

Be Ri 35

David F. Bolger & the Bolger Foundation

By Sarah Kiefer
2012, updated 2023

Ridgewood Public Library: Bolger Heritage Center
125 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
201-670-5600 x135
www.ridgewoodlibrary.org

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: David F. Bolger and Nancy Greene, continuing additions from the Bolger Heritage Center staff

Title: David F. Bolger & the Bolger Foundation

Dates: 1997-2014 (bulk, 2000-2009)

Quantity: 4 linear ft. (4 mss. boxes, 2 flat mss. boxes), 6 poster boards

Abstract: David F. Bolger is the president of the Bolger Foundation, which has provided numerous grants and other donations to local institutions such as libraries and healthcare facilities. His philanthropic efforts extend outside of New Jersey to Florida, Iowa and Massachusetts. David is the founder and chairman of Bolger & Co., Inc which is a real estate and investment firm in Ridgewood New Jersey. The collection spans from 1997-2012, with the bulk of the collection dating 2000-2009. It includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, his high school yearbook, awards and biographical information on David Bolger and his donations. The Bolger Foundation has a philanthropic mission and the collection illustrates the breadth of their charitable donations.

Collection No.: Be Ri 35 Bolger

Language: English

Repository: Ridgewood Public Library: Bolger Heritage Center

David F. Bolger History (August 12, 1932 – December 29, 2018):

David F. Bolger was educated at Northfield Mt. Hermon in Mt. Hermon, Massachusetts. He continued his studies and worked his way through college at the University of Pittsburgh, in the Pennsylvania steel mills. David Bolger founded and was President of the Bolger & Co. Inc. in 1966. The Company is a real estate and investment firm located in Ridgewood New Jersey. At the same time he was the President of The Bolger Foundation, which serves as a philanthropic organization. David Bolger established the Foundation in 2000. Through the Foundation, David Bolger had supported various organizations including healthcare and mental health institutions, programs serving disadvantaged youths and senior citizens, churches, conservation programs, libraries, and other educational organizations and has donated over 75 million dollars.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection is 4 linear ft housed in four mss. boxes and two flat mss. boxes. The entire collection spans the years 1997-2012, with the bulk of information pertaining to the years 2000-2009. The types of documents within the collection consist of office memos and correspondence, reports and analysis of Foundation donations, newspaper clippings, awards recognizing philanthropic donations, pamphlets on various charity events, photographs from events, brief biographical clippings, magazines, award plaques, posterboards for Ridgewood Public Library exhibits, photograph album for scrapbook, and donated frames. The collection has four series: Biography; Projects; David F. [Bolger Foundation](#); and Objects. Within these four series are numerous sub-series that are listed below.

The Biography series documents the life and accomplishments of David Bolger and his contributions. There are files on his donations, honors he has received, his humor and photographs. These papers cover a wide range of information on his mission as a philanthropist and his impact on the community. David passed away on December 29, 2018, and there is a folder in the Biography series that contains materials on his impact on the community along with his obituary. The series spans the years of 2001-2018.

The Projects Files series organizes information on the numerous projects in which [David Bolger and his Foundation](#) have invested. Therefore, the papers within this file contain information on projects from numerous states: Florida, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Texas; specific information on the projects within those states; more information on honors and donations; and statistics on his donations and how they affected the community. The series involves the years of 1997-2012.

[The David F. Bolger Foundation](#) series contains paperwork on numerous aspects of the Foundation including its administration, correspondence, goals, and honors. The series describes the [David F. Bolger Foundation](#) and how it functions as a philanthropic institution. The series involves the years of 2000-2009.

Finally, the Objects are the fourth series in this collection. These files date from 2009-2011, and provide illustrations of David Bolger's various donations. The objects vary from an empty album (meant for scrapbooking his life) to plaques honoring him, poster boards portraying his donations to the Ridgewood Public Library, and frames that provide a glimpse into his life.

