

POLLY HOOPES BEEMAN COLLECTION

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library.
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Mary (Polly) Hoopes Beeman
- Title:** Polly Hoopes Beeman Collection
- Dates:** 1911-1980
- Abstract:** Mary (Polly) Hoopes Beeman (1905-1994) was a philanthropist and sponsor of visual arts, music, and culture in Glens Falls. The Beeman Collection contains materials about Charles Evans Hughes (1862-1948), especially while he was on the United States Supreme Court. There are also materials concerning Elizabeth Hughes Gossett, daughter of Hughes; Robert Porter Patterson; and Maurice Hoopes, Polly's father.
- Quantity:** 1 cubic foot (1 document box, 1 flat oversize box).
- Identification Number:** Polaris Control # 769419; Archives & Manuscripts: Personal and Family Collections

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Mary (Polly) Hoopes Beeman (1905-1994) was a philanthropist, a leading sponsor of visual arts, music, and culture in Glens Falls. She served on numerous boards of arts and cultural organizations, including the Hyde Collection Art Museum, Lake George Opera Festival (she was one of its founders in the 1960's), Crandall Library, and the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra. She was also active with the Red Cross and the Glens Falls Hospital Guild. In addition, she served on the board of Finch, Pruyn & Company, a leading manufacturer of paper in Glens Falls. In 1978 the Warren County Bar Association honored Polly Hoopes Beeman with the 1978 Liberty Bell award in recognition of her involvement in Glens Falls community activities and charitable endeavors. (see *Post-Star* November 14, 1994)

Polly Hoopes Beeman was born in New York City, the daughter of Maurice Hoopes (1870–1949) and Eliza Pruyn. She married first Byron Jerome Lapham, and they had two sons, Byron Jerome Lapham, Jr. and Thomas H. Lapham. Her second husband was Lyman A. Beeman of Glens Falls. Maurice Hoopes was a Glens Falls industrialist and banker, president for many years of the Finch, Pruyn & Company. He married Mary Pruyn (1872-1951), daughter of Samuel and Eliza J. Pruyn. Samuel Pruyn was a founder of Finch, Pruyn & Company.

The Hoopes family resided in Glens Falls and was well acquainted with the family of Charles Evans Hughes (1862-1948). Polly Hoopes Beeman was a close friend of Charles Evans Hughes's daughter Elizabeth Hughes Gossett (1908–1981) and her husband William T. Gossett, a lawyer and Vice President and General Counsel of Ford Motor Company. Maurice Hoopes was also a friend of Robert Porter Patterson (1891-1952), a native of Glens Falls, who served as Secretary of War from 1945-1947.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

The Polly Hoopes Beeman Collection contains commemorative articles about Charles Evans Hughes (1862-1948) along with photographs, correspondence, and newspaper articles describing his career in public service. The letters between Charles Evans Hughes and Maurice Hoopes in 1941 mainly concern Hughes' retirement from the U.S. Supreme Court. The letters written in 1945 by Maurice Hoopes to Frances Biddle and Thomas C. Clark, Attorneys General of the United States, relate to the Alien Enemy Hearing Board. Newspaper clippings describe the Charles Evans Hughes memorial plaque in City Park, Glens Falls, presentation of the Hughes portrait to the Crandall Library, Glens Falls, NY, and Elizabeth Hughes Gossett's efforts to establish the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society.

Other materials in the collection consist of photographs of Robert Porter Patterson and a 1943 letter received from him by Maurice Hoopes, invitations received by Polly Hoopes to attend social events hosted by President Coolidge and Mrs. Coolidge in 1924, and a collection of souvenir publications (*The Sphere* and *The Illustrated London News*) featuring the coronation of British monarchs George V, George VI and Elizabeth II.

The items marked with an asterisk (*) were additions to the collection, donated in 2003 by Joan Lapham (#2003-029).

ORGANIZATION OF THE RECORDS

Organized into six series, arranged topically:

1. Charles Evans Hughes.
2. William T. Gossett and Elizabeth Hughes Gossett.
3. Robert Porter Patterson.
4. Maurice Hoopes.
5. Polly Hoopes Beeman.
6. Publications Concerning the Coronation of British Monarchs.

INDEX TERMS

- Places:** Glens Falls (N.Y.)—History—Sources.
- Organizations:** United States. Supreme Court—History.
- Important People:** Elizabeth II, Queen of Great Britain, 1926-
George V, King of Great Britain, 1865-1936.
George VI, King of Great Britain, 1895-1952.
Gossett, Elizabeth Hughes, 1908-1981.
Gossett, William T.
Hoopes, Maurice, 1870-1949.
Hoopes, Mary Beeman, 1905-1994.
Hughes, Charles Evans, 1862-1948.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- Preferred Citation:** Polly Hoopes Beeman Collection,
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.
- Accession Information:** Accession Number: 1995-052
The collection came from the estate of Polly Hoopes
Beeman and was brought to Crandall Library by Byron
Lapham on October 9, 1995.
Accession Number: 2003-029
This addition was donated to Crandall Public Library by Joan
Lapham on June 6, 2003.
- Processing Information:** Arranged and described by Albert W. Fowler
and Katherine P. Chansky; additions by Caitlin Johnson
2009.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Box 1

Series 1: Charles Evans Hughes

Manuscripts:

Letter from Charles Evans Hughes to Maurice Hoopes, June 14, 1941, acknowledging the June 11 letter from Hoopes following the announcement of Hughes's resignation as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. A typed copy of Hoopes' June 11 letter is also included.

