

**FINDING AID FOR THE FRIENDS OF EVELYN MEADOR LIBRARY
HISTORY COLLECTION, 1918-1997 (#2016-0008)**

Collection Number: 2016-0008

Title: Friends of Evelyn Meador Library History Collection

Dates: 1918-1997

Creator: Friends of Evelyn Meador Library

Abstract

The Friends of Evelyn Meador Library History Collection is composed of original and copied historical documents, correspondence, photographs, land records and deeds, school records, board meeting records, calendars, family histories and genealogical information, newspaper clippings and articles, oversized materials, and miscellaneous materials, documenting aspects of the history of the city of Seabrook, Texas, and the wider Clear Lake area. The collection was created by the Friends of Meador Library, the nonprofit support organization for the Evelyn Meador Branch Library of Harris County Public Library, located in Seabrook. The materials cover local organizations and institutions (like churches and schools), non-period copies of land records for Seabrook parcels, and general history of community events and programs.

Extent: 7 linear feet

Language: English

Repository

University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections, Alfred R. Neumann Library, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX 77058-1002

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing this collection.

Restrictions on Use: There are no restrictions on using this collection.

Preferred Citation

Friends of Evelyn Meador Library History Collection (#2016-0008), University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections.

Acquisition

The collection was donated to the University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections by Marianne Kolar from the Friends of Evelyn Meador Library in December 2014.

Processed by: UHCL Archives staff, 2016; finding aid updated by Matthew M. Peek, August 2022.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged in series based on format and purpose of the materials.

Historical Note

The Evelyn Meador Branch Library opened on June 26, 1988, as a public library in Seabrook, Texas. The library was started in 1985, when five interested Seabrook residents met with Commissioner Jim Fonteno to inquire about getting a branch library for the Harris County Public Library built in Seabrook. In 1985, the city of Seabrook—with the blessings of Rex and Evelyn Meador—donated to Harris County, Texas, six acres of land originally given to the city by the Meadors. The original library building was heavily damaged when Hurricane Ike hit coastal Houston, Texas, in 2008.

With funding assistance from the city of Seabrook, a new state-of-the-art, environmentally green facility for the Evelyn Meador Branch Library was completed in 2011, being a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certified building. It opened to the public on June 28, 2011—two days after the 23rd anniversary of the original opening of the library in 1988. The Friends of Evelyn Meador Library works with the Harris County Public Library and the city of Seabrook to support making the Meador Library a valuable resource for the coastal community of Seabrook. The nonprofit organization fundraises to help purchase books, audiovisual materials, furnishings, equipment, programming needs and professional development for staff members of the library.

The Friends of Meador Library collected local original and copied historical materials, largely documenting the development of Seabrook, Texas. Many of these archival items come from local families. The materials cover local organizations and institutions (like churches and schools), non-period copies of land records for Seabrook parcels, and general history of community events and programs. The Friends donated this collection to the University of Houston-Clear Lake Archives and Special Collections in 2014, six years after Hurricane Ike hit and three years after the new Meador Library building opened.

[The information in this historical note was taken directly from, with edits and additions, the Evelyn Meador Branch Library's "About this Branch—History" webpage at <https://www.hcpl.net/branch/evelyn-meador-branch-library>]

Scope and Content

The collection is composed of original and copied historical documents, correspondence, photographs, land records and deeds, school records, board meeting records, calendars, family histories and genealogical information, newspaper clippings and articles, oversized materials, and miscellaneous materials, documenting aspects of the history of the city of Seabrook, Texas, and the wider Clear Lake area. The collection was created by the Friends of Meador Library, the nonprofit support organization for the Evelyn Meador Branch Library of Harris County Public Library, located in Seabrook. The materials cover local organizations and institutions (like churches and schools), non-period copies of land records for Seabrook parcels, and general history of community events and programs. A good amount of material in this collection includes information about the Ballantine family, who were early residents of the Seabrook area.

Subject Terms

Personal/Family Name

Ballantine family
Brummerhop, Emogene
Harris, Edwin H. (Edwin Hunter)
Isensee, Christian
Mephram, Sarah J.