Arrangement Note:

The records of David F. Bolger are arranged in the following four series and then their subseries:

- I. Biography Files, 2000-2012
 - a. Donations, 2003
 - b. Honors, 2006-2011
 - c. Humor, 2000
 - d. Memorabilia, 2009-2010
 - e. Photographs
 - f. Press, 2007-2010
 - g. Celebration of his life, 2018
- II. Project Files, 1996-2012
 - a. Florida, 2003-2011
 - i. ESI [Environmental Sculpture, Inc.]
 - ii. John & Mable Museum of Art, 2003-2011
 - iii. Sarasota Memorial, 2003-2011
 - b. Haiti, 2002
 - c. Iowa, 2000-2010
 - d. Massachusetts: Northfield Mount Hermon, 2008-2010
 - e. New Jersey: Fair Lawn, 2008
 - f. New Jersey: Midland Park, 2002-2011
 - g. New Jersey: Ridgewood, 1996-2012
 - i. Concert Band, 2003-2011
 - ii. Garage – 156 Chestnut Street, 2003-2009
 - iii. Graydon Pool, 2009
 - iv. Lester Stable, 1977-1982
 - v. Library, 1998-2011
 - 1. Art exhibit, 2000
 - 2. Foundation, 1997-2009
 - 3. Heritage Project, 2006-2011
 - 4. Honors, 2002-2009
 - 5. Kite sculpture, 2000-2003
 - 6. Maple Avenue Entrance, 1996-2006
 - 7. Pease Library, 2008-2010
 - 8. Security, 2009
 - 9. Eagle, 2007-2010
 - vi. Memorial Park at Van Neste Square, 2000
 - vii. Mt. Bethel Baptist Church, 2000

- viii. Train Station
 - ix. Valley Hospital, 2003-2013
 - x. Village Hall, 2007-2010
 - xi. West Bergen Mental HealthCare, 1999-2009
 - xii. YMCA/YWCA, 2009-2010
 - h. New Jersey: Wayne, 2006-2008
 - i. William Paterson University, 2006-2008
 - i. New Jersey: Wyckoff, 2006-2012
 - i. Christian Health Care Center, 2006-2012
 - j. Texas, 2000
 - i. Gladney Center for Adoption, 2000
- III. The Bolger Foundation Files, 2000-2009
 - a. Correspondence, 2000-2009
 - i. Nancy Greene, 2000-2006
 - b. Press, 2008
- IV. Object Files, 1999-2011
 - a. Albums
 - b. Frames
 - i. Bolger Weekend Construction Co.
 - ii. Village of Ridgewood, 2010
 - c. Plaques
 - i. Historic Preservation Award for Pease Building, 2010
 - ii. Lakeside Lodge, 2011
 - iii. Sarasota Memorial, 2011
 - d. Poster Boards
 - i. Bolger Heritage Center, 2011
 - ii. New Jersey Projects
 - iii. Pease Building, 2009
 - iv. Pease Dedication, 2009
 - v. Projects: Florida, Iowa, Massachusetts and New Jersey
 - vi. Ridgewood Public Library Gifts, 2009
 - vii. Ridgewood Public Library Projects, 2006-2006
 - viii. Village of Ridgewood, 2003-2008
 - ix. West Bergen Mental Healthcare Project 1999-2007

Related Material:

For additional information and collections relating to David F. Bolger see:

Be Ri 2.2 – Graydon Park

Be Ri 2.2 – Maple Park

Be Ri 3.41 – George L. Pease Memorial Library

Be Ri 3.42 – 125 North Maple Avenue

Be Ri 3.44 – Heritage Center

Be Ri 5 – Mt. Bethel Baptist Church

Be Ri 7.1 – 259 North Maple Avenue

Be Ri 8 - YMCA

Be Ri 21.01 – Valley Hospital

Be Ri 21.02 – West Bergen Mental HealthCare

Name and Subject Tracings:

Personal Names:

Blasberg, Nancy
Bolger, David F.
Bolger, J.T.
Bolger, John G.
Cronin, Timothy J.
Donnelly, Kathleen
Field, Suellen R.
Gray, Lois Vedder
Greene, Nancy
Greenlaw, Robert R.
Johnson, Rev Thomas
Kandravy, Babs
Kandravy, John
Macksound, Edward
Newman, Kenneth M.
Norris, Peggy
Pfund, David T.
Reilly, Jane
Rogers, John S.
Ruthishauser, Chris
Sturtevant, Thomas K.
TenHoeve, James M.
Todd, Dennis
Wells, Thomas M.
Wooten, Suzanne
Worth, Larry D.

