke Family Group, 1906
		14) Robert W. and Anie F. Fraser, 1942
		15) Aerial view of Ashcombe, ca. 1953

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	5 (cont'd)	<p>Copy prints from Fraser Family Albums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16) Franke House on Summit Rd., Beacon Hill 17) Leed's Pond 18) Thayer House, ca. 1915 19) "Locustmere", 1896 (Lippincott Hose) 20) Ashcombe (IV), Port Washington Blvd., ca. 1923, 21) Unidentified Fraser aunt, 1912 22) Ashcombe (IV), ca. 1948 23) "Plandome" House 24) Bill Lippincott's father, "Locustmere", Sands Point 25) Unidentified woman in garden, 1909 26) Woman on horse & buggy, Ashcombe, ca. 1910 27) Anie & Emma Franke, and Ethel Hughes, sledding at Beacon Hill, ca. 1914 28) Horace Parmelee with two women, skating on Munson's Pond, ca. 1920's 29) Bill Lippincott, Anie Fraser, & others, ca. 1915 30) Franke House, Summit Road, Beacon Hill 31) Woman on horse & buggy, Ashcombe, 1912 32) Woman on horse & buggy, Ashcombe, ca. 1910 33) Alfred Valentine Fraser ("Val"), 1912
6		Two original photographs: Racing boat and Vanderbilt Cup Race
7		Negatives
2		<p>Bound Volumes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Primary History of the United States. NY: Mason Brothers, 1869. (Loose boards, missing pages) 2. [... on the Horse With Treatise of Draught and...] J.B. Lippincott & Co. (Title on spine only partially legible; title page missing) 3. Godey's Lady's Book and Magazine. 1859. (Missing pages) 4. Godey's Lady's Book and Magazine. 1865. (Missing pages) 5. Chambers's Journal. March-August, 1856. 6. Chambers's Journal. July 1858- December 1859. 7. The Mysterious Island. Jules Verne. (Missing title page and other pages) 8. The Hudson's Bay Company 1670-1920. Sir William Schooling, K.B.E., London: The Hudson's Bay Company, 1920.