

Online Collections

The following online collections form the core of the FSTC Archives and include thousands of items about Fairhope history and related information dating from 1890. All collections are included in any online search unless a specific collection below is specified.

New materials are added often, so check back! To see a list of FSTC Archives materials which are not available online, click the Archives Library link above for instructions.

Major Collections

FSTC Collection (FSTC): This is the original collection of the FSTC Archives and is by far the largest. It includes materials dating from 1890.

Fairhope Courier Collection (Courier Collection): See separate link for information.

Bass/Slosson/Sundberg Photograph Collection (BSS): Lois Slosson Sundberg (1886-1975) was a photographer whose images of Fairhope, Baldwin County and Mobile span the early years of the twentieth century. Sundberg's granddaughter Pinky Bass (Marion McCall Bass), a noted artist and photographer, donated the collection to the FSTC Archives and supplied information about each picture.

Dealy/Brown/Jennings Photograph Collection (DBJ): Arthur M. Dealy (d.1935) moved to Fairhope with his parents and brother in 1899. Dealy took pictures of farm animals, family and friends, locations in and near Fairhope, Alabama, as well as photos of Fish River, Magnolia Springs, the Gulf beaches, Mobile, and Pensacola and Panama City in Florida. The Brown and Jennings families donated their relative's photos to the FSTC Archives.

Fairhope Museum of History Collection (FMH): The collection, generously shared with the FSTC Archives, includes Fairhope telephone directories for selected years, and the Donelson Collection of photographs donated to the Museum by author and historian Cathy Donelson. FSTC Archives is pleased to work with the Museum to make historical materials available to the public.

Fairhope Public Library Collection (Search with keywords "from the Fairhope Public Library Collection"): FSTC funded the digitization of historic materials in the Fairhope Public Library's Collection. This is a large and eclectic collection of material, and an example of how FSTC collaborates with other institutions to make historical material available online.

Frank Stewart The Picture Man Photographs (Search with keywords "Frank Stewart"): Stewart (1855-1942) took some of the most iconic and recognizable photographs of early Fairhope and Baldwin County. They are easily identified by his white "Stewart The Picture Man" signature. His pictures and postcards, sold in his Fairhope Photo Shop, were so popular that they are included in all the FSTC Online collections.

Henry James Stuart Collection (Search with keywords "Henry James Stuart"): Stuart (1858-1946) lived in Montrose, Alabama from 1923-1944 on his property he named Tolstoy Park. Known as the Hermit of Montrose and Ye Olde Weaver, he lived in a Round House (Hermit House) which he constructed out of cement and bricks. The Stuart Collection includes articles, photographs, clippings, references in oral interviews and podcasts. In addition, with the collaboration with the Fairhope Museum of History, four of Stuart's diaries (daybooks) and a scrapbook of approximately 75 photographs (most taken by Stuart with detailed descriptions written by him) are included.

Paul M. Gaston Collection (PMG): Paul M. Gaston (1928-2019) was a professor of history at University of Virginia, specializing in U. S. Southern history and Civil Rights history. Dr. Gaston was born in Fairhope, Alabama and was the grandson of Fairhope founder E. B. Gaston. He was the author of books, articles and lectures on Fairhope, and was responsible for starting the archival efforts of the FSTC's historic papers. Dr. Gaston's family graciously donated his large collection and wide variety of Fairhope papers, research notes, photographs, correspondence, student papers and other ephemera to the FSTC Archives. The historically significant donation has greatly added to our holdings.

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