Guide to the Robinson and Via Family Papers

NMAH.AC0475

by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

Preservation of the 8mm films in this collection was made possible, in part, by a grant from the National Film Preservation Fund.

December 22, 2014

This finding aid was generated automatically on April 21, 2015
# Table of Contents

Collection Overview ........................................................................................................... 1  
Administrative Information ............................................................................................... 1  
Biographical Note ............................................................................................................. 2  
Scope and Content Note ............................................................................................... 10  
Arrangement ................................................................................................................... 13  
Names and Subject Terms ............................................................................................. 14  
Container Listing ............................................................................................................ 17  
  Series 1: Ferndale Farm (Potomac Landing), Prince George's County, Maryland, 1861-1977, undated ................................................................. 17  
  Series 2: Robinson Family, 1845-1997, undated ................................................... 19  
  Series 3: Serenity Farm, Charles County, Maryland, 1962-2001, undated ......... 27  
  Series 4: Via Farm, Calvert County, Maryland, 1954-1987, undated ............. 28  
  Series 5: Via Family, 1932-1997, undated ............................................................. 29  
  Series 6: Photographs and Photographic Negatives, 1865-2000, undated ...... 32  
  Series 7: Audiovisual, 1943-1997 ........................................................................ 40
Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Creator: Robinson, Franklin A., Jr., 1959-, actor
Title: Robinson and Via Family Papers
Dates: 1845-2014
Bulk Dates: 1872-1985
Quantity: 15 cubic feet, 46 boxes, 2 oversized folders, 14 reels, Including photographs, film, and videotape
Abstract: The Robinson family acquired land and began raising tobacco in Prince George's County, Maryland in 1843 (Potomac Landing, later known as Ferndale Farm). By the mid-twentieth century, the family was farming over 1,000 acres in Prince George's and Charles Counties, Maryland, through a combination of lease and direct ownership. The family continues farming on approximately 275 acres of owned property (Serenity Farm) in Benedict, Charles County, Maryland. The Via family acquired land and began raising tobacco and livestock near Clinton, Prince George's County, Maryland, by 1949. By 1956, the family had sold the Clinton property and moved to Island Creek, Calvert County, Maryland and engaged in farming full time on approximately 115 acres of owned property. By 1993, the Via farm was no longer being farmed with the remaining acreage sold in 2002.
Language: English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
The collection was donated to the National Museum of American History, Archives Center, by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., in November 1993.

Separated Materials

Materials at the National Museum of American History
Division of Armed Forces History (National Numismatics Collection) holds the Robert M. Via Trolley Token Collection.

Related Material

Materials at Other Organizations

The Maryland Historical Society holds items (costume, farming related implements) related to the Robinson and Via family.

Processing Information

Processed by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., volunteer, 1992-1993; supervised by Craig Orr and Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivists. Addenda processed by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., archives technician, 2009, supervised by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist

Preferred Citation

The Robinson and Via Family Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted research use on site to portions of collection, but some papers of living persons are restricted. Access to restricted portions may be arranged by request to donor. Gloves required for unprotected photographs. Viewing film portions of the collection and listening to LP recording requires special appointment.

Ownership & Literary Rights

The Archives Center does not own exclusive rights to these materials. Copyright for all materials is retained by the donor, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.; permission for commercial use and/or publication may be requested from the donor through the Archives Center. Military Records for Franklin A. Robinson (b. 1932) and correspondence from Richard I. Damalouji (1961-2014) are restricted; written permission is needed to research these files. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Accruals

Addenda to the collection were added in June 2001 and 2009 by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

Biographical Note

Robinson Family

The Robinson family is thought to be of Scottish origin and appear in the records of Prince George's County, Maryland by the early 18th century. The line has been definitively traced to James Robinson (?-1849). James' father was probably Benjamin Robinson (?-1810), of Prince George's County, Maryland. (Will Book TT1, pg. 15, Records of Prince George's County, Maryland, Maryland State Archives (MSA))

James Robinson and Sarah Wynn were issued a marriage license on February 28, 1802 in Prince George's County, Maryland. (Marriage Records of Prince George's County, Maryland) Eleven children lived to maturity (not listed in birth order); Thomas Wells (1803-1869), Ann, Priscilla, James Monroe,
Benjamin (1813-1882), John C. (1819-1895), Mary Sophia, Thomas Stanley, Alfred, Sarah Ann, Matilda, and Rebecca Maria.

James worked as overseer for Benjamin Oden on Oden's estate Bellefields near Upper Marlborough, Prince George's County. (Oden Papers, Maryland Historical Society) The Robinsons and their children, moved to Wood County, Virginia (now West Virginia) on April 18, 1818 where James acted as Oden's land agent (Deed Book 6, pg. 123, Land Records of Wood County, West Virginia). They brought with them three slaves described in the above reference as, "Kate a woman 45 years of age very black; Colonel a boy aged 8 years yellow complexion: and George a boy aged six years of a dark brown complexion." They settled on part of what was known as the "Burnt Mill" tract in the general area where the Hughes River meets the Little Kanawha River. (Deed Book 9, pg. 110 and Deed Book 14, pg. 40, Land Records of Wood County)

Thomas Wells Robinson may not have accompanied his family to Virginia as he has a presence in Prince George's County prior to 1822 and was employed as overseer for Benjamin Oden at least until 1832. He married Elizabeth I. Richards on December 15, 1829 (Robinson Family Bible). They had nine children; Richard Thomas (1831-1906), Rebecca Maria (1832-1895), Mary Wynn (1834-1916), James George (1835-1883), Virlinda Victoria (1837-1838), Elizabeth Ann (1839-1916), Sarah Ann Sophia (1840-1874), Franklin Alexander (1841-1905) and John Alfred (1843); seven lived to maturity. (Robinson Family Bible) Elizabeth died on August 17, 1843 from complications in childbirth. She was buried in the churchyard of Page's Chapel (later known as St. Thomas Episcopal Church), Croom, Prince George's County. In 1843, Thomas purchased the plantation of Dr. Benjamin B. Hodges for $10,000 or approximately $15 an acre. Hodges was a brother-in-law of Benjamin Oden. The deed dated September 7, 1843 describes the parcel as containing, "Six hundred and twenty nine acres of land more or less and constitute that plantation or Estate of the said Benjamin Oden heretofore commonly called "Brown's Quarter Place" being the Land tracts and parcels of land sold by the said Benjamin Oden to the said Benjamin B. Hodges and by deed bearing date the tenth day of December eighteen hundred and thirty five and recorded in Liber AB no. 10 folio 162 also one of the land Records of the County aforesaid". (JBB no. 3 pgs. 312 314, Land Records of Prince George's County) The land was level to rolling bordered on the north by a tributary of Piscataway Creek and generally termed "white oak land". Underlying the whole property was a large strata of gravel and sand. The entire parcel went by the name, Potomac Landing.

Thomas supplemented his land holdings with later purchases. With the exception of twenty acres purchased from Sarah Talbert in 1844, (JBB no. 3 pg. 475, Land Records of Prince George's County) and the purchase of lot #3 consisting of 195 acres, part of the estate of John Townshend in 1856, these purchases were not contiguous to Potomac Landing. By the time of his death in 1869 these non-contiguous parcels had been sold. Thomas sold eighty-six acres of Potomac Landing and Jeffries to Edward Eversfield in October of 1843. (JBB no. 3, pg. 198, Land Records of Prince George's County) On January 13, 1846 Thomas married the widow Martha Ann Walls, daughter of George and Martha Naylor Walls. They had two sons; Benjamin Wells (1848-1849) and Robert Henry (1851-1937).

In addition to his sons, Thomas owned slaves. The number varied from six in 1849 (JBB 6, folio 186, Land Records of Prince Georges' County) to eleven as noted in the census for 1850, and finally six as noted in the census of 1860. The 1867 Maryland Slave Statistics noted that, "at the time of the adoption of the Constitution of Maryland, in the year 1864, . . ." Thomas owned six slaves, their names and ages being: Isaac Franklin age 31, Alfred West age 19, Susan West age 17, Margaret Franklin age 14, Fannie Franklin age 12, and Peter Franklin age 9. All were noted as being in good physical condition. (Prince Georges' County Slave Statistics 1867 1869, C 1307 1, MdHR:6198, page 185, MSA)

In April 11, 1855 Thomas executed a deed of trust to J.W. & E. Reynolds of Baltimore for securing a loan. At that time the farm was described as, "about five hundred and seventy acres . . . also the following personal property to wit Eight head of horses, nine cows, two mules, twelve work oxen, twenty Eight Sheep, one bull, two colts and all other stock of every description now on the aforesaid land, also the farming utensils and the following named Slaves, Stephen aged Sixty three years, Isaac aged twenty six years, Elvia aged twenty Eight years Alfred aged twelve years, Hanson aged ten years, Henrietta
aged twelve years Susanna aged eight years, and Margaret aged three years. Together with the crop of Tobacco now in the house and the crop of wheat now growing.” (EWB 1 pages 155 156, Land Records of Prince Georges' County)

Thomas's financial problems began in the mid-1800s when Deeds of Trust appear in the county records securing outstanding loans. In 1856 and 1857 Thomas joined with others as bondsman for his son, Richard who was serving as "Collector of the State and County Taxes" for the 4th collection district, making he and the other signatories liable for any uncollected taxes. This, coupled with poor investments, led to his almost being "sold out" in 1859-1860 by J.W. & E. Reynolds of Baltimore to pay his debts. He executed three drafts on Penn & Mitchell, also of Baltimore, to pay off J.W. & E. Reynolds. (Equity Case #597, Prince Georges' County) Thomas was in poor health and his son James managed the plantation in 1857 and 1858, and again from 1861 to October of 1862 (Equity Case #873, Prince Georges' County)

In October of 1862 Thomas' two sons, James and Franklin, traveled to Richmond to join the Confederate States Army. James enrolled in the 5th Battalion, Local Defense Arsenal and Franklin enrolled in the 5th Virginia Infantry, the Stonewall Brigade. (CSA Military Records, National Archives) James visited home frequently but was captured by the Union Army in St. Mary's County, Maryland on May 15, 1864 and spent the remainder of the war in Point Lookout Prison Camp. He was released on May 14, 1865. Franklin was not able to visit home at all during the war but survived to return home in 1865. In 1865, Thomas surveyed a parcel of 172 acres for his daughter Rebecca Maria. Rebecca had married her second cousin, William B. Robertson, on November 18, 1855. He made a gift of fifty acres, and Rebecca agreed to purchase the remainder. The Robertsons named this parcel Holly Grove. In Equity Case #849 (1872) filed after Thomas' death, his widow Martha and Samuel H. Berry, as executrix and executor, sought to recover payment for this land. At that time, William B. Robertson described this 172 acres of Potomac Landing: "There was no fences on the line which separated this land from the old gentleman's land, but he was to put a fence on it which he agreed to do before we agreed to come there. The land was thin, unimproved, with gullies and scrubby pine. If witness had been a judge of land he would not have given five dollars for it. All the improvements were one comfortable quarter the other indifferent with a poor oak shingle roof, worn out which made it not tenantable." Further along in his testimony, William gave an account of a conversation, "In a few days my father in law Thos. W. Robinson came to Washington and told me there his children had returned from the South, his two sons, that his debts were small and he was a happy man." Rebecca and William built a house on the property, a side-hall, double parlor plan that most likely her brother James was builder. They also built accompanying farm structures. (Records of Prince George's County, Maryland, Equity Case #849, MSA)

Thomas' son, Franklin, managed the farm after the War. In December 1868 Thomas entered into a sharecropping agreement with Edward Hanson, an African-American. After about a year-long illness, on May 16, 1869, Thomas died, deeply in debt. He was buried beside Elizabeth in the graveyard at St. Thomas' Church. He named as executrix his wife, Martha, and his friend and lawyer, Samuel H. Berry, as executor. His will divided the farm into thirds, one third going to his wife and their son Robert Henry, one third to his son James, and one third to his son Franklin. The land was surveyed according to the will. His personal property was sold but not enough profit was realized to pay off his creditors. The Commissioners of Prince George's County sued the estate on behalf of Thomas' creditors. The outcome was that in 1876 the property was sold at public auction. The Notice of Sale dated September 1, 1876 in the local county newspaper, The Prince Georgian, describes the farm as, "containing 514 2/3 acres More or less. The Improvements consist of a SMALL DWELLING, Three Barns, Stabling, and other necessary outbuildings. It is well wooded and watered, and the soil of fair quality. It has recently been divided into three lots and will be offered in lots, a description of which will be given at the time of sale." The sale was held on September 27, 1876, Lot No. 1 was purchased by Robert for $6.00 an acre, Lot #2 was purchased by Franklin for $5.00 an acre and Lot #3 was purchased by James for $4.00 per acre. Robert and Franklin eventually paid off their mortgage, but James defaulted on his purchase and later moved to St. Mary's County, Maryland. His portion later came to be owned by the Hawkins family, some members who had worked on the Robinson farm. (Equity Case #873, Prince Georges' County, MSA)
Lot #1, purchased by Robert from his fathers' estate, consisted of 177-1/3 acres, including the dwelling and farm buildings. On July 24, 1872, he married Amanda Malvina Baden (1849-1940), daughter of Robert W. G. and Margaret Caroline Early Baden. The Baden and Early families were both prominent south county families. Robert and Amanda had eight children; Caroline Early (1873 1967), Lucy Tennent (1875 1958), Albert Henry (1878 1914), Martha Perry (1880 1961), Robert Gover (1882 1882), Frank Alexander (1883 1970), Margaret Baden (1886 1956) and Grace Malvina (1889 1965).

