

**Finding Aid to the Muriel Barrow
Bell and Malcolm Bell, Jr. Collection
MS 1283**

Finding aid prepared by Unknown, 1979.

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Georgia Historical Society
Creator	Bell, Malcolm, 1913-2001.
Creator	Bell, Muriel Barrow.
Title	Muriel Barrow Bell and Malcolm Bell, Jr. collection
Date [inclusive]	1910-1980s
Extent	2.6 cubic feet (3 boxes, 3 oversize folders, 7 volumes)
Language	English

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Muriel Barrow Bell and Malcolm Bell, Jr. collection, MS 1283, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Biographical Information

Malcolm Bell, Jr. was born to a prominent Savannah, Georgia family in 1913. He graduated from Savannah High School and attended the University of North Carolina and the Stonier School of Banking. He served as a Coast Guard officer during World War II. In 1964, Bell was elected president of Savannah Bank and Trust Company where he later served as chairman. Bell has been active in many Savannah organizations including the Oglethorpe Club, the Union Society, Industrial Committee of the Savannah District Authority, the Park and Tree Commission, Christ Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia. He is a past president of the Savannah Chamber of Commerce, former chairman of the Savannah Port Authority, and served as the President of the Georgia Historical Society from 1974-1978. In 1982, Bell was honored by the Savannah chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People with a Freedom Fund award for his leadership of a citizens' committee focusing on Savannah's racial problems. Bell received a Governor's Awards in the Humanities in 1991.

Bell married Muriel Barrow on 23 July 1936. Together, they collaborated on an assignment by the Works Progress Administration in 1939 documenting African Americans in coastal Georgia through photographs. The results appear in the book *Drums and Shadows*, published in 1940. Bell also authored numerous articles and several other books, including *Savannah, Ahoy!* and *Major Butler's Legacy*.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains photographs taken primarily by Malcolm Bell, Jr. and scrapbooks created by him, as well as wedding invitation and calling cards from the wedding of Malcolm Bell's parents. The photographic materials are arranged in four distinct groups: the Savannah Album; the Ship Scrapbook; the *Drums and Shadow* Album; and Miscellaneous Images. Some material from the Savannah Album and the Ship Scrapbook and all of *Drums and Shadows* are oversized items. The Savannah Album contains black and white photographs of Savannah's Historic District just prior to the restoration movement, approximately the 1950s-1960s. Several of the buildings photographed have since been demolished. The photographs were removed from a portfolio; however, their original order was retained. In this original order not all photos of a particular building are located within the same section. Therefore, photographs of the Davenport House (for example) may be found in several different folders. The Ship Scrapbook is dedicated to ships, especially ships named "Savannah" (namely the steamship and the nuclear ship). This scrapbook contains memorabilia as well as black and white photographs taken by Bell. The originals were removed from the scrapbook and replaced with photocopies. It is possible to view either the originals or the scrapbook itself. The photographs that constitute the third group are from the book *Drums and Shadows*. These black and white photographs were removed from a portfolio; however, the order was retained. All of these photographs are oversized. *Drums and Shadows* may be consulted for additional information regarding the photographs. Miscellaneous images comprise the forth distinct group. The

images found in this section include loose images from the *Savannah, Ahoy!* scrapbook as well as other loose photographs and material. Images range from black and white snapshots to a print of Fanny Kemble. The fifth section contains six scrapbooks. Five of these scrapbooks contain color photographs taken by Malcolm Bell. These scrapbooks focus primarily on the Historic District of Savannah, the waterfront, and its people. The sixth scrapbook pertains to the printing of the *Savannah, Ahoy!* book. The folders and boxes containing the visual materials are noted as "VM" in the collection inventory.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Georgia Historical Society

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Scans and photo reproductions prohibited.

Publication Rights

Copyright has not been assigned to the Georgia Historical Society. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Division of Library and Archives. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Georgia Historical Society as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher. Permission to publish must be obtained from Malcolm Bell III, directly. Georgia Historical Society staff can assist with contact information.

Custodial History

Material was acquired from creator and collector.

Accruals

No accruals are expected.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Malcolm Bell, Jr., 1978.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Georgia Writers' Project. Savannah Unit.

Genre(s)

- Invitations.
- Photographs.
- Scrapbooks.

