

THE PAPERS OF CHARLES ARTHUR HOLLICK

A Special Collection in

The Archives and Library of

THE STATEN ISLAND MUSEUM

75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, New York 10301

Arranged and Described by

Gail Schneider

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS & RECORDS COMMISSION

Grant Number 79-124

PROVENANCE:

Arthur Hollick gave many materials to the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences as Founder and while director. These are so reported in the Curator's Book and the Accession Book. The New York Botanical Garden donated the balance of materials posthumously in 1933 (accession number 2816).

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Charles Arthur Hollick was born in New Brighton, Staten Island, N.Y. on February 6, 1857. He developed an early fondness for natural history under the influence of his father, Dr. Frederick Hollick.

In 1875, he entered the School of Mines at Columbia College. At the same time, he established a close friendship with Nathaniel Lord Britton, which continued until death. Both young men studied local botany and geology under the guidance of Professor John S. Newberry and John J. Crooke on Staten Island. Both became members of Torrey Botanical Society. Arthur Hollick was recording secretary and associate editor for many years.

Hollick and Britton's "Plants of Richmond County" was published in 1879. The enlarged and improved manuscript of it remains on file at the Institute (See: Flora of Richmond County 32.F).

Hollick and Britton became original members of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island. Dr. Hollick served as secretary and as editor for many years and was Director of the Institute's museum from 1914 to 1919.

From 1881-1891, Dr. Hollick was assistant sanitary engineer of the New York Board of Health. He served as a member of the Board of Health of New Brighton, S.I., 1886-1892, was President of the Boulevard Commission of Port Richmond in 1896 and a member of the Richmond County Park Commission from 1897 to 1904.

In 1890, he was a Fellow in the Geology Department of Columbia College, and Assistant in Geology in 1892, and Tutor in Geology from 1893-1901. He was awarded a degree of Ph.D. by Columbian University of Washington, D.C. in 1897. He served as a member of the United States Geological Survey.

At the New York Botanical Garden, under the directorship of Dr. Nathaniel Lord Britton, Dr. Hollick was first an Assistant Curator (1901) and subsequently a full Curator. He was made Paleobotanist in 1921 and Research Associate in Paleobotany in 1932.

His field work was extensive, including collecting fossil plants from New England, Long Island, Staten Island and New Jersey to Wyoming and Colorado. He accompanied Britton to Jamaica and Puerto Rico, collecting fossil plants and in 1932 he was funded under a separate grant to collect fossil plants in Cuba. His published scientific reports were numerous.

In 1881, he married Adeline Augusta Talkington of Staten Island, who aided him in his career. They had two daughters. Arthur Hollick (he had dropped "Charles" early in his life) died on March 11, 1933.

These biographical notes have been abstracted from a memorial to Dr. Hollick written by Dr. Britton and published by the New York Botanical Garden.

SCOPE & CONTENT:

The collection covers the years between 1834 and 1933.

Dr. Arthur Hollick's papers are extremely varied, containing letters (personal, business and professional), journals, scrapbooks, manuscripts on geology, paleontology, water, and sanitation. He also collected items of interest about Staten Island history. He carefully compiled a large scrapbook of cartoons by Thomas Nast, which were published in the Harper's Weekly. Correspondence and manuscripts have been divided into series depending on subject matter: Geology and Paleontology; Water; Natural Science Association of S.I.; personal. The journals and scrapbooks each make separate series. The Nast Collection provides another series, and under Ephemera, his "Reveries of a Tramp," a collection of articles about Staten Island published in a local newspaper, constitute another series. Ephemeral materials also include articles Hollick clipped about Staten Island and annotated published pamphlets.

There is much of interest to the researcher into Staten Island geology, water problems, health and sanitation, botany and history in this collection, as well as climate and natural history records.

Unique items are the "Stench Nuisances on Staten Island" record of an early complaint lodged against air pollution from New Jersey (1883); the collection of "Reveries," which contains much of interest regarding the flora, fauna, and history of Staten Island, especially of areas such as Rossville and Kreischerville. Dr. Hollick was a paleontologist and specialized in the Cretaceous. He wrote the essay on the Cretaceous in the New York City Atlas for the United States Geological Survey in 1902 (see Atlas Collection in the Institute's Map Collection). His journals provide some of the earliest records (1870) of natural history on Staten Island, predating the journals of William T. Davis by nine years.