By 1880 Robert had paid off his debt on the property and was fully engaged in farming. Unlike his father, or perhaps because of his father, Robert did not add to his land holdings, choosing to remain relatively debt free for his lifetime. The only land transactions he participated in were the sales of 79-3/4 acres in 1921 of Amanda’s inheritance from her father and her interest in two smaller parcels of her father's land sold in 1894 and 1928 respectively. In 1928 he transferred 3.09 acres to his son Frank.

As late as the Federal census of 1880, Franklin was living with Robert and his household, both men engaged in farming. Sometime after 1880, Franklin took up residence on his part of Potomac Landing. His brother James most likely built the side-hall double parlor house that copied the main house at Potomac Landing. On February 18, 1897, Martha Robinson, died at the age of ninety. She was buried in the graveyard of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Baden, Prince George's County. Robert continued cultivation of tobacco and small grains as his father before him. The first reference to the farm being named Ferndale is found in the "Communion Record" of Robert's daughter, Martha Perry "Pattie", dated 1896. (Robinson and Via Family Papers) The exact origin or reason for this new name is lost but perhaps the name Potomac Landing held such bitter memories of debt and hardship that, as a symbolic break with the past, a new name was found. It also may have simply been a way to distinguish this portion of Potomac Landing from the others. The farm continued to be listed on tax bills as Potomac Landing well into the 20th century, but was known to the general public and businesses as the Ferndale Farm. (Robinson and Via Family Papers)

Robert served as deputy inspector at the State Tobacco Warehouse in Baltimore for eight years under W.B. Bowie. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Brandywine. In July of 1905, Franklin died, a bachelor farmer. He was buried facing south in the graveyard of the Church of the Atonement, Cheltenham, (a chapel in St. Thomas' Episcopal Parish) where he had served as vestryman, treasurer, and cemetery custodian. Franklin died intestate and a lengthy process of dividing his estate began. This resulted in the sale of his part of Potomac Landing (Lot #2) in July 1908 to William E. Boswell. The court declared Robert ineligible for any inheritance due to his being " . . . a brother of the half blood." The Boswell family later sold the property to the Billingsley family of St. Mary's County. (Equity Case 3209, Prince George's County)

In 1910, after living in the farm's original home for approximately sixty seven years, the Robinson family built a new home. It was described in a 1956 insurance policy as, "2 story, frame, metal roof, 16x43, wing 14x28, 9 rooms." (Robinson and Via Family Papers) The house design was a simple Victorian with plastered walls, and lit by carbide gas. Electrical lighting was installed in 1951. The house was built with monies from Robert and Amanda, and their son Frank, who served as builder and contractor.

On Tuesday March 9, 1937, "During a celebration in honor of his wifes birthday anniversary, Mr. Robinson collapsed at the table and died immediately without a word or a sigh." (Robinson and Via Family Papers) Robert was buried beside his mother in the cemetery at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Baden.

At Robert's death, Ferndale Farm was valued at $30.00 an acre, the total acreage, 174 acres, being valued in the whole at $5,220.00. Robert died intestate, again the fate of the land was in question. He left eight heirs, his widow, Amanda, six of his children and his son Albert Henry's only surviving child, R. Henry Robinson. Rather than have the farm sold and his mother's life disrupted, Frank purchased the estate and personal property from the heirs. Before this could take place, a deed had to be granted the heirs for the property since one had never been recorded after the 1876 sale. Equity case 873 was reopened sixty-two years after its supposed resolution. Frank testified, "over a period of about thirty years I would on a number of occasions, talk about the fact that he had purchased and paid for this property
and that a deed had never been executed to him and [he] kept saying he was going to have someone straighten this matter out for him." It was discovered that Robert had fully paid for his part of Potomac Landing. On February 14, 1938 the farm was deeded from Amanda along with Robert's heirs to Frank. (Book 499, page 334, Land Records of Prince George's County) According to the deed and a 1937 fire insurance policy the farm consisted of 177 1/3 acres, "1 two story dwelling, one tenant house, 1 barrack, 1 tobacco barn, 1 corn house & cow stable, 1 Stable, and 1 Granary & Stable." (Robinson and Via Family Papers)

Frank A. Robinson, now the sole owner of Ferndale Farm, was born August 17, 1883. He learned farming and in addition took up the trade of builder and contractor. As a young man, he worked in the general store of his uncle Robert Baden. He was the contractor for the first Bank of Brandywine and many homes in and around the town of Brandywine, including the home of his cousin Robert E. Baden, DDS. He was secretary of the Building Committee for construction of the Chapel of the Incarnation in Brandywine, a mission chapel for St. Thomas' Episcopal Parish. His success in the building trade gave him disposable income that he invested in land. His first purchase was in August, 1915 of a 2-9/100 acre of land in Brandywine that was being sold by the Board of County School Commissioners; the purchase price was $300. In March 1916 he purchased 38.09 acres of his Uncle Franklin's farm. This property adjoined Ferndale Farm. Over the next fifty-four years of his life, Frank bought and sold many pieces of real estate. Perhaps his most significant purchases were: 18-1/3 acres purchased from The German American Colonization Land Company of Maryland in October 1915 (Book 115, pg. 140, Land Records of Prince George's County); 147.99 acres purchased from August and Wilhelmina Noltensmeir in December 1917 (Book 129, pg. 263, Land Records of Prince George's County) and 320 acres called the Vineyard purchased from William M. Wilson in March 1928. Frank used these three parcels as collateral for other purchases. Never once did he mortgage Ferndale Farm, insuring that no matter what financial stormy seas might blow, his home was secure. Over the course of his life, especially in the case of the Noltensmeir farm, when cash was needed a parcel of land would be surveyed off and sold. He inherited his grandfather Thomas' love of land but had fortunately developed a shrewd business sense to go along with it.

On November 20, 1929, he married Elizabeth Freeland Bourne, daughter of Joseph Blake and Maria Gantt Bourne of Calvert County, Maryland. They had three children: Mary Elizabeth (1930-2009), Franklin Alexander (1932), and Robert Lee (1935-1997). In addition to his construction business he continued farming, raising tobacco, hay, and small grains. He engaged in sharecropping with tenants on his various properties. He was active in community affairs serving on the Board of The Maryland Tobacco Growers Association (MTGA), the Vestry of St. Thomas Parish, and as sheriff of Brandywine. On January 9, 1940 Amanda Baden Robinson died. She was buried next to her husband at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Baden. In February 1958, Frank and Elizabeth conveyed 1.57 acres of Ferndale Farm to son Franklin where he and his fiancée, Adina M. Via, were building their new home prior to their marriage in July of that same year.

The booming economy and suburbanization of the Washington metropolitan area in the early 1960's led to the high quality gravel lying beneath Ferndale into becoming a valuable commodity. In October 1962, Franklin and his parents granted a three-year lease to William C. Nolte for mining sand and gravel on the Ferndale Farm at .174 per yard. (Book 2747, pg. 11, Land Records of Prince George's County) From now until 1975 when the property was sold, gravel would be mined from under the farm by various companies. In November 1962, Elizabeth and Frank transferred to Franklin the 38.09 acres Frank had purchased from Fitzhugh Billingsley in 1916. (Book 2754, pg. 99, Land Records of Prince George's County) That same year they transferred 6.754 acres, part of the Vineyard, to son Robert and his wife Lois, (Book 2765, pg. 201, Land Records of Prince George's County)

On December 28, 1965, Frank and Elizabeth participated in a land exchange/purchase of the farm of Ralph W. and Cordelia H. Brown located along the Patuxent River in Benedict, Charles County, Maryland. Franklin had rented this farm the year before and was impressed enough by its location and arability to work out a purchase. Frank and Elizabeth traded 65.9920 acres that would eventually become Franklin's
under Frank's will. On February 21, 1966 they deeded the Charles County farm to Franklin and Adina. Adina named this property Serenity Farm. The property consisted of 480.66 acres. (Liber 179, page 708 etc., Land Records of Charles County)

On February 5, 1970, after a short illness, Frank died at Cafritz Memorial Hospital. He was buried at St. Paul's Episcopal Church near his parents. In his will, probated March 4, 1970 he left thirty acres of the property purchased from the German American Land Company and A. Noltensmeir to Elizabeth. He willed forty acres of the same parcel to daughter Mary Robinson Conner. The remainder of Ferndale Farm was willed to Franklin and the remaining acreage of the Vineyard was left to Robert Lee. Franklin Alexander Robinson was born August 13, 1932 at the Garfield Hospital in Washington, D.C.. He received his schooling in the public school system of Prince George's County, graduating from Gwynn Park High School in June 1951. He was a charter member of Gwynn Park's chapter of The Future Farmers of America. He was extremely active in FFA, achieving the Degree of Maryland Farmer in 1950 and their highest award, the Degree of American Farmer at their convention in Kansas City, Missouri in October 1953. He obtained his private pilots license in 1954. He entered the United States Army in February 1955 and went through basic training at Camp Gordon, Augusta, Georgia. After basic training he was transferred to Camp Hanford, Washington State. There he worked part time on the farm of Dick and Theresa Laurent during his off duty hours and began a lifelong friendship with them. He returned home to farming on an agricultural discharge in October of 1956. On July 27, 1958 he married his high school sweetheart, Adina Mae Via, daughter of Robert Milton and Virginia Woods Via. They had three children: Franklin Alexander (1959), Robert David (1962), and Adina Theresa (1963).

Franklin continued expanding and improving the farming operation by modern methods and means. At times, he farmed over one thousand acres, both owned and rented. On February 21, 1966, his parents deeded their purchase of the Ralph W. and Cordelia H. Brown farm in Benedict to he and Adina, later known as Serenity Farm Franklin and Adina engaged an architect to draft house plans for an anticipated new residence. A small A frame vacation home was built on the property so the family could spend weekends there.

On December 14, 1966, after a long illness, Adina died from complications associated with Hodgkin's Disease. She was buried in Trinity Memorial Gardens, Waldorf, Charles County. Franklin married Margaret Walker Lennox (nee Tallen, known as Rita) on August 21, 1970 (Marriage Records of Prince George's County, Maryland). This marriage ended in divorce in 1977. There were no children from this marriage.

On July 14, 1975 the Robinson family, Franklin, his second wife, Margaret, her daughter Margaret W. Lennox, Franklin, Jr., R. David, A. Theresa and Elizabeth B. Robinson, moved to Serenity Farm. On July 17, 1975 Franklin and Elizabeth sold the remaining acreage of Ferndale Farm to Brandywine Sand and Gravel, thus ending 131 years of ownership by the Robinson family. Elizabeth Bourne Robinson died on July 15, 1976 and was buried beside her husband at St. Paul's Church, Baden. Franklin married Hiltrud (Ceddie) Harris (nee Sedlacek) on July 15, 1978. (Robinson Family Bible) This marriage ended in divorce in 1986. There were no children from this marriage. Franklin married Diedre Gale Merhiage on April 19, 1989; this marriage ended in divorce in 1997. There were no children from this marriage. He married Remelda Henega Buenavista on January 13, 2007.

The Robinson family continue day-to-day operations of Serenity Farm. The land is well suited to the growing of tobacco and small grains, which crops, (with the exception of tobacco) along with a flock of sheep, are cultivated there to the present time. After the crop year 2001 the Robinson family took the tobacco buyout program offered by the state of Maryland and ceased growing tobacco. Franklin is active in farming and community affairs having served on the vestry of St. Thomas Episcopal Parish, the Board of Directors of MTGA, the Board of the Production Credit Association, the Boards of three schools, Holy Trinity Day School, Queen Anne School, and Calverton School, and numerous other organizations. Currently the farm consists of approximately 275 acres. In 1981 a state agricultural land preservation district of 222.755 acres was created. This was the first such district in Charles County and one of the first in the state of Maryland.
In 1985, R. David began a greenhouse business for the sale of spring flowering bedding plants and hanging baskets but currently works in conjunction with Farming 4 Hunger to grow produce for local area foodbanks. A. Theresa is involved in the daily running of the farm along with Franklin. Franklin, Jr., obtained a BFA degree in Drama from The Catholic University of America in 1981 and an MA from The American University in Film and Video Production in 1988. He was a civilian employee of the United States Air Force (USAF) from November 1981 to January 1986. He pursued a full time career as a professional actor from 1986-2007 and is a published author and produced playwright. The three siblings have been involved in community affairs, with R. David sitting on the Charles County Agricultural Preservation Board, A. Theresa having served on the vestry of Trinity Episcopal Parish, Charles County, and Franklin, Jr. having served on the vestries of both Trinity Parish and St. Thomas Episcopal Parish, the Board of the Washington Literacy Council, a choir member of the choir at St. Thomas Church, among other church related posts and as chair of the Charles County Historic Preservation Commission.

