



**Archives Center & Research Library
Finding Aid**

**William A. Searle Photograph Collection, circa 1876-1973 (bulk 1934-1963)
Collection #2014-014**

ABSTRACT:

Most of the items in this collection are black and white photographs of Haddonfield events, people, and places that William A. Searle (1884-1970) collected or used in his long career as an editor and newspaper man in Haddonfield, among other places. As a whole, the collection is a unique visual record of community life and the built environment in the Haddonfield area in the mid twentieth century. The collection also contains a small amount of Searle's personal papers, including correspondence to and from his sons, historical notes on Haddonfield and Haddon Township, and records from the Taxpayers' League of Haddonfield circa 1934-1936.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

Collection #: 2014-014

Collection title: William A. Searle Photograph Collection

Creator: William Searle

Type of collection: personal

Date of materials - earliest: circa 1876

Date of materials - latest: 1973

Bulk dates: 1934-1963

Number of boxes: 7 standard archival boxes

Extent: 2.8 linear feet

Provenance: Found in collection

Any restrictions on access? No restrictions

Language(s): English

Related collections:

Department of Rare Books, Special Collections & Preservation, River Campus Libraries,
University of Rochester: William Albert Searle papers, 1884-1964, Collection A.S44.
Minnesota Historical Society: Rodney N. Searle papers, 1943-2005, file no. 00566.

Other internal notes: This collection was found in the Historical Society's archives in the late 1980s or early 1990s, but was most likely transferred here when Searle moved to Minnesota in 1965. Some images are later, circa 1970-1973, and may have been transferred by other staff at the *Town Crier-Herald* due to Searle's connection to the Historical Society. Volunteers arranged the images by topic sometime after rediscovering it, and archivist Dana Dorman accessioned the collection in 2014. A large quantity of published materials like town directories, event programs, and other printed ephemera was separated to the library stacks or pamphlet collections and is cataloged there.

Finding aid author: Dana Dorman

Date finding aid created: 10/17/18

SUBJECTS / ACCESS POINTS:

Geographic names

Haddonfield (N.J.)

Source?

lcsh

Names

Searle, William A., 1884-1970

Searle, Rodney N., 1920-2014

Source?

local

local

BIOGRAPHICAL / HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

William Albert Searle (1884-1970) was a longtime newspaper man in Haddonfield and an active member of the community for 47 years.

Born in Arizona, he graduated from the University of Rochester in 1906. He began his career working for Rochester newspapers, including the *Times* (1906), *Herald* (1906-1907), *Evening Times* (1907-1910), and the *Post Express* (1910-1911). He then worked for the Chambers of Commerce in Rome, New York; Manchester, New Hampshire; and Camden, New Jersey.

He married Ruby Marie Barrus Searle (1883-1959) in 1914. She attended Syracuse University and was a registered nurse. William and Ruby had three sons: Barton L. Searle (1917-2001), who would eventually settle in Needham, Massachusetts; Rodney N. Searle (1920-2014), who served many years as a state legislator in Minnesota; and Harvey Russell Searle (1921-1996), a career U.S. Air Force officer whose second career was in insurance in Moorestown, New Jersey.

It's unclear exactly when Searle and his family moved to Haddonfield, but they were certainly living here by the 1920 U.S. federal census. Searle apparently purchased the *Daily Camden* newspaper in 1919. He then became the owner of the *Post-Telegram* newspaper in Camden in 1923, buying it through a purchasing company, the Camden Publishing Company, for which he was president and his father was vice president. However, only four months later, Searle "retired" and returned it to its former owner,

state Rep. Francis F. Patterson, Jr. News coverage at the time hints that the Searle purchase was a sham, part of some behind-the-scenes maneuverings by the Republican party.

After the return of the *Post-Telegram*, Searle was described as working with his father, who had extensive real estate holdings in Philadelphia. But Searle also began working at the Life Underwriters' National Association in 1924 as the traveling assistant to the president of the company. He continued in this position until 1930, when he was elected executive vice-president and general manager of the Pyramid Life Insurance Company of Charlotte, North Carolina. An undated business card found in the collection also identifies him as Agency Supervisor for National Life Insurance Co., Montpelier, Vermont, with a home address in Haddonfield.

Eventually, Searle returned to newspapers and served 14 years as editor of the *Haddon Gazette*, the *Haddon Herald*, and the *Moorestown Chronicle*. He also wrote articles for the *Camden Courier*, the *Courier-Post*, and the *Town Crier-Herald*; contributed to "pulp magazines" using a nom-de-plume; and had poetry published in the *Philadelphia Bulletin*.

During Searle's 47 years living in Haddonfield, he was an active member of the Presbyterian Church, Plays & Players, the Haddonfield Republican Club, the Haddonfield Civic Association, and the Historical Society of Haddonfield. He moved to Minnesota in 1965 to live with his son Rodney's family. He passed away in 1970 at the age of 86. Both William and Ruby Searle are buried in Rochester, NY.