Hollick was a sanitation commissioner involved in securing safe and healthful water for Staten Island. The collection provides a consistent record of this work from 1866 to 1910, including various analyses of water and well -drillings on Staten Island, and correspondence regarding water problems.

Staten Island Weather Records, a folder and binder which he maintained, are stored in Print Box #2 together with the Blizzard of 1888 scrapbook.

The Thomas Nast Cartoons which he carefully mounted in a scrapbook have been disbound and are maintained in print box #1.

The collection fills 10 one-cubic-foot boxes and 2 two-cubic-foot print boxes.

ARRANGEMENT:

The collection contains materials belonging to and about Dr. Frederick Hollick, father of Dr. Arthur Hollick. Dr. Frederick Hollick was a physician, an early gynecologist, and a teaching doctor. He published several books on anatomy and a book on midwifery. He taught in Philadelphia as well as in New York. Living on Staten Island near the Quarantine Station in the 1850s, he was embroiled in the plan to burn down the Quarantine, which was successfully done in 1858. Resolutions concerning Dr. Frederick Hollick prepared by his students, his professional papers and receipts for physician licenses precede the Arthur Hollick materials.

CHARLES ARTHUR HOLLICK PAPERS
Box Inventories:

Box 1/10

Folders	Frederick Hollick	
1	Resolutions concerning Dr. F. Hollick	1844, 1845
2	Professional papers	1869, 1870
Arthur Hollick: Letters and Other Manuscripts		
3	John J. Fetherstone campaign support	1884
4	Minutes, Citizens' Meeting	1884
5	R.C. County Clerk's Office	1888
6	Letters	1892
7	Letters	1893
8	Franklin W. Hooper	1894
9	Letters	1895
10	Letters	1895
11	Letters	1899
12	Letters	1900
13	Letters	1902
14	Letters	1903
15	Letters	1908
16	Letters	1911
17	Letters	1912
17a	Letters	1915
18	Letters	1918
19	Death of Jim Slossons	1919

20	Silver Mount Cemetery letters	1920
21	Bequests intended by A. Hollick	1925
22	Hollick-Kelley Correspondence	1927
23	"Some celebrities who have lived on Staten Island" ms notes by A. Hollick	n.d.

A. Hollick: Biographical materials & memorials

24	Biographical information	1857-1933
25	Memorial – New York Botanical Garden	1933
26	Memorial – SIIAS	1933
27	Memorial – Torrey Botanical Club	1933
28	Photographs of A. Hollick	n.d.

Biographical materials, ephemerae

29-41	Invitations, programs, etc.	1870-1889
-------	-----------------------------	-----------

Box 2/10

	Geology and Paleontology – Manuscripts	
Folders		
1	Geology of Long Island	1893, 1908
2	Evolution of Long Island	1895
3	Geology of Long Island	1899
4	Ancestry of some trees	1901
5	Geology of Long Island	1902
6	Fossil plants of NYC and vicinity	1904
7	Kreischerville Clays	1905
8	Influence of vegetation...swamps	1907

9	Extinct flora of N.Y. and vicinity	1910
10	Dismal Swamp, Virginia	1911
11	Paleobotany by Freeman Burr (to Arthur Hollick)	1913
12	Geological note on Kreischerville	1913
13	Swamps, ancient and modern	1913
14	Geological observations	1918
15	The Hudson River Valley	1924
16	Geological Features, New York Botanical Garden	1927
17	Report of the Paleobotanist (NYBG)	1927
18	Records of Triassic fossils on S.I.	1930
19	Cretaceous formation on L.I.	n.d.
20	Drawing of fossil leaves	n.d.
21	Cover for 1/10/1920 "Scientific American" prepared by A. Hollick with annotated copy of the magazine <i>Geological Time</i>	1920
22	Geological map of New York State	1848
	<u>Accretion to Box 2/10</u>	
22a	Two articles by Hollick on the Cretaceous of Staten Island	1892
	Water – Manuscripts	
23	Amendment to Charter, Sewerage Commission, New Brighton Village	1866
24	Board of Health, Village of New Brighton	1889
25	S.I. Water Supply Company	1895
26	Water-courses leading into Factor Pond	1895