**Via Family**

The Via family traces its origins to the colony of Virginia, where the probable progenitor of the line, Amer Via, a French Huguenot, settled in Manakin Town, Albemarle County between 1670-1700. It is impossible to trace the Via line definitively due to the loss of Virginia county records during the Civil War.

The Via family line covered in this collection can be definitively traced to William Via of Fredericksville Parish, Louisa (later Albemarle) County, Virginia. The William Via family lived west of the present day town of Whitehall at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains, an area commonly known as Sugar Hollow. William Via III served in the Virginia Line during the Revolutionary War. He married Mary Craig, daughter of Thomas Craig and Jane Jameson, on March 17, 1784. William died on June 27, 1836, in Albemarle County (Rev. War Pension Appl. 6363, National Archives). His son Thomas married Sally, widow Griffin, on January 1, 1811 (Albemarle County Marriage Records). Their son, Hiram Karl Via (1812-1893), married Harriet Ardenia Naylor by license dated March 7, 1836 (Albemarle County Marriage Records).


Robert moved to Washington, D.C.. In December 1927 he began employment with the Capitol Traction Company as a streetcar conductor (Robinson and Via Family Papers). During the early 1930s, Robert rented a townhouse at 715 A St., SE, where he lived with his sister Bernice V. McMullan and her son, William C. McMullan; his brother and sister in law, and his parents. Next door, at 717, lived the Moses Albright family, including Moses's stepdaughter Ida Virginia Woods (1914-2010), daughter of Jesse Lee Woods (1894-1918) and Donna Mae Barker (1896-1928) of Frederick County, Maryland. Robert and Virginia began a courtship and on September 3, 1932 were married in Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland (Frederick County, Maryland, Marriage Records).

After their marriage, Robert and Virginia lived in various locations in the Washington metropolitan area. Their first child, Robert Delano, was born on March 24, 1933, and their second child, Adina Mae, was born on April 12, 1937. Virginia was employed outside the home while her children were in school. Her first job before her marriage had been with Woolworth's in Martinsburg, WV working the candy counter and then before the birth of her son at The Hecht Company on F St. in Washington, D.C.. After her marriage she
worked briefly for the United States Postal Service in Capitol Heights, Maryland. Beginning in the 1950s, she worked for Charles of the Ritz as a receptionist in their beauty salon located in Woodward & Lothrop's F Street store in Washington, D.C.. She also worked as salon manager at the Charles of the Ritz salons in the Woodward & Lothrop stores in Seven Corners, Virginia, and Chevy Chase, Maryland. She retired due to health reasons in 1973.

On September 10, 1941, Robert and Virginia purchased Lot #43 in Woodlane subdivision in Prince George's County. (Book 619, pg. 12, Land Records of Prince George's County) A house was designed for them for this lot by Clyde E. Phillips. They did not construct a home on this property due to the outbreak of World War II. Robert, due to his employment in public transportation, did not serve with the Armed Services in World War II. On October 18, 1946, they purchased approximately thirty acres bordering on Burch's Creek near the towns of Clinton, also known as Surrattsville, and T.B. in Prince George's County from Joseph H. and M. Pauline Blandford. (Book 873, pg. 483, Land Records of Prince George's County) Over the next three years, hiring private contractors, doing work themselves, and with the help of Robert's brother Deward, they built the two story house designed by Phillips in 1941. They moved to the farm from Capitol Heights in 1949. Robert raised hogs, small grains and a crop of tobacco yearly on this farm and also maintained his job with Capitol Transit (formerly Capitol Traction). In 1954, Robert and Virginia purchased a farm of approximately 150 acres in Island Creek, Calvert County, Maryland. The intention was for Robert and his son to enter into a full time farming operation on expanded acreage. Robert D. Via, known as Delano, graduated from Gwynn Park High School in June 1951. Delano was a part-time farmer and pursued a career as a country and western singer with Bashful Bob and the Rhythm Rangers, he being Bashful Bob. He was employed in various jobs, and began a tour in the Army in 1953. By the time the Via family moved to Calvert County in 1956, he decided to pursue careers other than farming. He eventually traveled and worked in various parts of the United States. He married first Delores Cooper, second Gloria J. Irick, and finally Candice Marinelli in December 1974, they had two children, Robert Marin (1975) and Kirstin Marin (1976).

On June 1, 1956 Robert resigned from his position at Capitol Transit due to health reasons. He and his family moved to the farm in Island Creek, Calvert County where he began full time farming. He and Virginia sold the thirty-acre farm in Prince George's County on June 21, 1956 to Melvin C. and Geraldine H. Rardia. (Book 2003, pg. 564, Land Records of Prince George's County) Virginia continued her employment with Charles of the Ritz. Adina, now a graduate of Gwynn Park High School, was employed by the USAF at Andrews Air Force Base in Camp Springs, Maryland. They both commuted daily from Calvert County to their places of employment.

Robert farmed in Calvert County, raising hogs, cattle, small grains and tobacco. Over the course of the next twenty-seven years, Robert and Virginia sold smaller parcels off the farm. In 1974, Robert and Virginia built a small retirement home designed for them by Calvert Masonry Contractors. Robert died on December 22, 1983. He was buried beside his daughter Adina in Trinity Memorial Gardens. At the time of Robert's death, the farm consisted of 28.694 acres. In 1998, Virginia deeded the remainder of the farm, then less than six acres, to her grandson, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. who sold all but a one-acre lot in April 1999.

Virginia continued to live on the farm in Calvert County, maintaining a small herd of cattle. In the fall of 1989 Franklin, Jr. went to live with her. In 1993, the onset of Alzheimer's Disease required her to move to Serenity Farm and take up residence with her granddaughter A. Theresa. Virginia participated in various studies on Alzheimer's Disease conducted by the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland beginning in 1992. She was profiled in the September 1997 issue of Washingtonian Magazine. In October of 1998 she moved to All American Senior Care in Brandywine, Maryland and in 1999 she moved to Morningside, an elderly care facility in Waldorf, Maryland. In 2002, she moved to St. Mary's Nursing Center in Leonardtown, Maryland. The remainder of the farm was sold in 1999 and 2002. She died January 14, 2010 and was buried at Trinity Memorial Gardens in Waldorf.

Adina Mae Via was born April 12, 1937 at the Homeopathic Hospital in Washington, D.C.. Adina grew up in Washington, D.C. attending public schools. She moved with her family to the Burch's Creek farm,
Prince George's County, in 1949. She enrolled in the Prince George's County school system, and graduated from Gwynn Park High School in June of 1955. After graduation, she was employed by the USAF at Andrews Air Force Base in Camp Springs.

In July of 1956, she moved with her family to the Via farm in Island Creek, Calvert County. On July 27, 1958 she married Franklin A. Robinson at the Chapel of the Incarnation. They had three children: Franklin Alexander (1959), Robert David (1962) and Adina Theresa (1963). In the fall of 1958, she and Franklin took up residence in the home they had built on Ferndale Farm. She resigned from her position with the USAF in 1959.

On December 14, 1966, at Providence Hospital in Washington, DC, Adina died from complications due to Hodgkin's Disease. She had been battling this disease for many years prior to her death. She was buried in Trinity Memorial Gardens, Charles County.

Scope and Content Note

An extensive and comprehensive collection of papers relating to family, farming, and the Southern Maryland tobacco culture, the Robinson and Via Family Papers cover many aspects of family farm life. The papers are particularly important in regard to the tobacco culture that defined Southern Maryland for generations. The papers concern two distinct family groups, the Robinson family and the Via families who are connected through the marriage of Franklin A. Robinson and Adina Mae Via. The papers consist of material generated by the Robinson and Via families in their personal lives and as farm owners and operators.

The papers are especially strong in 20th century material. They consist of various types of farm records: account books, bills, receipts, tenant farming agreements, ephemera, land rental and purchase agreements, insurance policies, photographs and 8mm and 16mm films of farming practices and procedures, equipment and landscapes, related to the farming of tobacco, small grains, and livestock. The personal records include diaries, letters both personal and business, greeting cards, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, high school yearbooks, baby books, house plans, recipe books, photographs and 8mm films of birthdays, holidays, weddings, baptisms, family occasions, and family travel, oral histories, and funeral ephemera including photographs, and transcription discs. Of particular interest are the "Serenity Farm Tobacco Production Photographs" documenting the crop year 1999-2000 and the films detailing agricultural practices. There is a memorandum book for Black Walnut Thicket, 1885-1901, the Baden farm in Baden, Prince George's County.

This collection includes a comprehensive range of 8mm and 16mm films and photographs documenting farming practices and landscapes as well as family gatherings, birthdays, holidays, and vacations. The researcher is alerted to the fact that in some cases with the memorandum and account books, books printed for a given year were often saved and used for subsequent years, some were dated, some were not.

The collection is divided into seven series arranged by subject and chronologically at folder level within each series.

Series 1, Ferndale Farm (Potomac Landing), Prince George's County, Maryland, 1861-1977, undated. Ferndale Farm, earlier known as Potomac Landing, was the Robinson farm located on Dyson Road in Prince George's County. It was known as the Ferndale Farm after circa 1896. This series includes farm account books ranging from 1872 to 1939, a threshing account book 1930-1931, farm papers 1861-1966, farm related ephemera and publications, an aerial photograph of the John Deere Farm (a Robinson rental property owned by the daughter of the founder of the John Deere implement company),
land plats and an aerial photograph pre-1958 of Ferndale Farm. Publications are filed chronologically at the end of the series.

**Series 2, Robinson Family, 1845-1997, undated.** This series is divided into six subseries. The Robinson family papers deal with the continuous farming operation of a single family over four generations on the same property. They employed not only immediate family members but also sharecroppers, tenant farmers and hired hands. The farming operation was carried out on acreage varying from over five hundred acres to less than two hundred. Account books from the latter part of the 19th century and extending into the 20th century give an accurate and detailed picture of the day to day workings of a farm. Personal letters, diaries and ephemera complement the technical aspects of farming with its human and familial aspects. Through these documents one gathers a sense of the place of the Robinson family in the community, their day to day concerns and inter family relationships. The diaries of Elizabeth Bourne Robinson, covering the years 1951 to 1960, are particularly vivid for detail of the daily operations of farming and family life at mid-20th century.

**Subseries 2.1, Family Papers 1845-1993, undated,** contains personal and business papers of family individuals, including Thomas Wells Robinson the purchaser of Potomac Landing, correspondence, one broadside, a family scrapbook, and general ephemera. This Subseries includes a family scrapbook, a scrapbook created by Lucy Robinson Arth (1876-1958), daughter of Robert H. and Amanda B. Robinson, and a scrapbook created by Mary Robinson Conner (1930-2009), daughter of Frank A. and Elizabeth B. Robinson. This series includes mercantile ephemera and store broadsides. This series includes a merchant memorandum book Black Walnut Thicket the plantation of the Baden family. This series also includes a copy of "Hail Prince George's" the Prince George's County song written in 1939 (Box 38, folder 3). This series includes a music study book, Standard Graded Courses of Studies for the Piano Forte, Grade III (1892) owned by Louise Robertson, a family cousin that lived at Holly Grove, the farm next door to the Robinsons. This series includes a full run of correspondence course practical nursing lessons from the Chicago School of Nursing with the accompanying exams, ephemera, and lesson binders used by Mary Robinson Conner.

**Subseries 2.2, Townshend, Martha Robinson, 1896-1961, undated.** This series contains material and ephemera of Martha Perry Robinson Townshend (1880-1961), known as "Pattie". It contains personal and business papers, including correspondence, postcards and a postcard album, newspaper wedding accounts, confirmation memorial, Holy Matrimony book, three scrapbooks (circa 1895-circa 1955), a farm account book for Leigh Castle farm (1954-1955), and her funeral ephemera including floral cards and funeral register.

**Subseries 2.3, Robinson, Frank A., 1899-1970, undated.** This series contains material and ephemera of Frank Alexander Robinson (1883-1970). The series consists of personal and business papers, correspondence, a copy of the pedigree for Hal Harding, his race horse, farm diaries, blue prints, land plats, real estate documents and deeds, estate papers for his parents Robert H. Robinson and Amanda B. Robinson, and his funeral register and floral cards. It also contains numerous memoranda and notebooks containing labor rosters and pay as well as accounts with persons and merchants. This series includes a broadside advertising Gone With the Wind (1939) and other attractions at the Marlboro motion picture theatre.

**Subseries 2.4, Robinson, Elizabeth Bourne, 1841-1976, undated.** This series contains material and ephemera of Elizabeth Bourne Robinson (1892-1976). This series consists of personal and business papers, correspondence, farm diaries for Ferndale Farm (1951-1960), recipe books (1872-1929), and embroidery patterns, and her funeral ephemera and register. There are a number of product cookbooks and Department of Agriculture publications. Correspondence includes letters from her sister Grace Bourne Howes (1889-1976). There is sheet music 1873-1927, undated, including popular song titles such as Silver Threads Among the Gold (1873), Where the River Shannon Flows (1905), and Are You Lonesome Tonight (1927) as well as studio pieces most likely used while she was learning piano. The older pieces of music most likely had belonged to her mother, Maria Gantt Bourne. Other objects include her mother's
cookbook and music folio. There is a recorded oral history with Elizabeth done in 1971 including a written transcript.

