

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

John Handley Collection
Collection Number: 522 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. *Note: As noted in the section below, some items in this collection are copies of materials belonging to another institution. Consult the holding institution with questions about copyright and use of these materials.*

TECHNICAL ACCESS: This collection contains audiovisual materials that must be accessed with a media player.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Initial finding aid created in 1986. Last updated by Nova Kulakowski, October 2025

EXTENT: 1.58 linear feet

DATE: 1866-1995

SCOPE AND CONTENT: The John Handley Collection contains information about the dispersal of Judge Handley's estate and the subsequent 100th anniversary celebration of the bequest. There are some personal items and biographical sketches, as well as a handwritten opinion by Judge Handley in a case he adjudicated in September 1875.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: John Handley was born in Ireland in 1835. He emigrated to the United States and became a U.S. citizen in New York in 1856. He settled in Scranton, PA, where he practiced law. Handley had friends in Winchester and began visiting the area in 1869. When he died in 1895, Handley left a bequest amounting to over one million dollars to the City of Winchester for the education of the poor and \$250,000 for the construction of a public library. He is buried in Mt. Hebron Cemetery.

RELATED MATERIAL: The DVD "Judge John Handley Bequest 100th Anniversary Dinner," February 1, 1995 is located in the Media Collection, 1306 THL.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Quarles, Garland R. *John Handley and the Handley Bequests to Winchester, Virginia*. Winchester, VA: Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, 1998, second edition.

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Gift of multiple donors.

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX 1

News Articles—Judge John Handley—unnumbered pages, printed (photocopy)

Handley, John – Papers

Handley, John – Letters to Holmes Conrad, 1885 (Dec. 14; Dec. 23), with transcriptions, 2 leaves, manuscript, 2 leaves, typescript

Handley, John – Letters to Holmes Conrad, 1886 (May 17.; Nov. 5), with transcriptions, 2 leaves, manuscript, 2 leaves, typescript

Handley, John – Letters to Holmes Conrad, 1887 (Jan. 15), with transcriptions, 1 leaf, manuscript, 1 leaf, typescript

Handley, John – Letters to Holmes Conrad, 1888 (Mar. 1), with transcriptions, 1 leaf, manuscript, 1 leaf, typescript

Handley, John – Letters to Holmes Conrad, 1889 (Nov. 14; Nov. 26; Dec. 7), with transcriptions, 3 leaves, manuscript, 3 leaves, typescript

Handley, John – Letters to Holmes Conrad, 1890 (Feb. 11; Apr. 9; Apr. 18; Apr. 20; May 23; Dec. 15; Dec. 16; Dec. 16), with transcriptions, 8 leaves, manuscript, 8 leaves, typescript

Handley, John – Letters to Holmes Conrad, 1891 (Jan. 9; Mar. 20; Apr. 16; May 22; May 30; Dec. 4; Dec. 12;), with transcriptions, 7 leaves, manuscript, 7 leaves, typescript

Handley, John – Letters to Holmes Conrad, 1893 (Mar. 28), with transcriptions, 1 leaf, manuscript, 1 leaf, typescript

Handley, John – Letter to Clarence Pifer, April 16, 1890, 2 leaves, manuscript (photocopy with original)

Legal opinion written by Judge Handley, September 1875, re-naturalization of James P. Kane, 2 items, 10 leaves, manuscript; 1 leaf, typescript

Handley, Elizabeth—letters of administration intestate, 1866, 3 leaves, manuscript on printed form (photocopy)

Visiting card, John Handley, c. 1890, 1 item, printed; 1 item, typescript

Will of John Handley, Deceased, n.d., c. 1895

Will – United States Court of Appeal, Exhibit B – Judge John Handley, na, nd.
Exhibit C – Pennsylvania Railroad

Biographical Information

Correspondence concerning Handley's biography and photo of tomb, 6 leaves, typescript, 1 ph

"Judge John Handley, 1835-1895"—biographical sketch by Garland R. Quarles, 1974, 5 items, 4 pages, printed

"Judge John Handley: Yankee Carpet-Benefactor of Winchester," by William W. Hassler, article in *Virginia Country*, September-October 1984, 4 leaves, printed (photocopy)

Handley, Judge John – correspondence, etc. between C. F. Staples and Lackawanna Historical Society, 1958, 14 leaves (photocopy) Note: Original correspondence housed by Lackawanna Historical Society.