Corporate Names

Bethany Christian Services
Bolger & Co., Inc.
[Bolger Foundation](#)
Children's Therapy Center
Christian Healthcare Center
DePhillips Center
Effigy Mounds National Monument Park
George L. Pease Memorial Library
Gladney Center for Adoption
Graydon Pool
John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art
Lester Stable
Memorial Park at Van Neste Square
Mt. Bethel Baptist Church
Northfield Mount Hermon
Ridgewood News, The
Ridgewood Project Pride
Ridgewood Public Library
Ridgewood YMCA/YWCA
Sarasota Memorial Healthcare
Upper Iowa University
Valley Hospital
Village Gazette
Village of Ridgewood
Villadom Times
Village Hall, Ridgewood, NJ
West Bergen Center for Children & Youth
West Bergen Mental Healthcare
William Paterson University

Administrative Information:

Preferred Citation

Ridgewood Public Library: Bolger Heritage Center (Be Ri 35 Bolger)

Container List:

This container list provides the titles of the folders that are organized in the collection and their locations in the numbered boxes.

I. Biography Files, 2001-2019

Arrangement: Material is arranged by alphabetical and chronological order

Summary: The material in this series contains information on David Bolger's life and what he has done with his Foundation. The folders contain the correspondence, honors he has received, memorabilia, photographs, and articles from the press. The papers are generally in newspaper clipping format, but are also emails, photographs and articles.

Box	Folder
1	1 Biography -- Correspondence, 2012
1	2 Biography -- Donations, 2003
1	3 Biography -- Honors, 2006-current date
1	4 Biography -- Honors -- Newspapers, 2006-2012
1	5 Biography -- Humor, 2000
1	6 Biography -- Memorabilia, 2009-2010
1	7 Biography -- Photographs
1	8 Biography -- Press, 2007-2010
1	9 Biography -- Press -- Newspapers, 2007-2019
1	10(a) Biography -- Celebration of his life, 2018

II. Project Files, 1996-2012

Arrangement: Material is arranged by project and state, and then in alphabetical and chronological order.

Summary: This series contains information on the various projects that David Bolger and the Bolger Foundation have supported. The material is broken down by state and by project. The files contain newspaper clippings, magazine articles, speeches, correspondence, pamphlets, and photographs.

Box	Folder
1	10 Projects -- Florida -- ESI, 2003
1	11 Projects -- Florida -- John & Mable Museum of Art, 2003-2011
1	12 Projects -- Florida -- Sarasota Memorial, 2003-2011
1	13 Projects -- Haiti, 2002
1	14 Projects -- Iowa, 2000-2010

1	15 Projects -- Iowa -- Newspapers, 2000-2010
1	16 Projects -- Massachusetts -- Northfield Mount Herman, 2008-2010
1	17 Projects -- New Jersey -- Fair Lawn, 2008
1	18 Projects -- New Jersey -- Midland Park, 2002-2012
1	19 Projects -- New Jersey -- Midland Park -- Newspapers, 2002-2014
1	20 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood, 2002-2010
1	21 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Newspapers, 2003-2007
1	22 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Concert Band, 2003-2011
1	23 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Concert Band -- Newspapers, 2003-2011
1	24 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Garage 156 Chestnut Street, 2003-2009
1	25 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Garage 156 Chestnut Street -- Newspapers, 2003-2009
1	26 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Graydon Pool, 2009
1	27 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Lester Stable, 1977-1982