**Subseries 2.5, Robinson, Franklin A., 1932-1997, undated.** This series contains material and ephemera of Franklin Alexander Robinson. The series consists of personal and business papers, correspondence, a diaries, his baby book, high-school yearbooks, vacation papers, souvenir guide to Disneyland (1965) and his military records (restricted). Of particular interest are the letters from Robinson's fiancé Adina Mae Via received while he was stationed at Camp Gordon, Georgia and Camp Hanford, Washington State.

**Subseries 2.6, Robinson, Jr., Franklin A., 1959-2001, undated.** This series contains material and ephemera of Franklin Alexander Robinson, Jr. The series consists of personal and business papers, correspondence, his baby book, school papers, film and video on farm topics (1980s farm crisis and a profile of a woman farmer), vacation papers, employment papers, and a Pentagon presentation photograph. This series also includes Robinson's folder with material used in planning the wedding for his sister, Adina T. Robinson, in 2001. Robinson's professional name (acting, writing, and filmmaking) is Frank Robinson, Jr.

**Series 3, Serenity Farm, Charles County, Maryland, 1962-2000, undated.** Serenity Farm was purchased by the Robinson family in 1965. After 1975 it was their primary residence and farming operation. This series contains farm papers, tobacco floor sheets and weight tickets, a poster for the "American Agriculture Tractor Drive", house plans and an extensive series of tobacco production photographs. There are motion pictures and photographs of this farm in series 6 and 7 respectively. The Tobacco Production Photographs, 1999-2000 (See Appendix I for detailed description of photographs) follows the tobacco crop year for the last year tobacco was grown on Serenity Farm.

**Series 4, Via Farm, Calvert County, Maryland, 1954-1987, undated.** The Via family bought farm property in Calvert County in 1954. They lived there exclusively after July 1956 until 1993. This series contains farm papers, farm ephemera, and a land plat. There are motion pictures and photographs of this farm in series 6 and 7 respectively.

**Series 5, Via Family, 1932-2010, undated.**

The Via papers deal with the Robert M. Via family. Robert left farming and his boyhood home in Greene County, Virginia in the late 1920's to pursue employment in Washington, D.C.. He was hired by the Capital Traction Company, later known as Capital Transit, and employed by them for twenty-nine years . He returned to farming full-time by the late 1950's. The Via papers are a particularly appropriate complement to the Robinson papers because they deal with a farming operation of a smaller size, approximately thirty acres to 115 acres. In contrast to the Robinson operation that utilized many forms of outside labor, the Via farm was operated by one man, Robert, with family and occasional hired help. An additional contrast is that, in the Via family both spouses worked off the farm full-time. The Via family did not have the familial history in the region and operated from a much different social perspective than the Robinson family. The Via family moved more frequently, the preponderance of material is 20th century.

The Via family papers are especially strong in regard to farming and social history in the latter half of the 20th century. The papers of Robert M. Via are strong in material concerning his employment in public transportation in Washington, D.C., from 1928 to 1956. The papers of Adina Via Robinson are particularly complete in documenting the life of a woman coming of age in the mid-1950s. Her papers and correspondence with her future husband, Franklin A. Robinson, cover personal matters, as well as life on the farm, the surrounding community, and her senior high school life. Especially rich is the correspondence exchanged during the period of Franklin's service in the United States Army, 1955-1956, at Camp Gordon, Georgia and Camp Handford, Washington State. There are transcription discs of recordings done by Robert D. Via as country-western singer, "Bashful Bob". This series has five subseries.

Subseries 5.2, Via, Robert M., 1933-1987, undated. This series contains material and ephemera of Robert Milton Via (1906-1983). The series consists of personal and business papers, correspondence, documents relating to his employment with the Capital Transit Company, copies of union agreements and bus transfer books.

Subseries 5.3, Via, Ida Virginia, 1928-2010, undated. This series contains material and ephemera of Ida Virginia Woods Via (1914-2010). The series consists of personal and business papers, correspondence, diaries, and estate papers for her grandfather William M. Barker (1870-1948), and her funeral ephemera. There is a transcript of an oral history interview conducted by Claudia Kidwell of the NMAH Costume Division with Virginia in 1992. The original tapes are also housed in this collection.

Subseries 5.4, Via, Robert D., 1933-1988, undated. This series contains material and ephemera of Robert Delano Via (1933-). The series consists of personal and business papers, correspondence, child's sketchbook (undated), child's scrapbook, high school yearbook, and transcription discs recorded during the time he played County-Western music professionally as Bashful Bob and the Rhythm Rangers.

Subseries 5.5, Robinson, Adina Mae, 1937-1966, undated. This series contains material and ephemera of Adina Mae Via Robinson (1937-1966). The series contains personal and business papers, correspondence, a diary, school papers, high school yearbook, photographs, wedding planning documents and ephemera, 1958, newspaper articles, and one phonograph recording of the Gwynn Park High School band in which she plays the drums.

Series 6, Photographs and Photographic Negatives, 1872-2000, undated. This series is divided into two subseries, arranged chronologically and topically.

Subseries 6.1, Photographs, 1872-2000, undated This subseries contains photographs of the Robinson, Via and related families. This series contains photographs of holidays; life rituals (baptism, marriage, birthdays, burial); vacations; leisure; Serenity Farm; Via farms in Prince George's County and Calvert County, Maryland; Potomac Landing/Ferndale Farm in Prince George's County, Maryland; Via family; Robinson family; Franklin A. Robinson's United States Army life; oversize photographs, studio portraits, and tobacco production photographs. The Division of Home and Community Life in their costume collection has a number of photographs pertaining to these papers complementing their acquisitions.


Series 7: Audio-Visual, 1943-1988. This series contains 8mm, 16mm films, videos of family, farming, and vacations. This series includes footage from local fireman's parades, the 1962 Seattle World's Fair, and Maxwell Hall a historic estate in Charles County. This series also includes film and video projects related to farming completed as work for Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.'s degree in film and video production from American University.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into seven series:

Series 1: Potomac Landing (Ferndale Farm), Prince George's County, Maryland, 1861-1977, undated

Series 2: Robinson Family, 1845-1997, undated
Subseries 2.1: Family papers 1845-1993, undated
Subseries 2.2: Townshend, Martha Robinson, 1896-1961, undated
Subseries 2.3: Robinson, Frank A., 1899-1970, undated
Subseries 2.4: Robinson, Elizabeth Bourne, 1841-1976, undated
Subseries 2.5: Robinson, Franklin A., 1932-1997, undated;
Subseries 2.6: Robinson, Jr., Franklin A., 1959-2001, undated

Series 3: Serenity Farm, Charles County, Maryland, 1962-2000, undated

Series 4: Via Farm, Calvert County, Maryland, 1954-1987, undated

Series 5: Via Family, 1932-2010, undated
Subseries 5.1: Family papers, 1941-1983, undated
Subseries 5.2: Via, Robert M., 1933-1987, undated
Subseries 5.3: Via, Ida Virginia, 1928-2010, undated
Subseries 5.4: Via, Robert D., 1933-1988, undated
Subseries 5.5: Robinson, Adina Via, 1937-1966, undated

Series 6: Photographs, 1872-2000, undated
Subseries 6.1: Photographs, 1872-2000, undated
Subseries 6.2: Photographic negatives, 1927--2000, undated

Series 7: AudioVisual, 1943-1988

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Acting--1980-2000
Agricultural machinery
Agriculture--20th century--Maryland
Amateur films
Amusement parks--California
Children's parties
Christmas
Easter
Electric railroads
Family farms
Family festivals
Family recreation
Family--20th century
Farm buildings
Farm equipment
Farm life--20th Century
Farm management
Farm ownership
Farmers
Farms--Maryland
Holidays
Housewives--United States
Illiterate persons
Parks--California
Rural families
Rural women
Sheep ranches
Soldiers
Street-railroads
Street-railroads--Employees
Students
Tobacco curing
Tobacco farmers
Tobacco--Harvesting
Tobacco--Storage
Travel
Urban transportation
Weddings
Women in agriculture
Work and family

Types of Materials:

Albums
Architectural drawings
Baby books
Cookbooks
Correspondence--1930-1950
Diaries
Ephemera
Family papers
Funeral registers
Home movies
Housebooks
Motion pictures (visual works)
Phonograph records
Photographs--19th century
Photographs--20th century
Postcard albums
Postcards
School yearbooks
Scrapbooks
Snapshots
Names:

Capital Transit Company. (Washington, D.C.)
Howes, Grace Bourne, ?-1976
Robinson, Adina Theresa, 1963-
Robinson, Amanda Baden, 1849-1940
Robinson, Elizabeth Bourne, 1892-1976
Robinson, Frank A., 1883-1970
Robinson, Franklin A., 1841-1905
Robinson, Franklin A., Sr., 1932-
Robinson, Martha Wells, 1807-1897
Robinson, Robert David, 1962-
Robinson, Robert Henry, 1851-1937
Robinson, Thomas Wells, 1803-1869
Serenity Farm, Inc..
Townshend, Martha Robinson, 1880-1961
Via, Adina Mae, 1937-1966
Via, Robert Delano, 1933-
Via, Robert Milton, 1906-1983
Via, Virginia Wood, 1914-

Geographic Names:

Arizona--Motion pictures
Bahamas--Motion pictures
Benedict (Md.)
Brandywine (Md.)
California--Motion pictures
Calvert County (Md.)--Family farms
Charles County (Md.)--Family farms
Disneyland (California)
Florida--Motion pictures
Maryland--Family farms
Oregon--Motion pictures
Prince George's County (Md.)
Puerto Rico--Motion pictures
St. Thomas, V.I.--Motion pictures
Washington (D.C.)
Washington--Motion pictures
Yosemite National Park (Calif.)
Container Listing

Series 1: Ferndale Farm (Potomac Landing), Prince George's County, Maryland, 1861-1977, undated

Box 1, Folder 1  Farm papers, 1861-1900
Box 1, Folder 2  Farm account book, Robinson, Franklin A., 1872-1893
Box 1, Folder 3  Farm papers, 1901-1945
Box 37, Folder 2  *Simplex Farm Compendium*, 1910-1912
Box 1, Folder 4  Farm account book, Robinson, Frank A., 1916-1921
Box 42, Folder 9  Pocket memoranda, farm labor and accounts, 1925-1940, undated
Box 1, Folder 5  Threshing account book, Robinson, Frank A., 1930-1931
Box 1, Folder 6  Farm account book, Robinson, Frank A., 1933-1939
Box 1, Folder 7  Ephemera, undated
Box 1, Folder 8  Farm papers, 1946-1966
Box 34, Folder 3  Land plats and maps, 1951-1960
Box 1, Folder 9  John Deere farm (Brandywood Estates), photograph and plat, 1957, undated
Map-folder 1  Aerial photograph, Ferndale Farm, 1958
Map-folder 2  Garlinghouse Plan Service, Plan No. 8020 (house plans with revisions by Franklin A. Robinson), 1958
Box 1, Folder 10  Etchings of Ferndale Farm and artwork by Mary Robinson Conner, 1977
Box 1, Folder 11  Griffith and Turner Co., farm and garden catalogue, 1909
Box 1, Folder 12  *Removal of Stains from Clothing and Other Textiles*, 1917
Box 1, Folder 13  *Growing Alfalfa in Maryland*, 1919
Box 1, Folder 14  *Instruction Book McCormick-Deering 10-20 HP Gear Drive Tractor*, 1926
Box 1, Folder 15  *Balanced Farming for Maryland*, 1938
Box 45, Folder 12  *Terracing for Soil and Water Conservation*, pamphlet, 1943
Box 45, Folder 13  *Farm Fish Ponds*, 1947
Box 45, Folder 14  "Repair Parts List for Massey-Harris Nos. 8 and 8R Manure Spreaders", catalog, 1947
Box 45, Folder 15  *Stock-Water Developments, Wells, Springs, and Ponds*, 1949
| Box 45, Folder 16 | "McCormick Farmall 100", sales brochure, 1951 |
| Box 45, Folder 17 | "Wellworth Trading Company Catalog", 1952 |
| Box 45, Folder 18 | W. Carlton Hicks General Merchandise, Cheltenham, Maryland, promotional thermometer, 1953 |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Grain drying complex proposal, 1961 |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | Grain drying clippings, 1963 |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | *Beekeeping in Maryland*, 1971-1973 |
| Box 45, Folder 19 | Cole Manufacturing Company, catalog, undated |
| Box 45, Folder 20 | "Cushman Motor Scooter Parts and Price List", undated |
| Box 45, Folder 21 | Louden Machinery Company, catalog, undated |
| Box 45, Folder 22 | "McCormick-Deering No. 30 Power Loader", sales brochure, undated |
| Box 45, Folder 23 | "McCormick No. 8 Field Cultivator", sales brochure, undated |
| Box 45, Folder 24 | "McCormick no. 44 Cotton, Corn, and Bean Planter", sales brochure, undated |
| Box 45, Folder 24 | Washington Maid Ice Cream, promotional thermometer, undated |
| Box 24 | Land plat, undated |
Series 2: Robinson Family, 1845-1997, undated

