

Title: Jones Sisters Collection
Collection dates: 1920's - 1940's (??)

Collection number: MS 14

Extent: 2 linear feet, 2 boxes

Creator: Miss Elsie Sluby, Miss Ida Webb, Miss Frances Isabelle

Condition of access: Unrestricted, by appointment only

Language: English

Repository: Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections

Contact Information:

Enoch Pratt Free Library

400 Cathedral Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

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Source of Acquisition:

The Jones Sisters Collection of hand painted photographs most likely dates from the 1920s to the 1940s. There is no information on how the collection came to the Pratt Library. Cousins of the sisters maintain a large portion of the Jones Sisters work and artifacts today. The Gate House Museum in Sykesville, MD also owns a large collection of the Jones Sisters painted photographs; however, those at the Pratt are larger in format.

Biographical History:

The Jones Sisters were Miss Elsie Sluby, Miss Ida Webb, and Miss Frances Isabelle. They were born in the 1870s and 1880s, and lived together in and around Sykesville, MD. Inspired by Ida's classes at the Maryland Institute of Art and their love of beauty and history, they launched into a career of shooting fine photographs of a variety of subjects, many local, and hand coloring them with oil paints. Elsie took the photographs. Ida hand colored them, and Frances wrote the brief histories which accompanied the photos.

Scope and Contents Note:

This collection includes 21 photographs, each matted and approximately 11 inches by 14 inches. The mats were signed in pencil, "Jones Sisters" directly under the photo on the right hand side. All of the photos are undated. They are numbered with a brief description of the subject on the reverse of the mats. They are numbered 1 thru 23, with numbers 5 and 20 missing. Only six of these images duplicate those in the large format photo collection. Also included in the collection is Maryland History through the Camera's Eye (1944) by the Jones Sisters. The book contains 25 postcard size hand painted photographs of landmarks in counties in Maryland, each signed in pencil by the Jones Sisters. The collection is divided into three series: I. Introductory materials; II. Published Book; III. Photographs.

Series Description:**Series I: Introductory Materials**

This series contains a photocopy of the section on the Jones Sisters in the book, Images of America: Sykesville by Bill Hall, published in 2001 by Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC. (MD F182.7.S9H35 2001), and the original list of images. Also included is a copy of a web page about the Jones Sisters and some notes pertaining to Gate House Museum contacts used in research.

Series II: Published Book

Maryland History through the Camera's Eye, (1944) by the Jones Sisters.
4 copies, each signed.

Series III: Photographs

Twenty-one photographs, hand painted, matted and signed in pencil by the Jones Sisters.

Container List:**Series I: Introductory Materials**

Box 1 Folder 1 Photocopies and contact list

Series II: Books

Box 1 Folder 2 Maryland History through the Camera's Eye (1944)
(MD XF172.3 .J66) 4 copies

Series III: Photographs (21) – Box 2

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| Photograph # 1 | “Homewood,” home of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, now the Library at Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. |
| Photograph # 2 | “Homewood,” erected by Charles Carroll for his son in 1809, on part of a tract of land surveyed in 1670 for John Homewood. |
| Photograph # 3 | “Gilman Hall,” home of Dr. Daniel Coit Gilman, first president of the University. |
| Photograph # 4 | Views from Gilman Hall tunnel overlooking the Campus. |
| Photograph # 6 | Fort McHenry, Baltimore, MD |
| Photograph # 7 | Copy. Sallie Lloyd of Wye House and sister Mary Taylor Lloyd who married Francis Scott Key. Painted in the Chase home garden, Annapolis, MD. |
| Photograph # 8 | Kitchen in the home of Chief Justice Taney and brother-in-law of Francis Scott Key. |

- Photograph # 9 Copy. Isabel Sluby, daughter of Nicholas Sluby of Sweden, whose ship was the first to enter the port of Rock Hall, who afterwards married David Jones, whom Jones Falls was named for.
- Photograph # 10 Catoctin Village, MD. Colonial village of Revolutionary fame.
- Photograph # 11 Catoctin Furnace, where one ton of bullets were made and sent to the Battle of Yorktown.
- Photograph # 12 Jug Bridge, Frederick, MD. Spanning the Moncsacy River. Built in 1807.
- Photograph # 13 Old Toll Gate house, at the entrance of the Jug Bridge, Frederick, MD.
- Photograph # 14 “Prospect Hall,” built by Tasker Dulany, one of George Washington’s aides.
- Photograph # 15 “Waveland,” built by Larkin Dorsey in early nineteenth century, on the New Year’s Gift tract, so named when patented in 1706, as a New Year’s Gift from the proprietary.
- Photograph # 16 Beneath the Boswood at Monpelier. Built in the late seventeenth century by Thomas Snowden.
- Photograph # 17 Indian peep holes surround the doorway at Whitehall, built in 1766 by Horatio Sharpe, last governor of the province. Constant watch was kept from these little peep holes for Indians coming up the Chesapeake Bay.
- Photograph # 18 Court House, Westminster, Carroll Co, MD. Built in 1836.
- Photograph # 19 An Old Covered Bridge, Harford County, MD.
- Photograph # 21 “Deep Falls” St. Mary’s Co. Built by Major William Thomas about 1745 and is still owned by his descendants.
- Photograph # 22 Entrance to “Deep Falls.” Note the old latch and hinges.
- Photograph # 23 Southampton, St Mary’s Co., MD. Built by Richard Bond, in the seventeenth century, the ivy clinging to the huge chimneys is said to have been brought from Kenilworth Castle.

Processed by: Anita Carrico, March 2005