Corporate Names

Friendswood Development Company
Seabrook United Methodist Church

Geographic Name

Alvin (Tex.)
Clear Lake City (Tex.)
Harris County (Tex.)
Kemah (Tex.)
Seabrook (Tex.)
Webster (Tex.)

Topical Term

Houston (Tex.)--History
Houston (Tex.)--History--Sources
Seabrook (Tex.)--History
Texas--History, Local

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence
Legal documents
Maps
Photographs
Programs

Collection Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series I: Ephemera and Paper Materials			
1	1	Letter from soldier to mother sent through American Expeditionary Forces Knights of Columbus (partial)	circa 1918

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
	2	Booklet for Davenport Visiting Nurse Association Open House	circa 1927
	3	Seabrook School Report to Parent for J.A. Ballentine	1928-1929
	4	Webster High School Report to Parents for J.A. Ballentine	1934-1935
	5	Webster High School Report to Parents for J.A. Ballentine	1935-1936
	6	Webster High School Commencement Exercises program	1937
	7	Card for service for George Willis York, Madrid Iowa	July 12, 1937
	8	List of persons attending family reunion at the home of Mrs. M.A. Ballentine, Seabrook Texas	October 14, 1951
	9	Robbins Monument Company agreement for John C. and Melissa A. Ballentine burial monument	February 11, 1954
	10	W.C. and I.D. No. 55 Equalization Board Meeting minutes (handwritten and typed)	August 1957, October 1957
	11	Clear Creek Consolidated Independent School District assessed value letters with handwritten notes	1957
	12	Program for Basketball Banquet honoring Clear Creek Wildcats	March 30, 1966
	13	Hillcrest Golf Club (Alvin, TX) scorecard	Undated
	14	Seabrook 1900-1960 by Alecyia Galloway, Historian, Environmental Institute of Houston	Undated
	15	Handwritten notes on property ownership	Undated
	16	Mattie Baker Parker Hermes, Navarro County, family/genealogical information	Undated
	17	Birth-dated calendar, Seabrook Methodist Church	1961
	18	Birth-dated calendar of the Ladies' Auxiliary of Seabrook Volunteer Fire Department	1978
	19	Life member certificate for Mrs. Charles Mephram-Women's Society of Christian Service of the Methodist Church	October 20, 1947

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
20		Honorary baby membership for John Elwood Ballentine-Women's Society of Christian Service of the Methodist Church	April 28, 1953
21		Seabrook Bicentennial Award to J.A. Ballentine, Jr.	July 4, 1976
22		Seabrook Bicentennial Award to J.A. Ballentine, Sr.	July 4, 1976
23		Seabrook Bicentennial Award to Ruth Ballentine	July 4, 1976
24		Seabrook United Methodist Church directory	circa 1960s
25		News clipping: "Mother" W.W. Turner of Webster watching American Legion Parade	August 2, 1953
26		News clipping: Baytown-La Porte Tunnel opening	September 16, 1953
27		News clipping: Honored members of Seabrook United Methodist Church, Mrs. Winnie (Chapman) Christy, Merlin Compton, and Mrs. J.A. Ballentine	circa 1976
28		News clipping: J.A. Ballentine-Seabrook's oldest residing native (partial)	Undated
29		News clipping photo with caption: Seabrook Hunting and Fishing Lodge	Undated
Series II: Legal Documents and Maps			
30		Last Will and Testament, Mrs. Sarah J. Mephram	January 26, 1938
31		Warranty Deed, Henry Dudley, et al, to M.A. Ballentine, lot 8, block 26 of the Town of Seabrook	November 30, 1927
32		Warranty Deed, Seabrook Land Company to Vetta Ballentine, lots 1-4 and fractional lot 5, block 28 of the Town of Seabrook	December 26, 1931
33		Affidavit, Edwin Hunter Harris	February 1936
34		Sale from M.A. Ballentine to Harris County, Texas, State Highway No. 146 1720-1, strip of land being 100 feet wide...	circa 1936
35		Warranty Deed, William B. Murdock, Jr. et al to Grove H. Brown, et al, parts of two adjoining tracts	December 1, 1938