Subseries 2.1: Family papers, 1845-2010, undated

Box 2, Folder 1  Robinson, Thomas Wells, 1845-1868
Box 34, Folder 7  Robinson, Thomas Wells, memoranda and account book, 1852-1854
Box 2, Folder 2  Robinson, Martha Walls, 1864-1895, undated
Box 25, Folder 5  Robinson, Robert Henry, notebook, 1869-1871
Box 2, Folder 3  Robinson, Robert Henry, 1881-1937
Box 25, Folder 5  Merchant's Memorandum, Black Walnut Thicket, 1885-1901
Box 25, Folder 5  Robinson, Robert Henry, account book, Detrick Fertilizer and Chemical Co., 1888-1901
Box 25, Folder 5  Robinson, Robert Henry, Memorandum Book, undated
Box 2, Folder 4  Robinson, Robert Henry, Southern Maryland German-American Bank Checkbook, undated
Box 2, Folder 5  Robinson, Amanda Baden, 1891-1940
Box 36, Folder 2  Children's scrapbook, 1884, undated
Box 36, Folder 3  Children's scrapbook, 1888, undated
Box 43, Folder 4  Robertson, Louise, Standard Graded Courses of Studies for the Piano Forte, Grade III, 1892
Box 25, Folder 5  Road book, Pierce's Memorandum and Account Book, 1896
Box 25, Folder 1  Westwood Store, Westwood, Maryland, broadside, 1907
Box 34, Folder 8  Robinson, Robert Henry (1914-1956) diploma from National University, Washington, D.C., 1935
Box 31, Folder 3  Scrapbook, Robinson family, 1936-1988, undated
Box 31, Folder 4  Scrapbook, Robinson family, (reference copy), 1936-1988, undated
Box 36, Folder 1  Conner, Mary Robinson, scrapbook, 1940, undated
Box 38, Folder 4  Conner, Mary Robinson, 1940-1950, undated
Box 44, Folder 1  Conner, Mary Robinson, ephemera, nursing correspondence course, Chicago School of Nursing, 1953-1955, undated
Box 44, Folder 2-20  Conner, Mary Robinson, Nursing correspondence course lessons 1-53, exams, Chicago School of Nursing, 1951-1953
Box 24, Folder 5-6  Conner, Mary Robinson, Chicago School of Nursing, lesson binders, undated
Box 42, Folder 7  Robinson, Robert Lee, pocket memoranda, expenses, 1950-1952
Box 42, Folder 8  Robinson, Robert Lee, ephemera, 1951, undated
Box 38, Folder 6  Robinson, Robert David, 1962-1998, undated
Box 38, Folder 7  Robinson, Adina Theresa, 1975-1991, undated
Box 38, Folder 3  Robinson family ephemera, 1934-1940, undated
Box 38, Folder 1  Facts of Interest to Travelers and Importers, 1907
Box 38, Folder 2  Know Your State Virginia, 1925
Box 34, Folder 10 News clippings, 1962-2010

Subseries 2.2: Townshend, Martha Robinson "Pattie"1896-1961, undated

Box 23  Scrapbook, 1895
Box 2, Folder 6  Townshend, Martha Robinson "Pattie"1896-1961
Box 25, Folder 4  Confirmation Memorial, 1896
Box 2, Folder 7  News clippings, weddings, 1898-1935
Box 2, Folder 8  Postcard album, 1904-1906
Box 2, Folder 9  Photographs, 1927, undated
Box 30, Folder 1  Correspondence received, 1905-1961
Box 31, Folder 1  Scrapbook, 1905
Box 25, Folder 4  Holy Matrimony, 1906
Box 30, Folder 2  Farm account book, Leigh Castle, Marston, Carroll County, Maryland, 1954-1955
Box 31, Folder 3  Scrapbook, 1955
Box 30, Folder 3  Savings account books, 1955-1959
Box 30, Folder 4  Floral cards, 1961
Box 30, Folder 5  Funeral register, 1961

Subseries 2.3: Robinson, Frank A., 1899-1971, undated
Box 2, Folder 10  Business papers and assorted ephemera, 1899-1949
Box 25, Folder 4  *Pierce's Memorandum and Account Book*, 1899-1943
Box 2, Folder 11  Personal correspondence received, 1911-1958
Box 34, Folder 1  Hal Harding (racehorse), pedigree, "Winner of the Washington Post Three Year Old Futurity 1913"
Box 25, Folder 4  *Indiana & Ohio Livestock Insurance Co. 1915*, memorandum and account book, 1928, undated
Box 2, Folder 12  Real estate documents and deeds, 1916-1968
Box 2, Folder 13  Construction business, 1918-1947
Box 3, Folder 1  Correspondence received from Bourne, Elizabeth Freeland, 1923-1970
Box 3, Folder 2  Diary, 1926
Box 25, Folder 4  *Blakeman Stock Remedy Co.*, memorandum and account book, 1929
Box 3, Folder 3  *The Miller Fertilizer Co.*, memorandum and account book, 1934-1935
Box 3, Folder 4  Brandy-Wine Brewing Company, correspondence, 1935
Box 3, Folder 5  Estate papers, Robinson, Robert Henry and Robinson, Amanda Baden, 1937-1940
Box 3, Folder 6  Business papers and assorted ephemera, 1943-1970, undated
Map-folder 1  *Texaco Road Map for Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia*, with annotations on cover, circa 1930
Map-folder 1  *Plat # 8168, Right of Way, State Roads Commission T. B. Toward Waldorf*, 1949
Box 3, Folder 7  Personal correspondence received, 1946-1969, undated
Box 3, Folder 8  Funeral register, 1970
Box 3, Folder 9  Floral cards and engraved acknowledgements, 1970
Box 3, Folder 10  Appraisal, Frank A. Robinson estate, 1971
Box 25, Folder 1  *Blueprint for Fireplace, Bungalow for Claude H. Owen, Esquire*, Upman and Adams Architects, undated
Box 35, Folder OTC3  Accordion played by Frank A. Robinson (track 2), 1968
Box 35, Folder RTC3  Accordion played by Frank A. Robinson (track 2), 1968
Map-folder 1  "Plat Showing Right of Way Acquired from Frank A. Robinson", (three plats, one letter), 1962-1968
Subseries 2.4: Robinson, Elizabeth Bourne, 1841-1976, undated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 37, Folder 1</th>
<th>Bound music folio stamped <em>Maria Gantt</em>, 1841-1865, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 34, Folder 7</td>
<td>Bourne, Maria Gantt Bourne, recipe book, 1872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 1</td>
<td>Bourne, Maria Gantt, recipe book ephemera, 1872, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 43, Folder 1</td>
<td>Bourne, Elizabeth F., sheet music, 1873-1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 43, Folder 2</td>
<td>Bourne, Elizabeth F., sheet music, 1905-1909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 43, Folder 3</td>
<td>Bourne, Elizabeth F., sheet music, 1913-1927, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence from Howes, Grace Bourne, 1927-1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 3</td>
<td>Personal correspondence received, 1928-1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 4</td>
<td>Correspondence, business, and ephemera, 1929-1976, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 25, Folder 7</td>
<td>Robinson, Elizabeth Bourne, recipe book (Does not circulate), 1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 5</td>
<td>Robinson, Elizabeth Bourne, recipe book, reference copy, 1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 6</td>
<td>Farm journal, 1951-1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 7</td>
<td>Farm journal, 1953-1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 8</td>
<td>Farm journal, 1958-1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 9</td>
<td>Personal correspondence received, 1970-1976, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 1</td>
<td>Funeral flower record transparencies, 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 2</td>
<td>Funeral flower record transparencies, 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 10</td>
<td>Correspondence from Robinson, Frank Alexander, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 11</td>
<td>Embroidery patterns, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 35, Cassette OTC 3</td>
<td>&quot;A conversation with Elizabeth Robinson&quot; (track 3), 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 35, Cassette RTC 3</td>
<td>&quot;A conversation with Elizabeth Robinson&quot; (track 3), 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 41, Folder 18</td>
<td>&quot;A conversation with Elizabeth Robinson&quot;, typed transcript, 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 41, Folder 1</td>
<td><em>Cake Secrets</em>, Igleheart Brothers, Inc., 1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 41, Folder 2</td>
<td><em>Better Baking Recipes</em>, Snow King baking powder, 1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 41, Folder 3</td>
<td><em>Home Canning of Fruits, Vegetables and Meats</em>, USDA, 1936, 1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 41, Folder 4</td>
<td><em>Be an Artist at the Gas Range, Successful Recipes by the Mystery Chef</em>, 1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 41, Folder 5</td>
<td><em>Good Things to Eat</em>, Anderson, Martha Lee, 1938, 1940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 41, Folder 6  
*Rawleigh’s Good Health Guide Almanac Cookbook*, 1953

Box 41, Folder 7  
*Safe Home Canning*, International Harvester Company, 1954

Box 41, Folder 8  
*Purina Poultry Guide*, Ralston Purina Company, 1933

Box 41, Folder 9  
*Farm Journal and Farmer’s Wife*, 1940

Box 41, Folder 10  
"Your International Harvester Freezer", International Harvester Company, 1949

Box 41, Folder 11  
"Making the Most of Your Serval", Serval Inc., 1947

Box 41, Folder 12  
Excelsior mower, operating instructions and advertisement, 1956

Box 41, Folder 13  
Snapper mower operating and maintenance instructions, 1964

Box 41, Folder 14  
"Facts about your new GE MIXER", General Electric Company, undated

Box 41, Folder 15  
Kitchen and home ephemera, loose recipes, 1963-1969, undated

Box 41, Folder 16  
*How to Use the Foods You Can*, 1924

Box 41, Folder 17  
"Dress pattern by Margot" 1927

Box 45, Folder 1  
"Corticelli Lessons in Crochet No. 2" 1916

Box 45, Folder 2  
Dress pattern, *The Southern Planter*, 1943

Box 45, Folder 3  
Marian Martin Patterns, dress pattern, circa 1940s

Box 45, Folder 4  
"Old and New Designs in Crochet Corset Covers and Nightgown Yokes", LaCroix, Sophie T., undated

Box 45, Folder 11  
E.F. Droop & Sons Company, catalog of sacred songs, 1917

**Subseries 2.5: Robinson, Franklin A., 1932-1997, undated**

Box 42, Folder 6  
Collected stamps, 1936-1957, undated

Box 42, Folder 4  
*The Pilgrim Junior Bible Workbook, Jesus and His Friends*, 1942

Box 39, Folder 1  
*How to Use a Slide Rule*, 1942

Box 39, Folder 2  
*Tru- Vue*, 1943

Box 39, Folder 3  
*Victory Gardens*, 1943

Box 42, Folder 5  
*Wartime Tractors*, 1943-1944

Box 39, Folder 4  
4-H material, 1945

Box 39, Folder 5  
*Tobacco Culture in Maryland*, 1945
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 39, Folder 7</th>
<th>Stamp collecting, 1946-1948, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 39, Folder 10</td>
<td>Southern Maryland Soil Conservation Week, program, 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 3</td>
<td>Papers and ephemera, 1949-2004, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 4</td>
<td>Diary, 1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 39, Folder 11</td>
<td>Diary, 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 42, Folder 1-3</td>
<td>Farm diaries, 1974-1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 1-4</td>
<td>Personal correspondence received, 1939-1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 5</td>
<td>Correspondence received from Via, Adina M., 1951-1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 1-5</td>
<td>Correspondence received from Via, Adina M., 1955-1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 1</td>
<td>Correspondence received from Via, Adina M., 1956-1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 2</td>
<td>Baby book, 1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 3</td>
<td>School life, 1938-1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 39, Folder 6</td>
<td>School papers, 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 39, Folder 8</td>
<td>Science composition book, 1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 39, Folder 9</td>
<td>&quot;What are We Doing With Our Soil&quot;, school report, 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 39, Folder 14</td>
<td>Geography composition book, 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 39, Folder 15</td>
<td>School papers, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 39, Folder 16</td>
<td>School report on Maryland, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 4-6</td>
<td>Crossroads, Gwynn Park High School yearbook, 1949-1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 7</td>
<td>House construction bills and receipts, 1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 8</td>
<td>House building record, 1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 9</td>
<td>Family vacation to western United States, 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 24, Folder 1</td>
<td>Military records, (RESTRICTED), 1955-1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 1</td>
<td>Walt Disney's Disneyland - A Souvenir Pictorial Guide, 1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 5</td>
<td>Family vacation to western United States, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 6</td>
<td>Arizona Guide, July-August, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 7</td>
<td>Los Angeles, Souvenir Picture Guide, 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 8</td>
<td>Marineland of the Pacific, 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 9</td>
<td>Pictorial Guide to Six Flags Over Texas, 1970</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 39, Folder 13  Serenity Farm, housewarming cards received, 1976
Box 34, Folder 9  Oversize, childhood drawings and sidewall rendering, 1946, undated

