

# RANDALL AND MARY BROWN / FALLS FOTO COLLECTION: A Guide to the Collection

## OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library  
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,  
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Randall E. Brown, 1902-1992.
- Title:** Randall and Mary Brown Collection.
- Dates:** ca. 1900-1992.
- Abstract:** Randall Brown was from Bristol, Vermont. He moved with his wife, Mary Smith Brown, to Glens Falls in 1927 and they established Falls Foto Finishers, a photography business which operated until 1970. The Randall and Mary Brown Collection contains ledgers, receipts, payroll records, correspondence, and other business papers of Falls Foto Finishers. Also included are personal papers.
- Quantity:** 3 cubic feet (4 boxes)
- Identification Number:** Archives & Manuscripts: Businesses

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Randall Brown was from Bristol, Vermont. He moved with his wife, Mary Smith Brown, to Glens Falls in 1927 and they established Falls Foto Finishers, a photography finishing business which continued operating until 1970. It began as a mail order business, but then it gradually evolved to mainly doing photography work for numerous local stores, from Glens Falls all the way to Lake George. The Browns processed, copied, and enlarged black-and-white photographs. Mary Brown hand-tinted many of the photographs to provide color for them. The business was located at 12 Chester Street. See *Hometown Memories*, pp. 13-14 for a description of the business by Mary Brown. Randall Brown was born on January 10, 1902 and died on August 4, 1992. Mary Brown was born on February 7, 1906 in Rutland, Vermont and died on October 2, 2004. Her parents were Robert B. Smith and Edith (Hall) Smith. Randall and Mary Brown had two children: Robert A. Brown and Jean A. (Brown) Stott.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

The Randall and Mary Brown Collection contains primarily business records of Falls Foto Finishers: especially ledgers, receipts, payroll records, and correspondence. Also included are some personal papers such as income tax returns, family photographs, and a few miscellaneous papers.

## INDEX TERMS

**Places:** Glens Falls (N.Y.)—Commerce.

**Important People:** Brown, Randall E., 1902-1992.  
Brown, Mary, 1906-2004.

**Organizations:** Falls Foto Finishers (Glens Falls, N.Y.)

**Subjects:** Photography—Processing.

**Form/Genre:** Account books [aat]  
Photographs.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Preferred Citation:** Randall E. Brown Collection,  
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,  
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

**Accession Information:** Accession number: 2004-047. Gift of Victoria Garlanda,  
2004.

**Processing Information:** Arranged and described by Albert W. Fowler, 2005-2006.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS**

**Ledgers:** Includes daily record of purchases, sales, cash receipts and cash payments for Falls Foto Finishers, 1937-1970.

### **Box 1:**

1937-1938

1939-1940

1941-1942

1943-1944

1945-1947

Also Diploma for Randall E. Brown, Bristol High School, Bristol, Vermont, 1921.

### **Box 2:**

1948-1950

1951-November, 1955 (includes payroll record)

December, 1955-1963

1964-July, 1970

### **Box 3: Receipts, etc. – Business and personal**

1922-1923

1924-1925

1925-1926

1929

1939

1944

1945

1950s-1961

1974

### **Box 4: Income tax returns for Randall and Mary Brown: Federal and New York State.**

1980

1981

1985

1986

1987

1988

1989

1990

1991

1992

Photographs (in envelope) and in folders, ca. 1900-1950.

Birthday cards and Father's Day cards sent to Randall Brown from his children and grandchildren

School certificates for Randall Brown from Bristol, Vermont, 1917.