The John G. Bullock HC 1874 Collection
Coll.1251
Finding aid prepared by Diana Franzusoff Peterson.

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# Table of Contents

Summary Information.................................................................................................................................... 3  
Biography/History.......................................................................................................................................... 4  
Scope and Contents....................................................................................................................................... 5  
Administrative Information........................................................................................................................... 5  
Controlled Access Headings.......................................................................................................................... 5  
Collection Inventory...................................................................................................................................... 7  
  Genealogical and biographical information............................................................................................ 7  
  Diaries...................................................................................................................................................... 9  
Photographs by John G. Bullock...................................................................................................................10  
John G. Bullock manuscripts................................................................................................................ 11  
Published materials................................................................................................................................ 12
Summary Information

Repository  
Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

Title  
The John G. Bullock HC 1874 Collection

Call number  
Coll.1251

Date  
1799-1947

Extent  
4 boxes ()

Language  
English

Abstract  
A collection of materials relating to John Griscom Bullock (1854-1939), a photographer and member of the Photo Secession group. These materials include photographs by John G. Bullock of his daughter Marjorie Bullock at various points in her life from birth in 1889 until 1907, as well as written information about Marjorie Bullock and genealogical materials of the Griscom, Bullock and related families and John Bullock's early writings.

Cite as:

Haverford College Library, Haverford, PA, Special Collections, Quaker Collection, The John G. Bullock HC 1874 Collection, Coll. No. 1251
Biography/History

John G. (Griscom) Bullock (1854-1939) was born in Wilmington, Delaware to a Quaker family; his parents were William Rockhill Bullock and Elizabeth Emlen. As a child, he printed and published his own newspaper (City Journal). He graduated from Haverford College in 1874 and received a Ph.G. from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy which prepared him for photographic chemistry requirements; he was a chemist and druggist for the firm Bullock & Crenshaw for 31 years beginning in 1874. He married Rebecca Malin Downing in 1888.

"Bullock's earliest photographs were made with a small view camera using 4 x 5 inch Carbutt dry plates. The lenses he employed were designed for rapid exposures and reduced distortion, and included a Ross Rapid Rectilinear lens and a Grubb landscape lens. By 1886 he had a larger format camera which took 61/2 x 81/2 inch dry plates.... In 1911, he began using a roll film camera which made 3 1/2 x 5 3/4 inch negatives." The earliest prints Bullock made were on albumen paper, followed by platinum paper to give a richer image. His platinum paper was manufactured by Willis & Clements and by Buchanan Bromley & Company. Although Bullock rarely made modifications to his prints, platinum printing allowed greater flexibility in manipulation of the image. When he did manipulate his images, it was to print clouds into blank skies or to change tonality; most of these alterations were made by retouching the negative.

Bullock became interested in photography in 1882; the same year, he became a member of the Photographic Society of Philadelphia, later its president. He studied under the photographer John C. Browne.

Bullock had two of his photographs accepted in the first international exhibition, the Vienna Salon. Bullock was an organizer of the Philadelphia Photographic Salon, an annual juried competition, and his work was known to Alfred Stieglitz. In approximately 1902, the latter became director of the Photo-Secession gathering together Bullock and others as founders to forward the cause of art photography; their work was called pictorial photography. The journal of this group, CameraWork, was founded by Stieglitz the same year to further modern photography. Initial exhibitions of the group resulted in international invitations to Bullock to exhibit. Bullock's last major exhibition during his lifetime was at the Albright Art Gallery in 1910.

The collection contains some of his earliest writings, beginning in 1866. These works show his disposition to publishing, as he started a newspaper when a student at Haverford College. After this, he got a printing press.

William Rockhill Bullock, son of John Bullock and Rachel Griscom, was born in 1824. He entered Haverford College and left in 1842. He received his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He became Surgeon to the United States Army Hospital at Wilmington, DE during the Civil War. He was a frequent lecturer on chemical and electrical subjects. He was a fellow of Philadelphia College of Physicians; a charter member and physician to Delaware Hospital; and one of the founders of the Wilmington Institute and Library as well as president of the Board of Education in Wilmington, DE.
Scope and Contents

The collection centers on photographs taken by John G. Bullock (1854-1939), primarily of his daughter, Marjorie Bullock in the period 1889-1907, as well as his notebook/diary with a list of his 4 x 5 negatives with titles and dates (1880s-1920s). In addition there are John Bullock's manuscript "newspapers," and map of Wilmington, Delaware, created when he was a child of 12-14 years, which indicate his inclination toward journalism. Underpinning all is the genealogical and biographical information on the Bullock, Griscom and related families going back to 1799 including material collected by Marjorie Bullock Le Boutillier.

Administrative Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
Finding aid prepared by Diana Franzusoff Peterson.

Access Restrictions
This collection is open for research use.

Use Restrictions
Copyright restrictions may apply. Please contact the Archives with requests for copying and for authorization to publish, quote or reproduce the material.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note
Robert Bishop gift, November 2012.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)
• Bishop Robert Ridgway
• Bullock, John G., 1854-1939
• Bullock, Marjorie
Collection Inventory

Genealogical and biographical information.

General note

According to the donor, these materials were Marjorie Bullock's toward the formulation of family genealogical charts, though it appears, most were obtained by John G. Bullock

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<th>Box</th>
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<tr>
<td>John G. Bullock biographical information.</td>
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Bullock family. 1 Folder.

Scope and Contents note

Included is genealogical information; legal documents including two loan agreements and a mortgage; photos of William R. Bullock, Mary Emlen Bullock, Charles Bullock, Anna Bullock, portrait of John G. Bullock, 1785-1847 and of Fort Rittenhouse & U.S. "Tilton" Hospital; letters from Charles L. Bullock (1963) and a cousin of Rebie Bullock (1897); calling cards; poem; and a leather case containing information on lectures William R. Bullock attended.