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
36		Release from Lulu Bryan Rambaud to Vetta Ballentine, west half of each lot numbers 1 and 2, block 149 of the Town of Seabrook	April 3, 1943
37		Petitions, M.A. Ballentine, J.A. Ballentine, and A.L. Ballentine to Commissioners' Court of Harris County, Seabrook Townsite	Undated
38		Plat map of Wildwood Section 2 subdivision, Ritson Morris Survey	June 1960
39		Map: survey and location of a 25-acre tract of land in Ritson Morris League (2 copies)	November 25, 1952
40		Plat ownership map of Clear Lake area, Friendswood Development Co. with handwritten note "Mary Milby 1978"	Undated
40A		Mayoral Charter, City of Seabrook	June 28, 1979
40B		Map: indexed street map of Clear Lake, Webster, Seabrook	Undated
40C		Map: Texas City, La Marque, ship channel, Galveston Bay	1962

Series III: Photographs

41		Harris County Courthouse (copy)	1891
42		7th grade graduation class (with names), Seabrook TX School (copy)	May 1933
43		Armory, J.A. Ballentine (2)	circa 1942
44		Baytown Tunnel (3)	March 1954
45		J.A. Ballentine/Bulay House, 3rd and Moskowitz streets	April 1955
46		Photographs (copies): Seabrook Elementary and Junior High School and class photo	1959
47		Photographs (copies): Karen and John Ballentine near motor car barn and John Ballentine and Pal (dog) with Seabrook United Methodist Church in background	February 1960
48		Kemah views and bridge construction (10)	circa 1986
49		Seabrook Celebration, Clear Lake High School Band and Color Guard (2)	October 6, 1990

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
50		Owen and EarMac Christy home, Cook St., built 1933-1935 (2)	June 1994
51		Maupin home, Cook St. (2)	June 1994
52		A.L. Ballentine House, 1113 Cook St., with Tookie's restaurant parking sign in foreground	June 1994
53		A.L. Ballentine house, 1113 Cook St., preparation and move to Hall St. (5)	June-July 1994
54		Seabrook Elementary School removal (5)	December 17, 1996
55		Demolition of Kroger grocery store in Miramar Center (5)	circa May 1997
56		Highway 146 drawbridge in Kemah TX with Paul Craig Pier 3 store in foreground	Undated
57		Parking lot with Flying Dutchman restaurant sign in the background	Undated
58		View from Highway 146 bridge with Crab House, Pier 8 restaurants (2)	Undated
59		Street flooding	Undated
60		Seabrook Police Officer in front of Ford Galaxie police car	Undated
61		Landing of the Clear Creek County Ferry, Kemah	1994, undated
62		Summer home, Seabrook (copy)	Undated
63		Lucy Burns with horses	Undated
64		Unknown events (2)	Undated
65		Social functions	Undated
66		Construction	Undated
67		Morgan's Point/ Seabrook School	Undated
68		Parade	Undated
69		Seabrook volunteer fire dept.	Undated
70		Brummerhop family and home	1940s-1971
71		Unidentified families, landscapes	Undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
	72	Platzers shipyard, Kemah, TX	Undated
		Series IV: Periodicals and Newspaper Clippings	
2	1	Article: 'Life in Seabrook' by J. Ballentine and E. Brummerhop	Undated
	2	Article: Seabrook history, '150 Years' incomplete article	Undated
	3	Article: 'The Early Years of Seabrook'	Undated
	4	Article: historical chronology of Seabrook, 'The First 100 Years'	Undated
	5	Article: 'The Old Dobie Graveyard in Seabrook Cemetery'	Undated
	6	Newspaper article-Bayshore Peace Officers Association	1967
	7	Clear Lake Area Magazine article-'Joe Hester's Recollections'	1990
	8	Article: Seabrook History (1895-1961)	Undated
	9	Newspaper article: 'The Genoa School'	Undated
	10	Newspaper clipping-Mrs. George Ballentine	Undated
	11	Article: Casa Mare House	1991
	12	Newspaper clipping: Amy Ballentine. Nelda Wills	Undated
	13	Newspaper clipping: Seabrook Association gift to PTA	Undated
	14	Booklet: Gov. M. Ferguson inaugural ball	1925
	15	Personal letter	May 4, 1945
	16	Seabrook City Council 11th District roster	1966
	17	Program: dedication of Seabrook City Hall	October 1, 1966
	18	Report of Citizens' Committee of Seabrook	August 19, 1965
	19	City Council Petition	April 15, 1969
	20	Public hearing	January 11, 1972

