

**Stewart Bell Jr. Archives**  
**Handley Regional Library & Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society**  
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**Bowman Family Collection**  
**249 THL**

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS:** Collection is open to all researchers.

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE:** Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

**PHYSICAL ACCESS:** Original materials are stored off-site. Retrieval must be requested 2 days in advance. Digital copies of the collection are available online through FamilySearch and in the Archives Reading Room (GSU disc 006-03).

**PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Initial processing undertaken in 1983. Last updated by Lorna M. Loring on March 20, 2024.

**EXTENT:** 8 volumes (notebooks)

**CREATOR:** Bowman, Ray O.

**DATE:** 1750-1950

**EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF COPIES:** FamilySearch (then operating as the Genealogical Society of Utah) digitized this collection in 2007. The collection is available online through FamilySearch.org. Use the catalog to search for Image Group Number (DGS) 4168026 to find “Genealogical collections, Bowman Family collection, 1600-2005.”

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:** The Bowman Family Collection contains extensive genealogy materials of the Bowman family, covering the mid-eighteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries. It includes correspondence and newspaper clippings. Ray O. Bowman compiled the collection.

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL:** The first member of the Bowman family to settle in the Shenandoah Valley was a German immigrant named George Bowman, who purchased 1,000 acres along the west bank of Cedar Creek near Strasburg on October 3, 1734, from his father-in-law Jost Hite. Bowman’s property encompassed an area that includes present-day Shenandoah, Warren, and Frederick County. The Bowman family has lived in the Shenandoah Valley ever since and has participated in many important events in Valley history. Abraham Bowman served as colonel of the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, known as the German regiment, during the Revolutionary War, and Joseph Bowman served as second-in-command to General George Rogers Clarke during the Vincennes Expedition in 1779. He died of wounds received at Vincennes. A number of Bowman family members have served in some capacity during all American conflicts from the Civil War to World War II, and have played an important role in the political, social, and economic life of the Valley for nearly 300 years.

**RELATED MATERIAL:** Hite-Bowman-Hall Family Papers, 168 WFCHS

**IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:** Gift of Ray O. Bowman

**CONTAINER LIST:**

**BOX 1**

Genealogy notebooks – Bowman Family, books 1 and 3 (book 2 not donated)

**BOX 2**

Genealogy notebook – Bowman family, book 4

**BOX 3**

Genealogy notebooks – Bowman family:

- Book 5, descendants of Christian Bowman
- Book 6, descendants of Jacob Stover and Catherine Bowman, daughter of Christian Bowman