



ArchivesSpace
a community served by ✦ LYRASIS

Few (Mary Reamey Thomas and Randolph) Papers

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 17, 2021.
Description is written in: English.
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Kristen Merryman and Jamie Patrick-Burns

North Carolina Collection Archives

300 N. Roxboro Street

Durham, NC 27701

ncc@dconc.gov

URL: <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	6
1. Correspondence	6
2. Mary Reamey Thomas Few Papers	6
3. Randolph Few Papers	7
4. Real Estate and Development	8
5. Books and newspapers	8
6. Oversize materials	9

Summary Information

Repository:	North Carolina Collection Archives
Source:	Pope, Dana Few
Creator:	Few, Mary Reamey Thomas, 1885-1971
Creator:	Few, Randolph Reamey, 1920-2008
Creator:	Few, Kendrick
Title:	Mary Reamey Thomas Few and Randolph Few papers
ID:	NCC.0078
Date [inclusive]:	1911-2016
Physical Description:	5 Linear Feet (10 boxes: 6 document boxes, 4 flat boxes, 2 oversize folders)
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

[Item, folder, and box information], Mary Reamey Thomas Few and Randolph Few papers (NCC.0078), North Carolina Collection, Durham County Library, NC.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Mary Reamey Thomas Few was born in 1885 in Martinsville, VA. She graduated from Trinity College (now Duke University) in 1906, earned a master's degree in English from Columbia University, and taught at Southern Seminary in Buena Visata, Virginia, for several years. While at Trinity College she met William Preston Few, who became president of Trinity College in 1910, and they married in 1911. Mrs. Few was active in the Republican Party, as well as in real estate and historic renovations in Durham. She died in 1971. Randolph (Ran) Reamey Few was born in 1920, the fourth of William Preston and Mary Few's five sons. He grew up in Durham, attending Durham High School and Duke University. He then served in the Navy during World War II and in the Naval Reserve until 1961. After the war he went into real estate development in Durham with his mother and his brother Kendrick Sheffield Few. Ran was actively involved in various community groups, including Kiwanis Club and Duke

Memorial United Methodist Church, until his death in 2008. Ran's daughter Dana Few Pope donated the collection.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, scrapbooks, clippings and ephemera from members of the Few family, primarily Mary Reamey Thomas Few and Randolph (Ran) Reamey Few, with some items from Kendrick Few. The materials document some of Mary's activities in Durham, Ran's education and career, and the real estate development projects undertaken by Mary, Ran, and Kendrick. The correspondence is primarily among Mary, Ran, and Ken about real estate matters, with some personal letters, as well. Included in Mary's papers are documentation and original materials related to the renovation of a Civil War site, the Alexander Dickson house/Johnston Headquarters, which Mary and her brother-in-law Col. John Ross-Duggan spearheaded. Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston stayed in the home while negotiating with Union General William T. Sherman in 1865. It was purchased by Mary Few and Col. Ross-Duggan in 1938, rented out, and then donated to the town of Hillsborough in the 1980s.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The collection is organized into the following series: 1. Correspondence 2. Mary Reamey Thomas Few papers 3. Randolph Few Papers 4. Real Estate and Development 5. Books and newspapers 6. Oversized materials

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

North Carolina Collection Archives

300 N. Roxboro Street
Durham, NC 27701
ncc@dconc.gov

URL: <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc>

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Dana Few Pope

Conditions Governing Use

Personal family letters may be used for research and quoted, but not digitized and made public. There are no additional restrictions on the use of this material except where previously copyrighted material is concerned. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain all permissions.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

Lakewood Park Community Association Records (NCC.0105)

Up-To-Date Club Collection (NCC.0189)

Few Family Papers (Duke University – Rubenstein Library)

William Preston Few Records and Papers (Duke University – Rubenstein Library)

Kendrick S. Few Papers (Duke University – Rubenstein Library)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Education -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Historic buildings -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Real estate development -- North Carolina -- Durham

- Pope, Dana Few

Collection Inventory

1. Correspondence, 1924-1994, undated

Physical Description: 3 Boxes (Boxes 1-3)

Title/Description	Instances
Between Mary Few and Kendrick Few, 1955-1963	box 1
Between Mary Few and Kendrick Few, 1965-1970	box 2
Randolph Few to Kendrick Few, 1943-1956, 1958-1962, 1964, 1966, 1970	box 2
Randolph Few and parents, 1924-1946, 1954	box 3
Other correspondence with Mary Few, 1938-1968, 1994	box 3
Other correspondence with Randolph Few (3 folders), 1930-1944, 1948-1971, undated	box 3
Other correspondence with Kendrick Few, 1964	box 3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

2. Mary Reamey Thomas Few Papers, 1911-2008, undated

Physical Description: 2 Boxes (Boxe 3-4)

Title/Description	Instances
Up-to-Date Club, 1911-1996	box 3
Few family ephemera and memorabilia, 1911-2008	box 3
Durham ephemera	
Program for memorial service for World War I soldiers, 1919 May 4	box 4
Bulletin for Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1924	box 4
Program for presentation of Harmon Award to W. G. Pearson, 1928 February 12	box 4
Receipt from Dr. E. N. Lawrence and Dr. G. Fred Hale, 1930 January 1	box 4
Receipt from Amis Grocery Co., 1933	box 4
Durham telephone directory, 1939 June	box 4

