

Stewart Bell Jr. Archives
Handley Regional Library & Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society
P.O. Box 58, Winchester, Virginia 22604
Tel.: (540) 662-9041, ext. 17 • Email: archives@handleyregional.org
Website: www.handleyregional.org/archives

Adam Douglass Collection
Collection Number: 70 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.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Processed by Lorna M. Loring. Last updated January 22, 2025.

ACCESSION NUMBER(S): 2024.076 THL

EXTENT: 1 item

DATE: Circa 1800

SCOPE AND CONTENT: This collection contains a leather fire bucket once owned by Winchester resident Adam Douglass, as well as biographical information about Douglass.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: Adam Douglass was born in Belfast on November 1, 1790, to a family of Scots Irish heritage. Following the Irish Rebellion of 1798, he left Ireland with an uncle and settled in America, before once again returning to Ireland and joining the British Army. He served in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. He returned to America and settled in the Shenandoah Valley. Records show that in 1795 he purchased an insurance policy for a property at 28 South Loudoun Street in Winchester through the Mutual Assurance Company. This is now known as the Godfrey Miller House. He worked as a merchant, teacher and surveyor and also authored *The Irish Emigrant: A Historic Tale Founded on Fact*, published in Winchester in 1817. He eventually moved to Kentucky. He died in 1849 and is buried in a Baptist cemetery in Laconia, Indiana.

From the seventeenth through to the nineteenth century, householders would equip themselves with leather fire buckets to extinguish fires occurring both in their own homes and those of their neighbors. In the event of a house catching fire, neighbors would gather water and form chains to douse the flames. While such actions did not always result in saving a burning house, they may have slowed the fire and prevented it spreading to other homes. Buckets were identified by name and number to ensure they were returned to their owner.

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Fire bucket transferred from Handley Library Collections. Biographical material collected by Archives Staff.

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX 1

Physical Location: Shelved with artifacts/objects

Leather fire bucket, painted with words “Adam Douglass, No. 2”

Douglass, Adam, Biographical sketch, written by John Crone, 2022