27	Factory Pond water-courses: report	1895
28	Peter T. Austen: report on driven well	1895
29	Health Department: S.I. water analyses	1899
30	Standard Oil Co.: water analyses	1899
31	Water supply report	1904
32	Charles Spiers, SICofC, regarding water supply, S.I.	1904
33	Municipal Ownership League of N.Y.	1905
34	Col. Chas H. Blair, regarding water supply	1909
35	I.M. De Varona, Chief Engineer, NYC	1910
36	Analyses of waters: Borough of Richmond	1910
37	Report to I.M. De Varona	1910
38	Water supply	1911
39	Hon. Walter I. McCoy, U.S. Rep. regarding water supply	1911
40	Water supply to J.S. Drake	1912
41	Analyses, water supply	1910
42	Water supply, S.I.	n.d.
43	Charles H. Blair property <u>Separation Sheet</u>	n.d.

Box 3/10

Letters to Natural Science Association of Staten Island, Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences, Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences

Folders

1	A. Hollick to Philip Brown (NSASI)	n.d.
2	Rules governing <i>Proceedings</i>	n.d.

3	Letters	1884
4	Letters	1885
5	Letters	1887
6	Letters	1888
7	Letters	1889
8	Letters	1890
9	Letters	1891
10	Letters	1892
11	Letters	1893
12	Letters	1894
13	Letters	1895
14	Letters	1896
15	Letters	1897
16	Letters	1898
17	Letters	1899
18	Letters (SIAS)	1908
19	Letters	1911
20	Letters	1912
21	Engineering Section	1914
22	Francis L. Hagadorn	1918
23	Accession	1918
24	Resignation as Director SIAS	1918
25	Sanderson Smith Library	1919
26	Mrs. Adeline Hollick	1920
27	Letters	1920
28	Kolff-Hollick Correspondence	1920

29	Annotated "Circular of Information"	1925
30	Letters and embossed seal	1927
31	Kolff-Hollick Correspondence	1928
32	Kolff-Hollick Correspondence	1930
33	NSASI & SIIAS ephemera collected by Hollick	various dates
34	Scrapbook of ephemera, NSASI & SIIAS	various dates

Box 4/10

"Reveries of a Tramp"

Folders

1	"Reveries of a Tramp" – I	1889
2	"Reveries of a Tramp" – II	1890
3	"Reveries of a Tramp" – III	1890
4	"Reveries of a Tramp" – IV	1890
5	"Reveries of a Tramp" – V	1890
6	"Reveries of a Tramp" –VI	1890
7	"Reveries of a Tramp"—VII	1890
8	"Reveries of a Tramp"—VIII	1891
9	"Reveries of a Tramp"—X	1891
10	"Reveries of a Tramp"—XI	1891
11	"Reveries of a Tramp"—XII	1892
12	"Reveries of a Tramp"—XIII	1892
13	"Reveries of a Tramp"—XIV	1892

Box 5/10

Folders

1-33	Ephemera: federal and locally	1860-1922
------	-------------------------------	-----------