“The Legacy of John Handley,” *Shenandoah Insights*, August/September 2007, 1 volume, printed

Items concerning 100th Anniversary of Bequest

100th anniversary celebration (1895-1995), John Handley Memorial Dinner, February 1, 1995 -invitation, program, guest list, 3 leaves, manuscript on printed form (photocopy); 3 pages, 1 leaf, printed

"John Handley, R. Gray Williams and Progressive Education for Winchester," paper delivered by Kenneth W. Rose, February 1, 1995, at 100th Anniversary Memorial Dinner, 1 item, 28 leaves, typescript (photocopy)

BOX 2 – Estate Papers

Correspondence, 1895-1908 – "Estate of John Handley, Deceased," 1 item, bound book, 479 leaves, manuscript and typescript (copy)

Correspondence, 1897, 3 leaves, manuscript; 1 leaf, typescript

Correspondence, 1915-1917, 21 leaves, typescript; 15 leaves, manuscript; 20 leaves, typescript telegrams; 2 leaves, manuscript (copy) telegram

Equity Improvement Company of Scranton, PA

Archbald Borough Addition, 3 leaves, blueprints

Estate of John Handley in Scranton PA, 4 leaves, renderings

Physical Location: Oversize, Box 20

Equity Improvement Company of Scranton, PA–Book of notes, 1874-1917 (#1-176), 1 item, manuscript on printed form

Equity Improvement Company of Scranton, PA–Interest account bankbook (Shenandoah Valley National Bank of Winchester), 1920-1923, 1 item

Equity Improvement Company of Scranton, PA–Report and Appraisement, 1914, 4 leaves typescript (photocopy)

Equity Improvement Company of Scranton, PA–Report of Capitol Stock, 1895 and 1915, unnumbered pages, manuscript on printed form

Equity Improvement Company of Scranton, PA–Statements, March 26, 1895 to November 6, 1913, 1 item, 55 leaves, typescript (copy)

Equity Improvement Company of Scranton, PA–Transfer of stock receipts, 1874-1917, 11 leaves, manuscript on printed form

Equity Improvement Company of Scranton, PA–Trustees correspondence and reports, 1897-1913, 53 leaves, typescript (copy)

Petition of the Handley Board of Trustees, 1914-1915 (folder contains the following):

Correspondence between lawyers, June 1914-March 1915, 5 leaves, typescript; 11 leaves, typescript (copy)

Petition to court, February 20, 1915, 21 leaves, typescript (copy)

Show cause order, February 20, 1915, 3 items, 2 leaves, typescript (copy); 1 leaf, typescript on printed form

Answer of the Executors, March 1915, 3 items, 13 leaves, typescript, 2 copies

Answer of the Executors, March 1915, 13 leaves, typescript (copy)

Answer of the Executors, March 1915, 13 leaves, typescript (copy)

Facts for basis of reply to the petition of the Handley Board of Trustees, no date, 5 leaves, typescript (copy)

Plat of Handley Estate Subdivision, compiled by Alexander Spotswood Dandridge, October/November 1921, 3 items

Physical Location: Oversize, Box 20

"Report of the Handley Board of Trustees for Two Years Ending December 31, 1917," 1 item, 24 pages, printed

BOX 3

Stock Certificates for Equity Improvement Co. of Scranton, PA, #1-85, 86 leaves manuscript on printed form

Bookkeeping Journal, 1895-1916, 1 item, manuscript, bound volume

Ledger, 1895-1911, 1 item, manuscript, bound volume

BOX 4

Annual Accounts of Executors Books, February 18, 1895 – May 11, 1917, 2 items, bound, 208 leaves, typescript, (photocopy)

AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS:

[522 AVM – 01] 100th Anniversary Celebration of John Handley, 85 minutes. MP4

Technical Access: Saved as an MP4 on the AV hard drive. Ask an archives staff member for assistance.