

# Inventory of the Frederick Schoonmaker Papers

(#1990-15)

*Note: This document is a preliminary inventory, not a completed finding aid. The collection is surveyed but not processed, and its organization and composition are subject to change. This inventory is intended to help researchers better understand the general scope and content of the collection.*

**Repository:** Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

**Collection Title:** Frederick Schoonmaker papers

**Collection Number:** 1990-15

**Physical Description:** 5 linear feet (two cartons, three manuscript boxes, one half-manuscript box)

**Creator:** Frederick Schoonmaker

**Date (inclusive):** 1927-1987, bulk 1984-1987

**Language of Material:** English

**Abstract:** Frederick Schoonmaker was a gay man who spent the last three years of his life trying to establish a gay intentional community, to be called Stonewall Park, in rural Nevada. The bulk of the collection spans the years 1984-1987 and pertains to Stonewall Park and related ventures, as well as the National Association of Lesbians and Gays (NALAG) and the Lavender Press.

**Preferred Citation:**

[Identification of item], Frederick Schoonmaker papers (#1990-15), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

Collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights:**

For the status of the rights to this material, please contact the GLBT Historical Society archives.

**Acquisition Information:**

For this material's acquisition information, please contact the GLBT Historical Society archives.

**Processing Information:**

Finding Aid created by Isaac Fellman in 2020, based on an extensive preliminary inventory created by Marjorie Bryer in 2011.

This inventory uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

**Biographical/Organizational History Note:** Frederick Schoonmaker spent the last three years of his life trying to establish a gay intentional community, to be called Stonewall Park, in rural Nevada. Schoonmaker and his partner, Alfred Parkinson, dreamed of creating a “safe and peaceful place” where they could live without interference as a gay interracial couple (Schoonmaker was white, Parkinson African American). They first tried to build on a ranch in the existing town of Silver Springs, then in the ghost town of Rhyolite, which Schoonmaker attempted to purchase for this purpose; both times, they were thwarted by local homophobia. The final attempt was the successful purchase of land near Thunder Mountain in rural Pershing County, but this work, too, was halted after opposition and threats. The venture left Schoonmaker and Parkinson destitute. In 1987, Schoonmaker was diagnosed with AIDS, and he died the same year.

**Scope and Content:** The bulk of the collection spans the years 1984-1987 and pertains to Stonewall Park and related ventures, as well as the National Association of Lesbians and Gays (NALAG) and the Lavender Press. It includes organizational records, board materials, correspondence, financial records, marketing materials, news clippings, and court records from a lawsuit filed against Schoonmaker by former Stonewall backer Robert Askew. The collection also includes legal documents Schoonmaker collected from other court cases related to Askew. The collection also includes family papers, including Schoonmaker’s Bible and high school ring; materials from his father’s memorial; and photographs of family and friends, including Alfred Parkinson.

**Indexing Terms:**

Gay men  
African Americans

**Container Listing****Carton 1**

Business materials related to Stonewall Park, Incorporated, and Stonewall Park Resorts, including fictitious name statement, notes about Stonewall Park, maps, clippings, by-laws, tax

information, mailing labels, correspondence, description of Stonewall Park, application for change of land use, and stock subscriptions, circa 1984-1987.

Materials regarding the Lesbian and Gay Health Conference, 1987

Materials regarding the Robert Askew lawsuit

Materials regarding the National Association of Lesbians and Gays (NALAG), including marketing materials, correspondence, and bills

Financial documents, including bills

Personal correspondence

Materials regarding Gay Life and Lavender Press

## **Carton 2**

Materials regarding the National Association of Lesbians and Gays (NALAG), including bylaws and business correspondence, 1986

Materials regarding the Stonewall Park Association Trust, including membership materials and financial records, 1984-1986

Stonewall Voice, Incorporated, Articles of Incorporation, 1985

News clippings, 1987

Materials regarding the City of Rhyolite, including by-laws, history, deed of trust, and Rhyolite Adobe Project

FESCO articles of Incorporation

Newsletters

Financial documents

Incoming mail to Lavender Press

Board of Directors materials and meetings of stockholders, circa 1985

Materials regarding Schoonmaker's mother's estate

Correspondence and papers concerning Stonewall Park, 1983-1987

## **Box 1:**

Incoming business mail (to Stonewall Park, National Association of Lesbians and Gays, Lavender Press, Gay Life), 1987

Family papers, including Schoonmaker's Bible and high school ring; naturalization certificate for Theresa Burger, 1927; materials regarding Schoonmaker's father's memorial (1968), and letters, buttons, and a diploma belonging to Schoonmaker's father

## **Box 2:**

Schoonmaker financial records, 1984-1987

Materials involving the bankruptcy of Schoonmaker's business, Munchkin's Ice Cream, 1983

Materials regarding the Stonewall Park Association, including resignation, incorporation, stock certificates, 1090 form, and logo, circa 1984

Legal documents concerning Robert Askew and Margaret Askew vs. Frederick Schoonmaker, Stonewall Park Resorts, Inc., and National Association of Lesbians and Gays, 1986

Notes and legal documents regarding other cases involving Askew, 1980-1986

## **Box 3**

Notes and legal documents regarding other cases involving Askew, 1981-1985

Photographs of Schoonmaker's friends and family, including Alfred Parkinson with his family;  
includes photographs of Munchkin's, circa 1930s-1980s  
Pinup photographs of male movie stars, circa 1980s