Publications:

American Bar Association Journal. Vol. 27, No. 7 (July 1941) Issue devoted to Charles Evans Hughes.

United States Supreme Court. *Proceedings of the Bar and Officers of the Supreme Court of the United States, November 4, 1949. Proceedings Before the Supreme Court of the United States, May 8, 1950. In Memory of Charles Evans Hughes*. Washington D.C.: 1950.

Photographs:

Photograph of Charles Evans Hughes [framed], autographed by Hughes to Miss Polly Hoopes, Feb. 22, 1925.

Photographs pertaining to Charles Evans Hughes in folder:

Portrait of Hughes by Harris Ewing (photographer)

Hughes with woman companion

Photographs of Charles Evans Hughes and his daughter, accompanied by Polly Hoopes, on European trip, 1920's? - 8 photographs - one of Hughes relaxing.

Newspaper clippings concerning Charles Evans Hughes.

Series 2: William T. Gossett and Elizabeth Hughes Gossett

Remarks by William T. Gossett in Presenting to the Crandall Library a Portrait of Charles Evans Hughes. Glens Falls, New York, May 22, 1971. Typescript. 16 pp.

Gossett, William T. "The Human Side of Chief Justice Hughes." *American Bar Association Journal*. Vol. 59, pp. 1413-1419 (December, 1973).

Gossett, Elizabeth Hughes. "My Father the Chief Justice". *Supreme Court Historical Society. Yearbook, 1976*. Washington D.C.: 1975. pp. 7-15.

Last Will and Testament of Elizabeth Hughes Gossett, October 15, 1976. Photocopy only of that part of the will concerning paintings to be given to Polly Hoopes Beeman. 5 pp.

New York Law School, Eighty-fifth Commencement Exercises, June 12, 1977.

Elizabeth Hughes Gossett received an honorary degree

Also includes a brief letter from Elizabeth Hughes Gossett to Polly Hoopes Beeman, July 7, 1977.

Group at memorial plaque for Hughes, Glens Falls. Included in group is Elizabeth Hughes Gossett, second from right.

Elizabeth Gossett (daughter of Hughes) and Chief Justice Warren Burger cutting cake in honor of the 50th anniversary of Hughes's appointment as Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, 1930. [1980]

Series 3: Robert Porter Patterson

Photographs pertaining to Robert P. Patterson in folder:

Portrait of Patterson *(2)

Photograph of Patterson and Lieut. Hyde at Camp Upton during World War I on post card dated January 26, 1918 from Patterson to Mrs. Maurice Hoopes.

Photograph of Patterson with Gen. Douglas MacArthur, August 27, 1943, Port Moresby, New Guinea.

Newspaper photograph of Patterson at ceremony on Fiji Islands, November 1943 - with letter from Patterson to Maurice Hoopes, November 7, 1943.

* Newspaper clippings and correspondence relating to Patterson.

Series 4: Maurice Hoopes

Correspondence and related papers received by Maurice Hoopes from Francis Biddle and Thomas C. Clark, Attorneys General of the United States, 1945-1946, concerning Hoopes' appointment and service as a member of the Alien Enemy Hearing Board.

Series 5: Polly Hoopes Beeman

Invitations to Miss Polly Hoopes to attend the following official events in Washington D.C.

from Mrs. Coolidge to attend a garden party at the White House, May 22, 1924.

from President and Mrs. Coolidge to attend a reception at the White admission ticket to the Diplomatic Galleries of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, during the First Session, 68th Congress, 1924. Ticket signed by Charles E. Hughes, Secretary of State.

Correspondence between Polly Hoopes Beeman and the International Bronze Tablet Co., 1962-1963, regarding the plaque for Charles Evans Hughes, erected by the Chepontuc Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

* Photographs: Mrs. Leavens
Bess Kassich

* Correspondence regarding Crandall Public Library Board of Trustees

* Misc. Papers relating to Beeman

Box 2

Series 6: Publications Concerning the Coronation of British Monarchs

Coronation of King George V, 1911.

The Sphere, Volume XLV, No. 596a (June 27, 1911).

Coronation of King George VI, 1937.

The Coronation of Their Majesties King George VI & Queen Elizabeth, May 12th, 1937. Official Souvenir Programme. U.S.A. Edition. London: Odhams Press [1937]. 31 p.

The Illustrated London News Coronation Record Number. King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth. London: The Illustrated London News & Sketch Ltd., 1937. 72 p. (3 copies)

The Illustrated London News Coronation Ceremony Number. Volume 190, May 15, 1937. pp. 851-922.

Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, 1953. *The Illustrated London News Coronation Number. Queen Elizabeth II.* Edited by Sir Bruce Ingram. London: The Illustrated London News & Sketch Ltd., 1953. 68 p.

- Folder of miscellaneous coronation materials, including newspaper articles.