Few (Mary Reamey Thomas and Randolph) Papers

The Durham Home magazine, 1937 October	box 4
Receipt from Long Meadow Dairies, 1938 January 31	box 4
Receipt from Long Meadow Dairies, 1942 August 31	box 4
Budget for Duke Memorial Church, 1944-1945	box 4
Durham County conservation practices handbook, 1953	box 4
The Debutante Cotillion and Christmas Ball program, 1958	box 4
Funeral program for Joseph Simeon Holloway, 1960	box 4
"A Brief History of Duke Homestead" brochure, undated	box 4
Program for The Happiest Millionaire at Durham Star Playhouse, undated	box 4
Chick-n-treat menu, undated	box 4
Seaboard Airline Railway dining car menu, undated	box 4
Johnston house, 1938-1969, undated	box 4
Johnston house pictures, undated	box 4
Few family clippings, 1938-2008	box 4
The Dukes drama, 1964	box 4

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

3. Randolph Few Papers, 1926-2006, undated

Physical Description: 2 Boxes (Boxes 4-5)

Title/Description	Instances
Boy Scouts and camp, 1926-1937	box 4
Watts Street School, 1926-1927	box 4
School papers, 1933-1939, undated	box 4
Central Junior High School, 1934-1936	box 4
Durham High School, 1939, 1947, 1988	box 4
Durham High School reunion materials, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2006	box 4
Duke University ephemera, 1926, 1939-1940, undated	box 4
Correspondence about Phi Delta Theta (Duke), 1941-1943	box 5
Correspondence about the Order of Red Friars (Duke), 1942-1943	box 5
Duke University publications, 1942-1943	

Few (Mary Reamey Thomas and Randolph) Papers

	box 5
Navy, 1942-1961	box 5
Navy, 1943-1949	box 5
Navy, 1952-1958	box 5
Randolph Few/Shirley Dana wedding, 1957	box 5
Randolph Few pictures, 1926-2004, undated	box 5

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

4. Real Estate and Development, 1941-2016, undated

Physical Description: 1 Box (Box 5)

Title/Description	Instances
Few Gardens, 1950-1952	box 5
Lakewood Shopping Center, 1958-1967, 2010, undated	box 5
Lakewood Shopping Center photos, 1959-1960	box 5
Preston Woods, 1958	box 5
Real estate clippings, 1959-2016, undated	box 5
Real estate miscellaneous, 1941-1966 and undated	box 5

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

5. Books and newspapers, 1920-2016, undated

Physical Description: 5 Boxes (Boxes 6-10)

Title/Description	Instances
Guest book for Johnston headquarters open house, 1938 or 1939	box 6
Randolph Few school notebooks	
Civics notebook, 1931	box 6
Civics notebook, 1932	box 6
History notebook, undated	box 6
Bird study notebook, 1937	box 6
Plant specimens 1, undated	box 6
Plant specimens 2, undated	box 6
Randolph Reamey Few scrapbook, October 6, 1920-July 1937	box 7

Randolph Reamey Few scrapbook, Fall 1937-June 1939	box 7
Randolph Reamey Few scrapbook, June 1939-June 1943	box 7
Randolph Reamey Few scrapbook, July 1943-1947	box 8
Randolph Reamey Few scrapbook, 1948-2008	box 8
Lakewood Shopping Center scrapbook, 1959-2016	box 8
Mary Reamey Thomas Few scrapbook, 1885-1971	box 9
School newspapers: Jr. Hi-Lights and Hi-Rocket, 1934-1947	box 10

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

6. Oversize materials, 1927-1989, undated

Physical Description: 2 Folders (Oversize Folders 1-2)

Title/Description	Instances
Durham Morning Herald Lakewood Shopping Center Grand Opening insert, 1960 December 2	Oversize Folder 1
Topographic map of Durham showing Lakewood area, 1959	Oversize Folder 1
Durham, NC, Department of Planning Official Zoning Map, 1959	Oversize Folder 1
Durham County Tax Map--Durham Township, 1963	Oversize Folder 1
Durham County Tax Map--Triangle Township, 1963	Oversize Folder 1
Preliminary Plot Plan for "Prestonwood", 1958	Oversize Folder 1
Survey of Randolph and Shirley Few's property, 1983	Oversize Folder 1
Aerial photograph--AJV-6AA-152 (shows Lakewood area), undated	Oversize Folder 1
Aerial photograph--AJV-89-19 (shows Lakewood area), undated	Oversize Folder 1
Durham, NC Street Map Department of Public Works, 1957	Oversize Folder 1
Survey of A. E. Dickson's property, 1927	Oversize Folder 2
Up-to-Date Club newspaper article prints, 1928, 1989	Oversize Folder 2
Map of Boy Scouts Jamboree camp, Washington, DC, 1937	

Few (Mary Reamey Thomas and Randolph) Papers

	Oversize Folder 2
Randolph Few's Durham High School diploma, 1939	Oversize Folder 2
Dated events map of World War II, ca. 1942	Oversize Folder 2
Picture of Randolph Few and navy officers, 1944	Oversize Folder 2
Blueprint of Durham Shopping Center, 208 Buchanan Boulevard, 1958	Oversize Folder 2
North Carolina Department of Transportation proposed I-40 alternate routes, undated	Oversize Folder 2

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)