official reports on pollution,
mosquitoes, fires, natural history,
geology

Box 6/10

Folders

34-55 Ephemera: Water. Federal,
State, and local reports 1884-1910

1-13 Ephemera: articles by A.
Hollick 1880-1921

Box 7/10

Folders

2 bd. vols. Journals 1870-1889

Box 8/10

Folders

2 bd. vols. Scrapbooks 1880-1907

Box 9/10

Folders

1-6 Ephemera by Frederick
Hollick 1834-1873

Box 10/10

Folders

1 bd. vol. One scrapbook 1910-1917

MC IV: 7

Four honor mss. 1879-1905

Index to Scrapbook #5, ascribed to Arthur Hollick

Subject	Date	Page in Scrapbook
Archaeology on S.I.	n.d.	40
Architecture – Pictures of SI Homes	n.d.	55-56
Arthur Kill Bridge	c. 1894	17
Austen House, Rosebank	1895	12
Bedell House destroyed by Ira K. Morris	1897	3
Billopp House	1884	16
Billopp House – Act to Preserve	1901	2
Birds – lecture by E. Rawson	1906	52
Bowne, Samuel – N.Y. Seventy Years Ago	1891	13
Bowne, Samuel – N.Y. Seventy Years Ago	1891	45
Brazil Revolution	1890	20
Cavalry Presbyterian Church	1894	18
Crocheron Homestead, New Springville	1902	30
Crocheron Homestead	1904	38
Cuckles Towne (Richmondtown) by Ira K. Morris	1891	8
Curtis, George William – as literary man	1890	19
Curtis, G.W.	1890	20
Curtis, G.W. – obituary	1892	9
Curtis, G.W. – in commemoration, 1824-1892	1892	10
Curtis, G.W. – Two Great Americans: Curtis & Whittier	1892	10
Curtis, G.W. – Commemoration	1892	11
Curtis, G.W.	n.d.	10
Curtis, G.W.	n.d.	10
Davis, William T. – “Homestead Graves”	1890	20
Dongan, Thomas	1901	32
Dutch Rule of SI	1873	13
Emerson Family	1903	32
Emmens, Stephen H. – stockbroker & scientist	1900	28
Fossils – “Life in NY & Brooklyn Several Million Years Ago” by Hollick	c. 1901	31
Fossils – “Geologists Trip to Alaska” by Hollick	1903	34, 35
Fox Hills Golf Club, Clifton	1901	29
Fresh Kill Bridge	n.d.	5-6
Garibaldi’s Soap & Candle Boiler	n.d.	8
Geology of N.Y.C.	n.d.	38
Grecian Bend, Richmond Terrace	1879	1
Hollick, Arthur – “Life in NY & Brooklyn Several Million Years Ago”	c. 1901	31
Hollick, Arthur – “Geologists Trip to Alaska”	1903	34
H.L. Horton, President of New Brighton	n.d.	4
Hotel Castleton	c. 1894	18
Lower Bay & Tompkinsville by E.J. Meeker	1879	1
Map of S.I. showing property lots	1907	58
Mosquitoes – Extermination of on S.I.	1906	54-55
Natural Science Association of S.I. – Audubon Monument Committee	1887	6
Natural Science Association of S.I. – Prog. of Microscopical Exhib.	1899	12
Natural Science Association of S.I.- Certificate to collect birds	n.d.	5
Natural Science Association of S.I. – Certificate to collect birds	n.d.	27

NYC Farm Colony, Port Richmond	n.d.	35, 36
Old Bell Tower, Stapleton	n.d.	7
Park Development on S.I.	n.d.	36
Patten House, New Dorp	1902	27
Patten House, New Dorp	1902	33
Pavilion Hotel	1879	1
Prospect St. near New Brighton	c. 1894	17
Ravenhurst, West New Brighton	c. 1894	18
Revolutionary War & S.I.	1873	7
Revolutionary War & S.I.	1873	16
Revolutionary War & S.I.	n.d.	14
Richmond Ave., Arrochar Park	c. 1894	17
Rev. Dr. Rockwell's Parsonage	1879	1
Sailors' Snug Harbor	1902	7
Sailors' Snug Harbor – its founder and his will	n.d.	2
Sailors' Snug Harbor	n.d.	4
Schools (early) of SI	1891	7
Schools (early of SI)	n.d.	14
District School no. 2, Castleton	1894	17
Seamen's Retreat Hospital	n.d.	4
Silver Lake	1879	1
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Richmondtown	1902	30
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Richmondtown, "Golden Rectory"	1904	39
Staten Island – Room for expansion in the Island suburb	n.d.	6
Staten Island Ferry	c. 1894	17
Staten Island Ferry	c. 1894	18
Staten Island Ferry – East Shore Ferry War	1895	11
Staten Island Ferry – North Shore Ferry War	1895	22
Staten Island Ferry – East Shore Ferry War – letter by Cornelius	1895	21
Vanderbilt (1848)		
Staten Island Tour	n.d.	57
Steamboat Riot	1895	3
Steamboat Laws	n.d.	22
Steamboats	n.d.	22
Vanderbilt Mausoleum	c. 1894	18
Village Hall, New Brighton	1879	1
Y.M.C.A.	1879	1