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
21		Seabrook bond issue	May 22, 1971
22		Taylor Lake Village residents' directory	November, 1971
23		Harbor study committee meeting	November 1, 1975
24		Seabrook City Council hearing	January 25, 1977
25		Concerned residents of Seabrook newsletter	January 29, 1977
26		Seabrook Celebration	October 6, 1982
27		Seabrook Grade School banquet	May 28, 1984
28		Envelope from TX Governor's office to E. Brummerhop	August 22, 1984
29		Student newspaper of J. F. Bay Elementary School	1985
30		Mail-out Brummerhop Park	Undated
31		Seabrook Association parade line-up	1985
32		Seabrook Association members list	1985
33		Citizen of the Year banquet	July 16, 1986
34		City of Seabrook report	1987
35		Seabrook Mayor letter to E. Brummerhop	October 5, 1988
36		Seabrook community newsletter	May, 1989
37		Grand opening announcement of Seabrook municipal complex	April 20, 1996
38		Invitation retirement reception for R. Wicker	March3, 2000
39		E. Meador Library Friends group newsletter	September, 2001
40		Agenda Ellington Field visit	July 7, 2005
41		Program, memorial service for Columbia space shuttle crew	February 3, 2003
42		Article about Seabrook, Texas Highways Magazine	September, 2003
43		Seabrook City holiday greeting	November, 2004

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
	44	LOG newsletter, E. Meador Library birthday celebration	July, 2005
	45	Certificate of appreciation, E. Brummerhop	February 15, 2006
	46	Program, ceremony for Seabrook Volunteer Fire Department	October 29, 2005
	47	Newsletter, Seabrook Rotary Club	November, 2005
	48	Invitation, the Berth of Bayport	February 10, 2007
	49	Postcard, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership	Undated
	50	Ed White Memorial Youth Center board of directors	Undated
	51	Public announcement, Seabrook waterfront development study	Undated
	52	Public announcement, Seabrook bond issue	Undated
	53	Bumper sticker, Seabrook bicentennial celebration	Undated
	54	Seabrook Police Department code of ethics	Undated
	55	Magazines-'A Day at the Bay', Seabrook celebration	1987-1991
	56	Magazines-'A Day at the Bay', Seabrook celebration	1992-1997
	57	Magazine-'The Bay Area Resident'	September, 1991
	54	Seabrook Police Department code of ethics	Undated

Series IV: Oversized items

3	Cover, Seabrook Police Department calendar
	Illustration print by John Kelly
	Newspaper, <i>The Allerton News</i>
	Newspaper, <i>The Miles City Daily Star</i>
	Newspaper article, Felix Jenkins
	Loose page from scrapbook with newspaper articles from <i>The Houston Chronicle</i> attached
	Laminated pages of black-and-white photographs

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
		Laminated photograph on pasteboard	
		Laminated promotional guide to Seabrook, TX	
		Laminated map of Clear Lake and Seabrook, TX	
		Laminated genealogical chart of Brummerhop family	
		Laminated promotional brochure, Fabulous Clear Lake Area	
4		Seabrook History exhibit (general history, Indians, pirates, and early settlers, businesses, homes, and since World War II)	
5		Seabrook Ceramics exhibit displays, Visualize Prehistoric Seabrook	
6		Framed Items:	
		Appreciation of Rotary Club of Seabrook Texas in support of Summer Reading Programs (2)	
		Seabrook Rotary Club Certificate of Appreciation of Elton Porter, Jr. to the White Hat Fundraiser supporting the Summer Literacy Program, June 26, 1997	
		Seabrook Rotary thanks for continued support of the Friends Annual Spaghetti Dinner, 2007	
		Angelo's Pizza and Pasta thanks for continued support of the Friends Annual Spaghetti Dinner, 2007	
		Seabrook/Kemah Ferry-Wesley Powell	
		Arson Reward (City of Seabrook)	
		Certification that the United States flag was flown for the Evelyn Meador Library on the occasion of the 50 th Anniversary of the National Federation of Republican Women (flag not present) (2) 1988	