Subseries 2.6: Robinson, Jr., Franklin A., 1959-2001, undated

Box 8, Folder 2  Correspondence written, 1977-1980
Box 8, Folder 3  Papers and ephemera, 1960-1990, undated
Box 8, Folder 4  Baby book, 1959
Box 8, Folder 5-7  School life, 1964-1988
Box 8, Folder 8  Scrapbook, 1967-1968
Box 8, Folder 9  *Parrot Weed*, the Queen Anne School magazine, 1972-1974
Box 8, Folder 10  *Patchwork*, The Calverton School magazine, 1976-1977
Box 24, Folder 4  School life, (RESTRICTED), 1977-1985
Box 34, Folder 4  Correspondence, oversize, 1970
Box 34, Folder 11  School art project, 1972
Box 9, Folder 1  Trip to France, 1973
Box 24, Folder 2-3  Correspondence from Richard Issam Damalouji, (RESTRICTED), 1977-2014
Box 9, Folder 2-3  Personal correspondence received, 1959-1990
Box 9, Folder 4  Employment, 1978-1986
Box 9, Folder 5  Robinson and Vermillion wedding, 2001
Box 9, Folder 6  *Walt Disney's Annual for Boys and Girls*, magazine, 1966
Box 9, Folder 7  *Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom*, fold-out poster, 1969
Box 9, Folder 8  *Wildlife Conservation Stamp Album*, 1969
Box 9, Folder 9  *Wonderful World of Disney*, magazine, 1968-1970
Box 45, Folder 6  *Walt Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean*, guidebook, 1968
Box 25, Folder 1  Hand drawn plat of Disneyland, Anaheim, California, 1968
Box 45, Folder 7  Walt Disney Catalog, 1969-1970
Box 45, Folder 5  Comic books, 1961-1970
Box 34, Folder 6  Pentagon presentation photograph with autographed frame, 1986
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 38, Folder 5</th>
<th>Religious Activities, 1967-1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 38, Folder 12</td>
<td><em>For the Glory of God</em>, publication, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 38, Folder 13</td>
<td><em>American Cooks</em>, Holy Trinity School cookbook, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 38, Folder 14</td>
<td><em>Bring Your Friends</em>, publication, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 38, Folder 15</td>
<td>“Greene County Magazine”, Volume 21, publication (article on Runkle family written by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.), 2010-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box OS1</td>
<td><em>Six Flags Over Texas</em>, map, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 40, Folder 1-11</td>
<td><em>A Time to Sow</em>, production records and awards, 1987-1991, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 3: Serenity Farm, Charles County, Maryland, 1962-2001, undated

Box 38, Folder 8  Farm papers, 1962-1993, undated

Map-folder 2  House plans: "Proposed Residence for Mr. and Mrs. Franklin A. Robinson, Rt. 231, Benedict, Maryland" 1966-1975

Map-folder 2  House Plans: "Residence for Mr. and Mrs. Franklin A. Robinson, Rt. 231, Benedict, Maryland", (revisions by architect Shick, Frederick A. of Washington, D.C.), 1974

Box 34, Folder 4  Proposed residence for Mr. and Mrs. Franklin A. Robinson, Rt. 231, Benedict, Maryland, construction notes and specifications, 1965

Box 25, Folder 1  Posters for American Agriculture Tractor Drive, 1980

Box 32  Tobacco production photographs, 1999-2000

Box 38, Folder 9  Tobacco floor sheets and weight tickets, Hughesville tobacco warehouse, Hughesville, Maryland, 2000

Box 38, Folder 10  The Purina Rabbit Book, undated
Series 4: Via Farm, Calvert County, Maryland, 1954-1987, undated

Box 11, Folder 1-3  Farm papers, 1954-1987
Box 11, Folder 4  Farm ephemera, 1947-1955
Box 11, Folder 5  Farm ephemera, 1956-1983
Box 34, Folder 5  Land Plat: Boundary Survey Residue of Robert M. Via Property, 1st District, Calvert County, Maryland, 1980
Series 5: Via Family, 1932-1997, undated

Subseries 5.1: Family Papers, 1941-1983, undated

Box 34, Folder 2 "A Four Room Bedroom and Bath Dwelling for Mr. and Mrs. R.M. Via, designed by Clyde E. Phillips", blueprints, 1941
Map-folder 1 "Proposed Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Via, Island Creek, Maryland, John Holland, Calvert Masonry Contractors, Inc.", blueprints, 1973
Box 11, Folder 6 General ephemera, 1947-1983, undated
Box 12, Folder 8 Account book, 1935-1941

Subseries 5.2: Via, Robert M., 1933-1987

Box 12, Folder 1 Ephemera, 1933-1982, undated
Box 12, Folder 2 Correspondence from Via, Ida Virginia, 1931-1953
Box 12, Folder 3 Correspondence received, 1942-1987
Box 12, Folder 4 Capital Transit Company, 1933-1968
Box 12, Folder 5 Capital Transit Company, contents of transfer box, 1956
Box 12, Folder 6 Capital Transit Company, bus transfer coupon books, undated
Box 34, Folder 7 Capital Transit Company, bus transfer coupon books, 1952-1956

Subseries 5.3: Via, Ida Virginia, 1928-2010

Box 12, Folder 7 Ephemera, 1928-2010, undated
Box 13, Folder 1 Diary, 1979
Box 46, Folder 1 Diary, 1982
Box 13, Folder 2 Correspondence from Via, Robert M., 1932-1937
Box 13, Folder 3 Correspondence received, 1933-2010
Box 13, Folder 4 Barker, William M., estate papers, 1948-1949
Box 13, Folder 5 Via, Ida Virginia, transcript of oral history, 1992
Subseries 5.4: Via, Robert D., 1933-1988, undated

Box 13, Folder 6  Ephemera, 1943-1988, undated
Box 13, Folder 7  Child's sketchbook, undated
Box 13, Folder 8  Yearbook, Gwynn Park High School, Brandywine, Maryland, 1948
Box 25, Folder 2  Child's scrapbook, 1933
Box 16, Folder 1  Transcription disc, Wilcox Gay label, Bashful Bob, side one: "Slowpoke"; "Cold, Cold, Heart"; "Crying Heart Blues". Side two: "Always Late"; "Mom and Dads Waltz"; "I Want to be With You Always"; "My Broken Heart" 1951 November 21
Box 16, Folder 2  Transcription disc, Recotron label, The Rhythm Rangers and Bashful Bob, side one: "Traveling Blue Sonny"; "Cattle Call". Side two: "Shotgun Boogie"; "X" 1951 November 21
Box 16, Folder 3  Transcription disc, Recotron label, The Rhythm Rangers and Bashful Bob featuring Shrieve Spitler, side one: "Black Mountain Rag"; "Love Bug Itch"; "Detour". Side two: "The Sign on the Highway"; "Miss Molly" 1951 November 21

Subseries 5.5: Robinson, Adina Mae, 1937-1966, undated

Box 13, Folder 8  Ephemera, 1937-1966, undated
Box 13, Folder 9  Diary, 1966
Box 46, Folder 2-4  Correspondence received from Robinson, Franklin A., 1951-1966, undated
Box 14, Folder 2  Personal correspondence received, 1947-1966
Box 13, Folder 14  Correspondence written, 1961-1964
Box 14, Folder 3  School life, 1943-1955
Box 14, Folder 4  School life, 1943-1955
Box 10, Folder 10  Singer Sewing Book, inscribed, 1953
Box 14, Folder 5  High School Yearbook, Gwynn Park High School, Brandywine, Maryland, 1955
Box 10, Folder 11  Michael Todd's Around the World in 80 Days, souvenir program, 1956
Box 46, Folder 5  Robinson and Via wedding, 1958
Box 39, Folder 12  Robinson and Via wedding, cards and wrapping papers, 1958
Box 45, Folder 8  Motel soaps, 1958
Box 46, Folder 7  Stained Glass Color Art, "Nativity" 1960
Box 46, Folder 6  Stained Glass Color Art, "Nativity" 1960
Box 46, Folder 8  New house notebook, 1965-1966
Box 16, Folder 4  Transcription disc, Duo-Disc label, Gwynn Park High School Band, side one: "Street Scene"; "Nutcracker Suite", Via, Adina M. on drums, 1954 May 23
Box 25, Folder 1  Gwynn Park High School Graduating Class of 1955, composite photograph, 1955
Box 25, Folder 3  News articles, 1955
Box 39, Folder 17  Redbook Magazine, 1956
Box 45, Folder 9  Funeral register, 1966
Box 45, Folder 10  Floral cards, 1966
Series 6: Photographs and Photographic Negatives, 1865-2000, undated

1 photograph

Subseries 6.1: Photographs, 1872-2000, undated

Box 17  Ferndale Farm, 1927-1969, undated

Box 43, Folder 5  Cultivating potatoes, Robinson, Frank A.; Savoy, Neal; Savoy, Joseph, Ferndale Farm, 1927

Box 43, Folder 6  Corn field, Robinson, Frank A., Ferndale Farm, 1927

Box 43, Folder 7  Bean field, Robinson, Frank A., Ferndale Farm, 1927

Box 43, Folder 8  Tobacco and corn fields, Robinson, Frank A., Ferndale Farm, 1927

Box 17  Serenity Farm, 1965-1993, undated

Box 32  Serenity Farm Tobacco Production Photographs, 1999-2000

1 photograph

These work photographs were taken by A. Theresa Robinson (b. 1963) and Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. (b. 1959) during the 1999-2000 tobacco production year. Serenity Farm produced between thirty and seventy acres of tobacco per year, approximately 2/3 of that amount being grown by the Robinson family and 1/3 being grown by a tenant farmer, George H. Morgan. Labor for tobacco production was a combination of family and seasonal hired help, mostly from Calvert County, Maryland. In 2001, Serenity Farm opted to take the Maryland state tobacco buyout program, thus their last crop year was 2000-2001. The Robinson family had been engaged in tobacco production since at least 1745 in both Prince Georges County and Charles County, Maryland. Robert Henry Robinson served as the Deputy State Tobacco Inspector in the early 20th century.

Frame #Sheet A, photographed by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

AO  A view looking east from the main house of the tobacco fields and farm equipment at Serenity Farm. The Patuxent River is in the distance.

A1  A view looking east from the main house of the tobacco fields and farm equipment at Serenity Farm. The Patuxent River is in the distance. Tenant farmer George W. Morgans fields and equipment are to the left of the road leading down to the Patuxent River.

A2  Panorama including A0 and A1.

A3  Looking south-east, a newly planted tobacco field, planted with type 32 Maryland tobacco.

A4  A broader view of A3.

A5  An International 484 tractor pulling a four seat tobacco planter with water tank and fertilizer attachments.

A6  Rear view of A5.
A7 Bert Henson, Dale Young and Rosie Kyler playing poker between planting while water and fertilizer are being refilled in the tobacco planter.

A8 The tobacco planter at the end of the row, tractor driven by Franklin A. Robinson, Sr.

A9-10 Loading tobacco plants into the planter.

A11 Bert Henson and Rosie Kyler loading tobacco plants onto the planter for transplanting.

A12 Looking north, the trailer used to haul tobacco plants (left) and the trailer used to haul fertilizer. Chalk Point power generating plant in the background.

A13 Looking east, Dale Young, Rosie Kyler, Carlo White and Bert Henson waiting to begin transplanting.

A14 Dale Young, Rosie Kyler, Carlo White and Bert Henson transplanting.

A15 A wider view of A14.

A16 A Styrofoam flat of Maryland Type 32 tobacco plants. (Plants were grown by Buddy Hance of Calvert County, Maryland.)

A17-18 An empty Styrofoam flat and a full flat of Maryland Type 32 tobacco plants.

A19 Flats of tobacco plants loaded onto the trailer for hauling.

A20 A Maryland Type 32 tobacco plant ready to be transplanted.

A21 An International 484 tractor pulling a four seat tobacco planter with water tank and fertilizer attachments driven by Franklin A. Robinson, Sr.

A22 Franklin A. Robinson, Sr. seated on the tractor, replanting in the background.

A23-24 Replanting missed tobacco plants.

A24a/25 Bert Henson replanting.

**Sheet B, photographed by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and A. Theresa Robinson**

B0 A view looking east from the main house of the tobacco fields and farm equipment at Serenity Farm. The Patuxent River is in the distance.

B1 A field of tobacco after cultivation.

B2 A close-up of B1.

B3 A. Theresa Robinson cultivating tobacco on an International H tractor with a shade umbrella attached.

B4 A close-up of B3.

B5 A rear view of B3.
B6 Looking west, A. Theresa Robinson cultivating tobacco with a 1942, International H tractor with a shade umbrella attached.

B7 Looking south-west, Rosie Kyler, Bert Henson and Dale Young grassing (hoeing grass from between the plants) tobacco after the field has been tractor cultivated.

B8 A view of the tobacco field looking north-west, the farm buildings and houses are in the distance.

B9 A closer view of B7.

B10 Stefan Brown topping tobacco.

B11 A field of tobacco in full flower prior to topping.

B12-14 Stefan Brown topping tobacco.

B15-16 Franklin A. Robinson, Sr. spraying tobacco with MG-30 for sucker control and Orthene for worm control, after the tobacco has been topped. He is riding a DeCloet sprayer.

B17 A topped and sprayed field of tobacco looking south.

B18-21 Looking south, Virginia L. Robinson driving the stick trailer, Joseph F. Vermillion and Franklin A. Robinson, Sr. dropping tobacco sticks along the layrows of cut tobacco.

B22 Virginia L. Robinson driving the tractor pulling the stick trailer.

B23 Looking west, loading speared tobacco onto a trailer to be hauled to the tobacco curing barn. An International 3788 tractor is pulling the trailer.