Geographic Name(s)

- Savannah (Ga.)--History.
- Savannah Historic District (Savannah, Ga.)

Personal Name(s)

- Bell, Malcolm, 1913-2001.
- Bell, Muriel Barrow.

Subject(s)

- African Americans--History.
- Ships.

Physical and Technical Access Restrictions

None.

Publication Note

Malcolm Bell, *Savannah* (Savannah, Ga.: Historic Savannah Foundation, circa 1977). Georgia Writer's Project. Savannah Unit, *Drums and Shadows* (Garden City, NY: Anchor Books, 1972).

Collection Inventory

		Folder
License, invitation to the wedding and a clipping reporting the marriage of Malcolm Bell and Laura Knapp Palmer 1910 5.0 items.		1
Scope and Contents note		
An envelope attached to the invitation contains some rice thrown at the reception. Also included is a business card of Malcolm Bell.		
Calling cards of visitors and cards attached to gifts and flowers 200.0 items.		2
		vm_box
<i>Savannah Album</i>		1
	vm_box	Folder
Images 001-010	1	1
Images 011-020	1	2
Images 021-030	1	3
Images 031-040	1	4
Images 041-050	1	5

Images 051-060	1	6
Images 061-070	1	7
Images 071-080	1	8
		vm_box
Images 081-090 are oversized		1
	vm_box	Folder
Images 091-095	1	9
		vm_box
<i>Ship Scrapbook</i>		1
	vm_box	Folder
Images 133-141	1	10
Images 142-156	1	11
Images 158-165	1	12
Images 171-179	1	13
Images 180-189	1	14
Images 190-202	1	15

Images 203-211	1	16
Images 212-222	1	17
Images 223-231	1	18
Images 232-239	1	19
Images 255-257	1	20
Duplicate images and 3 USS Savannah photos not in scrapbook	1	21
Loose items and end of Ship Scrapbook (some are duplicates)	1	22
	vm_box	Folder
Loose photos from Savannah, Ahoy! Scrapbook	2	1
Miscellaneous images	2	2
Images 271-280	2	3
Images 281-290	2	4
Scope and Contents note		
Includes Ford Plantation.		
Images 291-300	2	5

Scope and Contents note

Includes Ford Plantation.

Images 301-310	2	6
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Images 311-320	2	7
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Images 321-330	2	8
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Scope and Contents note

Includes Wormsloe.

Images 331-340	2	9
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Scope and Contents note

Includes Wormsloe.

Images 341-350	2	10
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Images 351-360	2	11
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Images 361-370	2	12
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Scope and Contents note

Includes ship and river photographs.

Images 371-375	2	13
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Scope and Contents note

Includes ship and river photographs.

	vm_box	
Oversized Images	3	
		vm_box
<i>Savannah Album</i>	3	
		vm_box
Images 23, 64, 75,76, 80-90	3	Folder
		1
<i>Drums and Shadows</i>		3
		vm_box
Images 096-109	3	Folder
		2
Images 110-120	3	3
Images 121-132	3	4
<i>Ship Scrapbook</i>		3
		vm_box
Images 134, 146-148	3	Folder
		5
Images 150, 152, 157, 160, 194	3	6

Duplicate images (loose at the end of the scrapbook)	3	7
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VM OVERSIZED FOLDER: Ship Scrapbook

	Folder	
Images 166-170, 240, 243		1

SCRAPBOOKS

	scrapbook	
Mostly Savannah 1975-1979		1
Scope and Contents note		
Color photos of ships and the river, some photos near the end of the scrapbook are from out-of-state.		

Morning Pictures 1978-approx. 1987		2
Scope and Contents note		
Color photos of River Street through Forsyth Park, includes buildings, street scenes, street people, litter, etc.		

Savannah 1980s		3
Scope and Contents note		
Color photos of buildings, Historic District through Forsyth Park (only half full).		

Mostly Savannah 1980s

4

Scope and Contents note

Color photos of Savannah, also Fort Pulaski.

Untitled. Color photos of ships and the river

5

Savannah, Ahoy! Scrapbook documenting the printing of *Savannah, Ahoy!*

6

SHIP SCRAPBOOK

Ship Scrapbook reconstructed with photocopies