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<tr>
<td>Bullock family</td>
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Emlen family. 2 Folders.

Scope and Contents note

Included is genealogical information; Emlen family letters, 18th -19th century, including to John Griscom Bullock, thanking him for a photograph, thoughts on religious beliefs and an account of the life of George Emlen (7 items); legal documents, including marriage certificate of Clement Smith and Mary Emlen, 1849, accounts, deeds to burial lots, will of James Emlen, 1799; photographs of Beulah Emlen and Elizabeth Valentine silhouette (John G. Bullock's great grandmother); list of John Emlen's books; a poem and the Emlen family wax seal
Eyre family. 1 Folder.

Scope and Contents note

Included is genealogical information; photograph of the Washington Bowl given to Benjamin George Eyre, a colonel in Washington's army and given to him by Washington after the Revolution; he was an aide-de-camp.

Griscom family. 1 Folder.

Scope and Contents note

Includes genealogical information and clippings.

Malin family. 1 Folder.

Scope and Contents note

Included are Rebecca Malin Downing's notebook "Some Records of the Malin Family in America;" empty notebook with Rebecca M. Downing's name on cover (Inside is a written note that it was probably her school book); genealogical information; obituaries and a memorial poem; invitations; 18th & 19th century letters (8 items) on various family matters from members of the Truman, George, Thomas, Collin, Evans family members; miscellaneous items.

Rockhill family. 1 Folder.

Scope and Contents note

Included is genealogical information on the Rockhill family (e.g. John Bullock's father was William R (Rockhill) Bullock).

Valentine family. 1 Folder.

Scope and Contents note

Included is a notebook with accounts and miscellaneous writings; genealogical information; and photos of Beulah Sansom Valentine Emlen Lloyd, Angela Perry Valentine and Robert Barclay Valentin.
Miscellaneous genealogical and other information. 2 Folders.

Scope and Contents note

Includes typed and hand-written biographical information on various individuals; miscellaneous booklets; print of a work by John Trumbull; newspaper clippings; list of markers erected by the Chester County Historical Society, 1929; letters to John Griscom Bullock from Leach's "Old Philadelphia Families" re the publication on the Emlen and Eyre family (its advisory council included numerous Quakers from Biddle, Chew and Cope to Vaux, Wistar and Yarnall and also included Maxfield Parrish)

Rolled items.

Scope and Contents note

Bullock family genealogy with all connected families

Bullock, Marjorie. Germantown Friends School diploma, 1906

Bullock, Marjorie and Home Le Boutillier marriage certificate, 1908

Bullock-Livezey family genealogy

Downing/Edge genealogy

Lea family genealogy

Pratt/Garrett/Thomas families biographical/genealogical

Valentine family genealogy

Multiple families, including Pennock and Le Boutillier biographical and genealogical

Diaries.

Scope and Contents note

John G. Bullock's notebook with a list of his 4 x 5 negatives with titles and dates (1880s-1920s) and numbers 1-810 (many numbers skipped)

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

• Bullock, Marjorie

"Some Memories of Marjorie". album. 3

Scope and Contents note

A book of photographs taken by John G. Bullock of his daughter, Marjorie, from infancy in 1889, with a preface in his hand and some poems. Laid in are photos of ploughing and a rocky coastline

Photographs of Marjorie Bullock, 1889-ca. 1898. album. 3

Scope and Contents note

Marjorie Bullock from infancy till about 1898; also, her brothers John Emlen and Franck Rumsey, and other family members, including grandfathers William R. Bullock and Franck Downey and mother, Rebecca M. Bullock. There is an 1898 photo taken in Virginia. Almost all the photos are identified and dated.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

Photographs are primarily silver gelatin prints, but also some platinum prints

"The Book of Marjorie". album. 4

Custodial History note

Marjorie Bullock gave this book to her fiance', Homer Le Boutillier
Scope and Contents note

The photographs in this album are dated from 1889, the year of her birth, to 1907. There are several photos laid in, but undated.

Photographs of Marjorie Bullock. 13 Items.

Scope and Contents note

These are individual photographs, mostly dated, early 20th century, some with John G. Bullock's name. The 13th photograph is not marked, and is of an elderly woman, possibly Rebecca Bullock

Individual prints. 5 Items.

Scope and Contents note

Prints include:

"Tilton U.S. General Hospital, Wilmington, Del., 1864, in which Dr. W.R. Bullock was surgeon"

"Untitled [man on curved road with fence]" / signed by John G. Bullock

"Old Mill near Sedley Sta. probably on Wrightstown farm"

"Old Lt. Peters in the Great Valley"

"Felters Mill, corner Le Boultillier Rd & Mill Rd" ("afterwards burned down and later bought by Daniel Badger")

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John G. Bullock manuscripts.

Scope and Contents note

The first three "volumes" were written in 1866, when Bullock was 12, entitled "City Library" and including "The Blind Boy," "Friend" and "The Runaways" under the name Riter Bertrand; in 1866-67, he created the "City Journal;" in 1867 he wrote "The Child's Friend."
In 1868, he wrote "Wilmington City Guide containing a map of Wilmington and Brandywine Village," which includes an elaborate grid map. All of the volumes contain illustrations.

**Published materials.**

**Scope and Contents note**

Included are Marjorie Bullock's confirmation book from 1905. It is said that she was an earnest communicant;

Invitation to attend the graduation of Marjorie Bullock from Germantown Friends School, 1906, sent to Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Downing (brother of John Griscom Bullock's wife, Rebecca M. Downing)

**Miscellaneous.**

**Scope and Contents note**

Bullock coat of arms