B24-25 Bert Henson, Willard White and Stefan Brown loading speared tobacco on the trailer to be hauled to the tobacco curing barn.

Sheet C, photographed by A. Theresa Robinson

C0-1 Bert Henson loading tobacco to be hauled to the curing barn.

C2 A wider view of C0-1 described above.

C3 Looking west, cutting tobacco for spearing.

C4 Dale Young, Douglas Brooks, and Bert Henson cutting tobacco for spearing.

C5 Douglas Brooks, and Mack Thomas cutting tobacco for spearing.

C6 Mack Thomas, Douglas Brooks and Rosie Kyler cutting tobacco for spearing.

C7 Dale Young cutting tobacco for spearing.

C8 The crew loading tobacco to be hauled to the curing barn.

C9-11 Robert D. Robinson cutting tobacco into a layrow for spearing.
C12 Brother Larry Maick and Robert D. Robinson hanging tobacco in the curing barn.

C13 The crew hanging tobacco in the curing barn.

C14 Rosie Kyler (left) and Dale Young hanging tobacco in the curing barn.

C15 Brother Larry Maick hanging tobacco and Franklin A. Robinson, Sr. in the curing barn.

C16 The tobacco field, looking east, piles of tobacco waiting to be hauled to the curing barn. At right, the crew is spearing tobacco onto sticks.

C17-19 Douglas Brooks and Stefan Brown spearing tobacco.

C20 Bert Henson, Douglas Brooks, and Stefan Brown loading tobacco for hauling to the curing barn.

C21 Dale Young and Willard White spearing tobacco.

C22 Rosie Kyler spearing tobacco.

C23 Franklin A. Robinson, Sr. on the last day of harvest, 1999.

C24 Franklin A. Robinson in front of curing tobacco hanging in the curing barn.

Sheet D, photographed by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

D0 A view looking east from the main house of the tobacco fields and farm equipment at Serenity Farm. The Patuxent River is in the distance.

D1 A view looking east from the main house of the tobacco fields and farm equipment at Serenity Farm. The Patuxent River is in the distance. Tenant farmer, George W. Morgans fields and equipment are to the left of the road leading down to the Patuxent River.

D2 A view of the barnyard and main house area from the tobacco field.

D3 Looking north-east, a view of the tobacco field after harvest.

D4 Looking north-west, a view of the tobacco field after harvest.

D5 Looking east, a view of the tobacco field after harvest.

D6 Looking north-east, a view of the tobacco field after harvest. A view of the tobacco barns and farm house is in the background.

D7 End of harvest picnic/celebration, 1999, left to right, Rosie Kyler, Stefan Brown and April Hart.

D8 End of harvest picnic/celebration, 1999. Left to right, Russell White, Douglas Brooks, Robert D. Robinson (on phone) and Dale Young.

D9-10 Russell White tending the barbecue, end of harvest picnic/celebration, 1999.
D11 A. Theresa Robinson and Franklin A. Robinson, Sr. making out paychecks for the help.

D12 End of harvest picnic/celebration 1999, Left to right, Dale Young, A. Theresa Robinson, Russell White, Stefan Brown, Emory Thomas and Franklin A. Robinson, Sr.

D13 A. Theresa Robinson making out the paychecks for the help.

D14 Pallets of tobacco sticks, the curing barn in the background has its windows open to facilitate curing.

D15 A pile of cured tobacco waiting to be stripped.

D16-23 Ambrose Man Kyler, Douglas Brooks, Dale Young, Franklin A. Robinson, Sr. and A. Theresa Robinson taking down cured tobacco for stripping.

D24 A. Theresa Robinson holding up a stick of cured tobacco.

D25 Piles of cured tobacco waiting to be stripped.

D26, D28 Dale Young passing two sticks of cured tobacco to A. Theresa Robinson.

D27 A. Theresa Robinson packing down sticks of cured tobacco to prevent them from drying out.

D29-30 Stripped and baled tobacco waiting to be taken to market.

D31-32 Peaceable Kingdom? Box Car (cat) and Liberty (dog) at rest.

D33, D35, D37 Ambrose Kyler, Douglas Brooks, Dale Young, Franklin A. Robinson, Sr. and A. Theresa Robinson taking down sticks of cured tobacco to be stripped.

D34, D36 A view of the curing barn with hanging sticks of cured tobacco.

Sheet E, photographed by A. Theresa Robinson, spring 2000

E0A Hacks of stripped tobacco waiting to be unloaded at the tobacco market/auction warehouse in Waldorf, Maryland.

E1A-2A Unloading hacks of tobacco at the Waldorf warehouse.

E3A An interior view of the Hughesville tobacco warehouse with hacks of tobacco in the foreground.

E4A A traditional hack of tobacco at the warehouse.

E5A James Bowling (warehouse owner) and Albert Raley at the Waldorf warehouse.

E6A-9A Unloading baled tobacco at the Waldorf warehouse.

E10A Weighing baled tobacco at the Waldorf warehouse. Left to right, uniden., George H. Morgan and James Bowling.
E11A George H. Morgan and James Bowling at the scales, Waldorf warehouse.

E12A A view of the Waldorf warehouse, baled tobacco in the foreground.

E13A An interior view of the Waldorf warehouse, baled tobacco on the left, hacked hands of tobacco on the right.

E14A Rosie Kyler and Dale Young stripping tobacco at Serenity Farm.

E15A Franklin A. Robinson, Sr. making cotton string ties for baling tobacco.

E16A Rosie Kyler stripping tobacco.

E17A Hauling a pallet of cured tobacco to the stripping room.

E18A The stripping room filled with cured tobacco waiting to be stripped.

E19A Baled tobacco and a stick pallet in the barn.

E20A-21A The hydraulic tobacco baler in the stripping room.

E22A Franklin A. Robinson, Sr. bringing a pallet of cured tobacco to be stripped into the stripping room.

E23A-25A Liberty and Box Car in the stripping room.

Sheet F, photographed by A. Theresa Robinson, spring 2000

F0 Dale Young baling stripped tobacco leaves.

F1-3 Joseph F. Vermillion, Dale Young baling stripped tobacco leaves.

F4-5 Dale Young and Rosie Kyler taking cured tobacco off the stick to be stripped.

F6 Mack Thomas stripping tobacco leaves off the stalk.

F7 Dale Young baling stripped tobacco leaves.

F8-10 Tobacco auction at the Hughesville tobacco warehouse.

F11 A bale of Serenity Farm tobacco with weight ticket and buyers tag at the Hughesville tobacco warehouse.

F12 A row of baled Serenity Farm tobacco with weight tickets and buyers tags at the Hughesville tobacco warehouse.

F13 A proud grower, Franklin A. Robinson, Sr., with some of his tobacco on the auction floor at the Hughesville warehouse.

F14-22 Auctioning off tobacco at the Hughesville warehouse, Gilbert Bowling left, followed by Walter Wilkerson, auctioneer.

F23-25 Views of the Hughesville tobacco warehouse.

Sheet G, photographed by A. Theresa Robinson, spring 2001
G0 Drawing plants in the tobacco seedling bed, Virginia L. Robinson and Ashlee N. Robinson.

G1 Patricia A. "T.C." Morgan and Rosie Kyler drawing plants.


G4 Drawing plants in the tobacco seedling bed, Virginia L. Robinson and Ashlee N. Robinson.

G5 Austin D. Robinson and Joseph F. Vermillion packing drawn tobacco plants into bushel baskets for transport to the field.

G6 Drawing plants in the tobacco seedling bed, Ashlee N. Robinson and Virginia L. Robinson.

G7 Joseph F. Vermillion and Austin D. Robinson packing drawn tobacco plants into bushel baskets for transport to the field.

G8 Franklin A. Robinson drawing plants.


G11 Franklin A. Robinson and Patricia A. "T.C." Morgan drawing plants.

G12-14 Austin D. Robinson packing drawn tobacco plants into tobacco market baskets for transport to the field.

G15 Tobacco market baskets loaded with tobacco plants ready for transport to the field.

G16 Rosie Kyler and Patricia A. "T.C." Morgan drawing plants.

G17 Franklin A. Robinson drawing plants.

G18 Rosie Kyler drawing plants.

G19 Joseph F. Vermillion and Franklin A. Robinson in the tobacco beds.

G20 Joseph F. Vermillion with drawn tobacco plants in tobacco market baskets and bushel baskets waiting for transport to the field for transplanting.

G21-22 Drawn tobacco plants loaded onto the truck for transport to the field for transplanting.

Box 18 Robinson and allied families, 1872-1993, undated

Box 29 Via and allied families, 1860-1993, undated

Box 29 Via farm, Prince George's County, Maryland, 1948-1956, undated

Box 29 Via farm, Calvert County, Maryland, 1954-1993, undated

Box 33 Holiday celebrations, birthdays, graduations, weddings, funeral, 1933-1993, undated
Subseries 6.2: Photographic Negatives, 1930-2000, undated

Box 21  Ferndale Farm, 1927-1969, undated
Box 21  Serenity Farm, 1965-1993, undated
Box 22  Robinson family, 1930-1993, undated
Box 19  Via family, 1930-1993, undated
Box 20  Holiday celebrations, birthdays, graduations, weddings, funeral, 1933-1993, undated
Box 19  Vacations and leisure, 1930-1985, undated
Box 20  Robinson, Franklin A., United States Army, 1955-1956
Series 7: Audiovisual, 1943-1997

(OF stands for Original Film; the research video (RV) numbers appear in the parenthesis)

Subseries 7.1: Family and farming, 1943-1985

Box 26, Item OF475.1 (RV475.1)

[Via family], 1943

1 motion picture film, Duration: 6 minutes, 12 seconds; Camera original; 8mm: Univex black and white reversal
Place: Shadyside Avenue, Capital Heights, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

Persons: Charles and Emily Lightboun, Betty Burnell, Robert D. Via, Adina M. Via, Ida Virginia Via; In Washington, D.C. scenes, Daniel Pilkington, Bernice V. McMullan, Adele and Pattie Pilkington

Cinematographer: unknown

Box 26, Item OF475.2 (RV475.1)

[Robinson and Via wedding], 1958

1 motion picture film, Duration: 11 minutes, 40 seconds; Camera original; 8mm: Kodachrome reversal
Place: Chapel of the Incarnation, Brandywine, Maryland; New England, and Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland

Persons: Adina Mae Via and Franklin A. Robinson, members and friends of the Robinson and Via families

Cinematographer: For wedding a Mr. Noyes, for honeymoon, Adina and Franklin Robinson.

Box 26, Item OF475.3 (RV475.2)

[Farming and family], 1962-1963

1 motion picture film, Duration: 28 minutes, 48 seconds; Compilation reel of smaller reels; Camera original, 8mm, Kodachrome reversal
1. Cutting tobacco and irrigating, 1962

Place: Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland

Persons: Frank A. Robinson, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Sr., Robert L. Robinson, Norris Gross and others

Cinematographer: Adina M. Robinson

2. Grain driers and views of John Deere Farm, 1962

Place: John Deere Farm, T.B., Maryland

Persons: None visible, Franklin A. Robinson running the combine.

Cinematographer: Adina and Franklin Robinson


Place: Chapel of the Incarnation, Brandywine, Maryland, and Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland

Persons: The Reverend Mr. Richard Hartman, Virginia and Robert Via (hats worn by the Via family and Adina M. Robinson are in NMAH costume
collection) Robert David Robinson (baby), Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Adina M. Robinson, Franklin A. Robinson

Cinematographer: Franklin and Adina Robinson


Place: Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland

Persons: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Adina M. Robinson, Robert D. Robinson

Cinematographer: Adina and Franklin Robinson

5. Snowman, Easter, sprayer, 1963

Place: Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland, Via Farm, Calvert County, Maryland, John Deere Farm, T.B., Maryland

Persons: Robert D. Robinson, Adina M. Robinson, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Sr., Elizabeth B. Robinson (hat in NMAH costume collection), Franklin Robinson (b. 1932) doing the agricultural spraying

Cinematographer: Adina and Franklin Robinson

6. Enchanted Forest, and farm pond, 1963

Place: Enchanted Forest (a children's park in Western Maryland), Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland


Cinematographer: Franklin and Adina Robinson

7. Mulch planter-corn, mowing grass, 1963

Place: Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland, John Deere Farm, T.B., Maryland

Persons: Robert D. Robinson, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Adina M. Robinson, Elizabeth B. Robinson (mowing grass), Franklin A. Robinson, Sr.

Cinematographer: Franklin and Adina Robinson

[Box 26, Item OF475.4 (RV475.3)]

[Farming and family], 1965-1966

1 motion picture film, Duration: 36 minutes, 55 seconds; Compilation reel of smaller reels; Camera original; 8mm; Kodacrome reversal

1. Summer, farming, children, 1964

Place: Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland, John Deere Farm, T.B., Maryland

Persons: Franklin A. Robinson, Sr. (planting corn), Robert D. Robinson, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Robert M. Via, A. Theresa Robinson

Cinematographer: Adina M. Robinson
2. Christmas, Theresa first walking, Reel #1, 1964

Place: Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland


Cinematographer: Adina and Franklin Robinson

3. Christmas Reel #2, 1964

See above.