Bibliography:

"Ex-newsman Dead in Waseca Nursing Home." *The Winona Daily News*, October 12, 1970.

Facer, Ruth. "Bill Searle to Leave for Minn." *Haddonfield Herald*, September 5, 1965.

Searle, William A. "Remember Us This Way" holiday letter. Historical Society of Haddonfield vertical research file, "Searle."

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

Most of the items in this collection are black and white photographs of Haddonfield events, people, and places that William Searle collected or used in his long career as a newspaper man. As a whole, the collection is a unique visual record of community life and the built environment in the Haddonfield area in the mid twentieth century.

The collection is arranged into two series:

Series 1: Photographs

This series contains photographs and other items that we believe Searle used in or collected for local newspapers. The bulk of the photos date from the early 1950s to the mid-1960s, and some have crop marks or other labeling that show they were published in a newspaper, including in the *Herald* and the *Town Crier-Herald*. It is unclear how Searle himself organized the photos, but Historical Society volunteers arranged them by topic / subject in the late 1980s or early 1990s. Searle also collected other

peoples' photos to use in articles about history or past events, so occasional images are obviously much older and some folders contain correspondence, notes, or newspaper clippings about the images.

Most images do not have photographer credits listed, though some images may have creators noted on the verso sides. More research is needed to determine likely copyright restrictions of the images that are found here. Some images have writing on the verso indicating dates or describing what is happening in the image, but many do not.

A small number of photographs date to after Searle's involvement in local newspapers, but also have crop marks or other publication marks. For instance, photos in "4-H Club" (Box 1, Folder 1) and "Awards" (Box 1, Folder 8) clearly date to the early 1970s. We have no information about how these few photos made it into the collection, so assume that someone else involved with the *Town Crier* or another newspaper donated these to the Historical Society after Searle's death.

Series 2: Other Papers

This series contains a variety of personal and business papers, including historical notes on Haddonfield and Haddon Township, the 1876 New Jersey Building, correspondence to or from Searle's sons and a few business papers. One folder includes records of the Taxpayers' League of Haddonfield (Box 7, Folder 18), for which Searle served as secretary. The league worked to reduce taxes in 1934 in particular, and newspaper clippings, minutes, and other materials trace the group's spirited campaign.

CONTAINER LIST / INVENTORY:

Series 1: Photographs

4-H Club	Box 1	Folder 1
65 Club	Box 1	Folder 2
Adult School	Box 1	Folder 3
American Legion	Box 1	Folder 4
Animals/animal care	Box 1	Folder 5
Antique show	Box 1	Folder 6
Audubon Society	Box 1	Folder 7
Awards	Box 1	Folder 8
Blood drive	Box 1	Folder 9
Business district	Box 1	Folders 10-12
Business district sidewalk sales	Box 1	Folder 13
Cherry Hill [Delaware Township]	Box 1	Folder 14

Circus	Box 1	Folder-15
Civil defense	Box 1	Folder 16
Construction and demolition	Box 1	Folder 17
Cooper Ball	Box 1	Folder 18
Damages - fire, wind, accidents, storms	Box 1	Folder 19
Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)	Box 1	Folder 20
Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh	Box 1	Folder 21
Evans/Hopkins Pond	Box 1	Folder 22
Fashion shows	Box 2	Folder 1
Festivities - Christmas	Box 2	Folder 2
Festivities - Easter	Box 2	Folder 3
Festivities - Halloween	Box 2	Folder 4
Festivities - misc.	Box 2	Folder 5
Fire/police/other Borough departments	Box 2	Folder 6
Fundraising benefits	Box 2	Folder 7
Garden Club	Box 2	Folder 8
Governor William Cahill	Box 2	Folder 9A
Governor Alfred E. Driscoll	Box 2	Folder 9B
Haddon Fortnightly	Box 2	Folder 10
Haddonfield Plays & Players	Box 2	Folder 11
Hadrosaurus	Box 2	Folder 12
Historical Society of Haddonfield	Box 2	Folder 13
Houses/buildings/street scenes	Box 3	Folders 1-2
Indian King	Box 3	Folder 3
Jaycees	Box 3	Folder 4
Kiwanis Club	Box 3	Folder 5
Lions Club	Box 3	Folder 6
Masons	Box 3	Folder 7
Medical	Box 3	Folder 8
Military/veterans - group photos	Box 3	Folder 9

