

Stewart Bell Jr. Archives
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Vivienne Jackson Family Collection
Collection Number: 116

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 Nova Kulakowski, February 17, 2026.

ACCESSION NUMBER(S): 2017.002 THL, 2019.001 THL, 2020.004 THL, 2026.004 THL

EXTENT: 0.21 linear feet plus one object.

CREATOR: Jackson, Vivienne L. (1926-2024)

DATE: 1918-2020

EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF COPIES: Photographs in this collection have been digitized and are available to view online through the Past Perfect online database: <http://handley.pastperfectonline.com/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT: The Vivienne Jackson Family Collection contains materials related to the Jackson family, who owned and operated Ruth's Tea Room in Winchester, Virginia. The collection includes letters to members of the Jackson family, business records of Ruth's Tea Room, miscellaneous materials related to the Jackson family and/or Ruth's Tea Room, and a dinner bell that was purportedly used to announce when meals were ready.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: Ruth E. P. Jackson (1896-1953) and Boyd Franklin Jackson (1894-1983) opened Ruth's Tea Room at 128 E. Cecil Street in 1925. In 1926, Vivienne L. Jackson (1926-2024) was born at home; the Jackson family lived above Ruth's Tea Room. When Ruth had a heart attack in 1943, Vivienne took on responsibilities in the tea room alongside her father, Boyd. Vivienne also graduated from Douglas School in 1943. When Boyd passed away in 1983, Vivienne continued to run the tea room until it closed its doors in 2005. The structure at 128 E. Cecil St. has since been demolished, but the Ruth Jackson Memorial Park stands in its place. The legacies of the Jackson family can be found in the abundant testimonies of those that patroned Ruth's Tea Room and knew Ruth, Boyd, and Vivienne Jackson. Ruth's Tea Room was known as a place where all were welcome, particularly in the era of segregation in the United States.

RELATED MATERIAL: Jackson, V., & Lowe, F. (2025). Oral history interview with Vivienne Jackson. *Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, XXXV*, 73-92.

Shelf location: 975.599 Win in the Reading Room.

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Materials acquired by gift of Vivienne Jackson and by purchase.

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX 1

Correspondence – Vivienne Jackson, 1950-1951.

Letter, [Luther] “Buddy” [Smith] to Vivienne Jackson, January 30, 1950, 4 leaves with envelope.

Letter, Luther “Buddy” Smith to Vivienne Jackson, January 1, 1951, 1 leaf with envelope.

Letter, Luther “Buddy” Smith to Vivienne Jackson, February 18, 1951, 1 leaf with envelope.

Correspondence – Boyd F. Jackson and Vivienne Jackson, 1918-1953.

Letter, H. L. Tolbert to Private Boyd F. Jackson, August 12, 1918, 1 leaf with envelope.

Letter, William W. Hackston to Boyd F. Jackson, June 24, 1924, 1 leaf with envelope.

Letter, Ruth and Uncle Harry to Boyd and Vivienne Jackson, September 29, 1953, 1 leaf with envelope.

Correspondence – Ruth E. P. Jackson, 1932.

Letter, Roy and Helen [Miles] to R[uth] E. P. Jackson, May 16, 1932, 1 leaf with envelope.

Ruth’s Tea Room, Business Records, 1984-1998, 9 leaves.

Ruth Jackson Memorial Park, 2020, 2 leaves.

Vivienne Jackson 90th Birthday Party, 1999, 2016, 6 leaves.

Letter, Vivienne Jackson to Centre Meeting House, August 6, 2016, 1 leaf.

“If Only These Walls Could Talk,” *Insights Magazine*, January/February 1999, 1 leaf.

Miscellaneous items related to Vivienne Jackson’s 90th birthday party, 2016, 4 leaves.

BOX 2

Dinner Bell, N.D., cow bell, leather.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Vivienne Jackson, c. 1970. **[116-001 THL]**

Ruth E. P. Jackson, 2 copies, c. 1930. **[116-002 WFCHS]**