4. Easter, Mr. Brown's place [Serenity Farm] with our [Robinson] corn, 1965

Place: Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland, Via Farm Calvert County, Maryland, Serenity Farm, Benedict, Maryland

Persons: Robert D. Robinson, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., A. Theresa Robinson, Ida Virginia Via, Adina M. Robinson

Cinematographer: Franklin and Adina Robinson


Place: Washington, D.C., Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland

Persons: Carla Laurent, Adina M. Robinson, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., family and friends

Cinematographer: Franklin A. Robinson

6. Franklin's 6th birthday party, 1965

Place: Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland

Persons: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. birthday party, family and friends

Cinematographer: Franklin A. Robinson

7. Christmas, 1965,

Place: Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland

Persons: A. Theresa Robinson, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Robert D. Robinson, Ida Virginia Via, Gloria J. Via

Cinematographer: Franklin and Adina Robinson


Place: Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland

Persons: See above.

Cinematographer: Franklin and Adina Robinson
Box 26, Item OF475.5 (RV475.4)  

[Farming, family, and travel], 1967-1968
1 motion picture film, Duration: 21 minutes, 30 seconds; Compilation reel of smaller reels; Camera original; 8mm; Kodacrome reversal
1. Serenity Farm and Mount Rainier, Washington State, 1967

Place: Serenity Farm, Benedict, Maryland, Washington State


Cinematographer: Franklin Robinson

2. Mount Rainier Washington State, August, kids, Dick and Theresa Laurent, new air boat and John Deere Farm, 1967

Place: Washington State, John Deere Farm, T.B., Maryland

Persons: Laurent family, A. Theresa Robinson, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Sr., Robert D. Robinson, Ken Reilly

Cinematographer: Franklin Robinson

3. Air boat in water at Benedict, Rita and Margie, Christmas, Equipment for moving barn at Serenity Farm, 1967-1968

Place: Patuxent River at Serenity Farm, Benedict, Maryland; Ferndale Farm, Brandywine, Maryland; Serenity Farm


Cinematographer: Franklin Robinson

4. Moving barn with truck off of hill to new location, May, 1968

Place: Serenity Farm, Benedict, Maryland

Persons: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Robert D. Robinson, R.E. Sparrow and Son, Lynchburg, Virginia

Cinematographer: Franklin Robinson

5. Moving stripping room, view of farm and river from hill where barn was moved at Serenity Farm, May, 1968

Place: Serenity Farm, Benedict, Maryland

Cinematographer: Franklin Robinson

Box 26, Item OF475.6 (RV475.4)  

[Fireman's parade], 1970-1971
1 motion picture film, Duration: 5 minutes, 30 seconds; Camera original; 8m; AGVA black and white

Fireman's Parade, Franklin and Theresa Robinson

Place: Mechanicsville, Maryland, Waldorf, Maryland and Baden, Maryland
Persons: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and A. Theresa Robinson

Cinematographer: Franklin Robinson

1 motion picture film, Duration: 29 minutes, 26 seconds ; Compilation reel of smaller reels. ; Camera original; 8mm; Kodacrome reversal
1. Christmas, Serenity Farm, 1978
Place: Serenity Farm, Benedict, Maryland
Persons: Ceddie Harris, Peter Harris, Robert M. Via, Virginia W. Via, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Sr., A. Theresa Robinson
Cinematographer: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Sr.
2. Grandma and Granddaddy Via's kite flying, Robinson family and Robert Marin Via, circa 1978
Place: Via Farm, Calvert County, Maryland
Persons: A. Theresa Robinson, Robert Marin Via, Robert D. Robinson, Robert M. Via, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Sr., Virginia W. Via
Cinematographer: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Sr.
Place: Serenity Farm, Benedict, Maryland, Maxwell Hall, Swanson's Creek, Maryland
Persons: Peter Harris, A. Theresa Robinson, Molly B. Swann Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.
Cinematographer: Franklin Robinson, Jr. and A. Theresa Robinson
4. Serenity Farm, bad snow, 1980
Place: Serenity Farm, Benedict, Maryland
Persons: Robert D. Robinson, Peter Harris, Molly B. Swann
Cinematographer: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., A. Theresa Robinson
5. Winter and snow, 1980
Place: Serenity Farm, Benedict, Maryland
Persons: Molly B. Swann, Robert D. Robinson, A. Theresa Robinson
Cinematographer: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.
6. 1985 lambs being fed, Sunday supper, post-1984
Place: Serenity Farm, Benedict, Maryland
Persons: Virginia W. Via, A. Theresa Robinson, Deidre G. Merhiage, Franklin A. Robinson, Sr., Margaret N. Ward, Martha L. Swann, Henry Swann
Cinematographer: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and A. Theresa Robinson

**Box 26, Item OF475.13**

**A Time to Sow**, 1988

1 motion picture film, Duration: 11 minutes; Print: 16mm; sound; black and white

Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.’s thesis film American University. A short drama based on the farm crisis of the 1980s. Winner of a Special Jury Award at the Annual Short Film and Video Competition in Dallas, Texas; Silver Prize at the Austrian National Film Festival; Honorable Mention at The Big Muddy Film Festival; finalist for the Dore Schary Award. Screened at the American Film Institute (AFI).

Copyright: 1988

Producer: Antaeus Films

Director: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. (Frank Robinson, Jr.)

Performer(s): Scott Morgan, Tyler Brown, Jennifer Brown, Lynn Swann, David Robinson, Jennifer Thacker

**Box 27, Item OS475.13**

**A Time to Sow**, 1988

3 sound track film reels; 16mm; magnetic sound track

Three original magnetic sound track reels, plus one box original sound recordings used for creating tracks.

**Box 27, Item OF475.13A**

**A Time to Sow**, A roll, 1988

1 motion picture film; Camera original; 16mm; Kodak Tri-X, black and white reversal

A roll of edited film.

**Box 27, Item OF475.13B**

**A Time to Sow**, B roll, 1988

1 motion picture film; Camera original; 16mm, Kodak Tri-X, black and white reversal

B roll of edited film.

**Box 27, Item OF475.13C**

**A Time to Sow**, master magnetic mix track, 1988

1 sound track film reel; Original 16mm master magnetic mix track

Master magnetic mix track

**Box 27, Item OF475.13D**

**A Time to Sow**, work print, 1988

1 motion picture film; work print, 16mm, Kodak-Tri-X black and white reversal, sync sound

Work print of edited film.

**Box 28, Item MV475.14**

**Tobacco**, 1986

1 video recording, Duration: 4 minutes 2 seconds, followed by 12 minutes of raw and uncut footage; VHS video tape

An American University, Location Film and Video project documenting the cutting and spearing process of harvesting tobacco in Southern Maryland. Filmed on location at Serenity Farm, Benedict, Maryland.

**Box 27, Item OF475.15**

**Theresa: A Farm Girl**, 1986

1 motion picture film, Duration: 2 minutes, 50 seconds; A cassette tape wild track accompanies the film; Camera original, edited, 16mm Kodat Tri-X black and white reversal
An American University; Location Film and Video project, short documentary. A day in the life of Theresa Robinson, a farmer on Serenity Farm, Charles County, Maryland. Footage includes scenes of taking down cured tobacco, hacking hands of tobacco, seeding winter rye, doing needlework.

Director: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. (Frank Robinson, Jr.)

Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: A. Theresa Robinson, R. David Robinson, Lynn Swann

Box 35, Item OTC 5

Theresa: A Farm Girl , 1986
1 cassette tape
Wildtrack cassette for OF475.15

Box 35, Item RTC 5

Theresa: A Farm Girl, wildtrack cassette for OF475.15
Wildtrack cassette for OF475.15

Box 35, Item OF475.16

Theresa: A Farm Girl , 1986
1 motion picture film, Duration: 5 minutes, 10 seconds ; Camera original, uncut footage, 16mm Kodat Tri-X black and white reversal, silent
Descriptive Summary: 210f, 16mm, silent, b&w. An American University, Location Film and Video project, short documentary. Outtakes for OF475.15. A day in the life of Theresa Robinson, a farmer on Serenity Farm, Charles County, Maryland. Footage includes scenes of taking down cured tobacco, hacking hands of tobacco, seeding winter rye, doing needlework.

Copyright: 1986

Director: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. (Frank Robinson, Jr.)

Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: A. Theresa Robinson, R. David Robinson, Lynn Swann

An American University, Location Film and Video project, short documentary. Outtakes for OF475.15. A day in the life of Theresa Robinson, a farmer on Serenity Farm, Charles County, Maryland. Footage includes scenes of taking down cured tobacco, hacking hands of tobacco, seeding winter rye, doing needlework.

Director: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. (Frank Robinson, Jr.)

Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: A. Theresa Robinson, R. David Robinson, Lynn Swann

Box 28, Item OV475.15

Aging Sensitivity . . . The Mind is Willing, The Body is Weak , 1997
1 video recording, Duration: 14 minutes, 55 seconds ; VHS video tape, sound, color
A training VHS tape used in training aging sensitivity.

Producer: Morgan Productions

Director: Margo Meisel Morgan

Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: Virginia Via, Ashlee N. Robinson and others
Subseries 7.2: Travel, 1962-1979

Box 26, Item OF475.8

[Robinson Family Trip to American West, Summer], reel 1, 1962
1 motion picture film, Duration: 35 minutes, 33 seconds; Smaller reels were edited and compiled into this reel by Adina M. Robinson.; Camera original; 8mm; Kodacrome color reversal
Persons: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Sr., Adina M. Robinson, Robert D. Robinson

Cinematographer: Franklin and Adina Robinson

Box 26, Item OF475.9

[Robinson Family Trip to American West, Summer], reel 2, 1962
1 motion picture film, Duration: 37 minutes; Smaller reels were edited and compiled into this reel by Adina M. Robinson.; Camera original; 8mm; Kodacrome reversal
Persons: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Sr., Adina M. Robinson, Robert D. Robinson, Richard and Theresa Laurent family

Cinematographer: Franklin and Adina Robinson

Includes views of the 1962 Seattle World's Fair, Seattle, Washington State

Box 26, Item OF475.10

[Robinson family trip to California, Oregon, and Washington State], 1965
1 motion picture film, Duration: 31 minutes, 30 seconds; A compilation reel of smaller reels. ; Camera original; 8mm; Kodacrome reversal
1. Airplane ride to California (Disneyland, Anaheim, California)
2. Will Rogers' home, Disneyland
3. Aunt Emily's, California and Yosemite, redwoods
4. California and Yosemite, Pacific area and redwoods
5. Oregon, summer vacation, Crater Lake, Dulles Airport

Persons: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Sr., Adina M. Robinson, Robert D. Robinson, Emily Abbot, Richard and Theresa Laurent family

Cinematographer: Franklin and Adina Robinson

Box 26, Item OF475.11

[Robinson family travel], 1968-1970
1 motion picture film, Duration: 28 minutes, 48 seconds; A compilation reel of smaller reels. ; Camera original; 8mm; Kodacrome reversal
1. Children at Disneyland (Anaheim, California) July 1968
2. Children swimming at motel while at Disneyland also Marge Ehrler, same of Knots Berry Farm in California July 1968
3. Cape Kennedy, Florida March 1969
4. Children in Gulf (of) Mexico on Sanibel Island, Florida March 1969; also at motel, Port Carlos
5. Children, yard and riding pony at home September 1969; airplane ride to Bahamas in February 1970


Persons: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Sr., Robert D. Robinson, A. Theresa Robinson, Marge Ehrler, Randy Eaton

Cinematographer: Franklin Robinson

Box 26, Item OF475.12, Item See RV475.9

[Robinson and Via family travel], 1970-1979

1 motion picture film, Duration: 22 minutes, 30 seconds; A compilation reel of smaller reels; Camera original; 8mm; Kodacrome reversal

1. Tonto Park and Roosevelt Lake, Arizona, 1970

Persons: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Sr., Robert D. Robinson, A. Theresa Robinson, Margaret T. Lennox, Margaret W. Lennox

Cinematographer: Franklin Robinson, Sr.

2. Disneyland, Anaheim, California, August 1970

Persons: Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Sr., Robert D. Robinson, A. Theresa Robinson, Margaret T. Lennox, Margaret W. Lennox

Cinematographer: Franklin Robinson, Sr.

3. Puerto Rico and St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, April 1971

Persons: Franklin A. Robinson, Sr. and Margaret W. Robinson

Cinematographer: Franklin Robinson, Sr., Margaret W. Robinson

4. Via trip to California; Emily Abbott, Glendale, California, December-January, 1979-1980 (reel 1)

Persons: Robert M. Via, Ida Virginia Via, Emily Abbott

Cinematographer: Franklin Robinson, Jr.

5. Via trip to California; Emily Abbott, Glendale, California, December-January, 1979-1980 (reel 2)

Persons: Robert M. Via, Ida Virginia Via, Emily Abbott

Cinematographer: Franklin Robinson, Jr.

Box 27, Item RV475.1-9 Reference video of 8mm Film, 1943-1985

RV475.13 10 videocassettes (vhs)

RV475.1-RV475.9, see above descriptions. Also RV475.13 of A Time to Sow

Box 28, Item MV475.1-12 Master Video copies of 8mm Film, 1943-1985

12 video recordings; Master video recordings of 8mm film.
MV475.1-MV475.12, see above descriptions.

Box 22  8mm processed film boxes with original notations, 1962-1985