Military/veterans - head shots (individual)	Box 3	Folder 10
Military/veterans - War of 1898	Box 3	Folder 11
Musical performances - group photos	Box 3	Folder 12
Musical performances - individual head shots	Box 3	Folder 13
Negatives	Box 3	Folder 14
Newcomers Club	Box 3	Folder 15
Parades	Box 3	Folders 16-18
People - college graduates	Box 3	Folder 19
People - cruises & vacations	Box 4	Folder 1
People - head shots (individual)	Box 4	Folders 2-3
People - identified	Box 4	Folders 4-5
People - unidentified	Box 4	Folder 6
People – weddings	Box 4	Folder 7
People – youth, identified	Box 4	Folder 8
People – youth, unidentified	Box 4	Folder 9
Poets and authors	Box 4	Folder 10
Political	Box 5	Folder 1
Presbyterian Home	Box 5	Folder 2
Railroad and Speedline	Box 5	Folder 3
Religion - Christ the King	Box 5	Folder 4
Religion - christening of plane	Box 5	Folder 5
Religion - First Baptist	Box 5	Folder 6
Religion - First Church of Christ, Scientist	Box 5	Folder 7
Religion - First Presbyterian	Box 5	Folder 8
Religion - Friends Meeting	Box 5	Folder 9
Religion - Grace Episcopal	Box 5	Folder 10
Religion - Lutheran Church	Box 5	Folder 11
Religion - Methodist Church	Box 5	Folder 12
Religion - misc.	Box 5	Folder 13
Religion - Mt. Olivet	Box 5	Folder 14

Religion - Mt. Pisgah	Box 5	Folder 15
Rotary Club	Box 5	Folder 16
Schools - Abraham Lincoln School [segregated African American elementary school in Haddonfield]]	Box 5	Folder 17
Schools - Alumni Association	Box 5	Folder 18
Schools - Bancroft	Box 5	Folder 19
Schools - bomb drills	Box 5	Folder 20
Schools – Brown School	Box 5	Folder 21
Schools - Central Elementary	Box 5	Folder 22
Schools - Christ the King	Box 5	Folder 23
Schools - Elizabeth Haddon Elementary	Box 5	Folder 24
Schools - Haddonfield Friends School	Box 5	Folder 25
Schools - Grove School	Box 5	Folder 26
Schools - Haddonfield Memorial High School	Box 5	Folders 27-28
Schools - Haddonfield Middle School	Box 6	Folder 1
Schools – Haddonfield area unidentified	Box 6	Folder 2
Schools - JF Tatem Elementary	Box 6	Folder 3
Schools - Nearby/Cherry Hill/Haddon Heights	Box 6	Folder 4
Schools - PTA	Box 6	Folder 5
Schools - St. Mary's	Box 6	Folder 6
Scouts, Girls and Boys	Box 6	Folder 7
Shepherds Home	Box 6	Folder 8
Shriners	Box 6	Folder 9
Sports - archery team, boys	Box 6	Folder 10
Sports - band, cheerleaders, etc.	Box 6	Folder 11
Sports - baseball	Box 6	Folder 12
Sports - basketball	Box 6	Folder 13
Sports - Boys State	Box 6	Folder 14
Sports - field hockey	Box 6	Folder 15
Sports - football	Box 6	Folder 16

Sports - gymnastics	Box 6	Folder 17
Sports - tennis	Box 6	Folder 18
Sports - Women's Club Team [softball or baseball]	Box 6	Folder 19
Swimming - Mountwell Pool	Box 6	Folder 20
Theater productions, including professional	Box 6	Folder 21
YMCA	Box 6	Folder 22

Series 2: Other Papers

Haddonfield & Haddon Township history	Box 6	Folders 25-26
Haddonfield & Haddon Township history (including copy of <i>American Guerrilla in the Philippines</i> , by Ira Wolfert)	Box 7	Folder 1
Haddonfield business district	Box 7	Folder 2
Haddonfield maps	Box 7	Folder 3
Historical - Birdwood Club/Young Men's	Box 7	Folder 4
Historical - Camden County & beyond	Box 7	Folder 5
Jersey Building	Box 7	Folder 6
Miscellaneous	Box 7	Folder 7
Pyramid Insurance Co.	Box 7	Folder 8
Searle business papers, including press pin and 1913 Rochester newswriters strike pin	Box 7	Folder 9
Searle, Mr. & Mrs. correspondence, 1918	Box 7	Folder 10
Searle, Mr. & Mrs. correspondence, 6/1927 to 9/1937	Box 7	Folder 11
Searle, Mr. & Mrs. correspondence, 12/1947 to 7/1948	Box 7	Folder 12
Searle, Mr. & Mrs. correspondence, 8/1948 to 8/1955	Box 7	Folder 13
Searle, Mr. & Mrs. correspondence, undated	Box 7	Folder 14
Searle newspaper clippings	Box 7	Folder 15
Searle personal papers	Box 7	Folder 16
Sports newspaper clippings	Box 7	Folder 17
Taxpayers' League of Haddonfield, 1934-1936	Box 7	Folder 18