Cheltenham Local History Society

The Miles Scrapbooks Project 2016-2020

Copyright Statement

The history of the books

It is accepted that the ten scrapbooks were compiled from 1925 onwards and must have been completed by the end of August 1931 when they went on show at Cheltenham Public Library during The Library Association Conference Week, 31 August to 5 September. Miles was a delegate at the Conference as a member of the Public Library Committee.

However, internal evidence shows that Miles had been collecting information on Cheltenham and the area from an earlier date, probably starting soon after his arrival in the town in 1860. He was in correspondence with local and national figures in his efforts to produce a wide ranging and comprehensive history.

After his death, 19 March 1932, the family donated the ten books to Cheltenham Public Library, though the exact date is not known. They remained within the library and were at the Cheltenham Local and Family History Centre for many years. From there, in May 2011, they were transferred to Gloucestershire Archives. The decision was made so that they could be stored in a more stable controlled environment.

A small number of later additions, post-1932, have been noted and are acknowledged with the initials 'RB'.

With local access to the volumes becoming difficult, it was suggested, by Christopher Rainey, librarian, that Cheltenham Local History Society (CHLS) should in some way make access to the scrapbooks more widely available.

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Initially talks were held in mid-September 2016 with staff at the Archives as to the feasibility of getting the ten scrapbooks digitised. With approximately between 5,000 and 6,000 pages no CLHS member was able to devote sufficient time to working at the Archives. The first response was disappointing as it was estimated that it would cost CLHS between £6,000 and £7,000, (estimated on staff time needed for taking the images). However, we were lucky in finding a volunteer who was looking for further experience in this area, and after further negotiations with the Archives, and with support from Gloucestershire Victoria County History, he was allowed, with supervision, to use the photographic apparatus. Over the next few months all ten books were digitised.

Society members were kept informed of developments and volunteers came forward for training sessions for The Miles Scrapbook Project. These were run by the Project co-ordinator. A standardised format was established, and initial problems reconciled. There followed a four-year period of concentrated work. As volumes were digitised, the images of each volume was split into sections for home working volunteers. Each page was read and the contents summarised and entered into a formatted *Excel* spreadsheet. The completed sheets were sent to the co-ordinator who checked the work and assembled individual sheets into ten composite worksheets. A running note of the sources that Miles consulted was formed. Finally, by August 2020 all ten composite spreadsheets for the ten volumes were finalised and checked.

During the four years, discussions have taken place as to how the final results of the Project should be stored and where they should be placed. The following has been decided, following discussions with the Archive staff and Jan Broadway, Gloucestershire VCH volunteer co-ordinator.

GloucestershireArchives@Heritage Hub

The ten volumes of the Miles Scrapbooks, D12400/1 to D12400/10 will have a USB (memory stick) for each for the ten volumes. Each one will contain the relevant images, spreadsheets, copyright statement, introductory documents and a listing of the sources used by Alfred Miles. These will be available using the **Item Reference** number D12400 followed by the number /1 to /10. Ordering can be by the Gloucestershire Archives on-line catalogue.

http://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/CalmView/Overview.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog

www.cheltlocalhistory.org.uk/Miles

The searchable spreadsheets, source list and introductory documents will be available on the Cheltenham Local History Society website. Unfortunately, at present the site does not have the capacity for all of the approximately 3,500images.

Methodology

Volunteers worked on a section of the images and entered the information into an *Excel* spreadsheet. Each page was entered into an *Excel* **row**. The spreadsheet contained **columns A-G**.

Col	Heading	Explanation	Example
A	Finding reference	D12400/1 to D12400/10 with page number	Eg. *D12400/5/243* = D12400, scrapbook 5, page no. 243, and refers to the pencil number at the lower edge of page.
B	Original page number	Miles scrapbooks include printed page numbers, top left/right depending on the volume	Where Miles has made a cross reference to another volume or page, it is recorded as: *Cross reference Vol.X, [original] p.xx*
C	Page contents	Each line starts with the number of items on a page, followed by an indication of the style of the contents (illustration, handwritten, printed), with a precis of the information	*Scrapbook page consisting of X item/s. Handwritten page, referring to …* also includes, where known, the source of the information. eg *[Goding, History, 1863]*. For full details of references consult **Sources** document
D	Date of entry	As it is believed all the scrapbook entries were made between 1925 and 1932, it is recorded as [undated, early 20th century]	Eg. *Undated [early 20th century]*
E	Image number	Miles/Volume number/pic number	Eg. *MilesV06/pic3421*
F	Notes	Notes are to enable the researcher to navigate through the spreadsheets, to record cross references or to find further local information.	Eg: *Continued from previous page 257; Cross reference Vol.6 [original] p.7: Gloucestershire Archives item reference. 63G791.CE (Cheltenham Pageant, 1908)*

Examples of Column C entries.

'Scrapbook page consisting of three items. Printed page, The Library Association Conference Issue, Borough of Cheltenham, Public Library, Art Gallery and Museum, undated [1931]; typed letter, with letterhead of The Library Association, to Mr Miles from D W Herdman, relating that many of the Conference delegates showed interest in Miles' 'Cheltoniana' [scrapbooks], 8 September 1931; delegate's badge, 521, for [Alfred] Miles, 31 August-5 September 1931'

'Scrapbook page consisting of three items. Illustration of The Founders of Cheltenham College, Mr George Simon Harcourt and Captain James Shrubb Iredell, (includes their coat of arms), undated [1931]; newspaper cutting, 'The Solicitor-General', Mr Henry James Q C, educated at Cheltenham College, undated [late 19th century]; illustration, drawing of Mr Henry James, Q C, M P, the new solicitor-general, '1st Baron, Sir Henry James', undated [1895]'

Not all scrapbooks are full, some pages are blank and are entered in the spreadsheet as, *'Blank scrapbook page'* Where a significant number of pages are blank this is also noted.

Further information

Miles also inserted extra pages glued to scrapbook pages or pasted in double-sided printed pages or inserted loose items. This has increased the number of images needed to record a single page. Eg. *MilesV10Pic112, Pic113, Pic114; Pic115.* This would indicate that there were double-sided pages glued on to a scrapbook page.

Names of people and places are subject to a variety of spellings. For example: *Greville/Grevile; Lypiat/Lippiat/Lypiatt; Berkeley/Berkley/Berkly*.

Common to that time is '*Winchcomb'* seldom with an 'e'

Please always adhere to the copyright rules, see opening statement. Where permission is granted, either by the Gloucestershire Archives or by Cheltenham Local History Society, we would request that the source and permission to use is quoted.

Sally Self © 2020

Acknowledgements