Box	Folder
-----	--------

2	1 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library, 2003-2007
2	2 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library -- Art Exhibit, 2000
2	3 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library -- Art Exhibit -- Newspapers, 2000
2	4 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library -- Eagle, 2007-2010
2	5 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library -- Eagle -- Newspapers, 2007-2010
2	6 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library -- Foundation, 1997-2009
2	7 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library -- Heritage Center, 2006-2011
2	8 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library -- Honors, 2002-2009
2	9 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library -- Honors -- Newspapers, 2002-2009
2	10 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library -- Kite Sculpture, 2000-2003
2	11 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library -- Maple Ave Entrance, 1996-2006

- 2 12 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library -- Maple Ave Entrance -- Newspapers, 1996-2006
- 2 13 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library -- Pease Building, 2008-2010
- 2 14 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library -- Pease Building -- Newspapers, 2008-2010
- 2 15 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Ridgewood Public Library -- Security, 2009
- 2 16 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Mt. Bethel, 2000
- 2 17 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Mt. Bethel -- Newspapers, 2000
- 2 18 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Train Station
- 2 19 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Valley Hospital, 2003-2013
- 2 20 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Valley Hospital -- Newspapers, 2003-2012
- 2 21 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Van Neste -- Newspapers, 2000
- 2 22 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- Village Hall, 2007
- 2 23 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- West Bergen Mental HealthCare, 1999-2009
- 2 24 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- West Bergen Mental HealthCare -- Newspapers, 1999-2009
- 2 25 Projects -- New Jersey -- Ridgewood -- YMCA/YWCA, 2009-2010

Box Folder

- 3 1 Projects -- New Jersey -- Wayne -- William Paterson University, 2006
- 3 2 Projects -- New Jersey -- Wayne -- William Paterson University - - Newspapers, 2006
- 3 3 5 Projects -- New Jersey -- Wyckoff -- Christian Health Care Center, 2006-2012
- 3 4 Projects -- New Jersey -- Wyckoff -- Christian Health Care Center -- Newspapers, 2006-2012
- 3 5 Projects -- New Jersey -- Texas -- Gladney Center for Adoption, 2000

III. The Bolger Foundation Files, 2000-2009

Arrangement: Material is arranged alphabetically and chronologically

Summary: The Bolger Foundation series contains information on various aspects of the Foundation and how it was established. There is correspondence between the Foundation and recipients, specifically Nancy Greene at the Ridgewood Public Library. There is also press on the Foundation and its different projects. The series consists of emails, letters, memos and newspaper clippings.

Box	Folder
-----	--------

3	6 David F. Bolger Foundation -- Correspondence, 2000-2009
3	7 David F. Bolger Foundation -- Correspondence -- Nancy Greene, 2000-current date
3	8 David F. Bolger Foundation -- Press -- Newspapers, 2008

Box	Folder
-----	--------

3	1 Duplicates***
---	-----------------

IV. Object Files, 1999-2011

Arrangement: Material is arranged within archives

Summary: The Object files series consists of an incomplete album for scrapbooking, frames in reference to David Bolger, plaques in honor of the Bolger Foundation, and poster boards exhibiting Bolger's various projects, pens from the Christian HealthCare Center honoring Bolger, honors and press releases. The series is housed within the archives since the materials are too large to maintain in container boxes.

Box	Folder
-----	--------

4	1 Objects -- Bolger Weekend Construction Co
5	2 Objects -- Christian Health Care Center David Bolger Pens
5	3 Objects -- Historic Preservation Award for Pease Building, 2010
5	4 Objects -- Lakeside Lodge Bolger Foundation Plaque, 2011
5	5 Objects -- Sarasota Memorial Frame, 2011
5	6 Objects -- David F. Bolger Because of You Scrapbook Valley Hospital, 2008
5	7 Objects -- Northfield Mt. Hermon Yearbook, 1950

Box	Folder
-----	--------

6	1 Objects -- Scrapbook
6	1 Objects -- Village of Ridgewood Frame, 2010

***There is one mss. box not included in this collection's finding aid but is associated with the collection. It contains duplicates (photographic copies) of numerous newspaper clippings, photographs, and pamphlets. All the materials in this mss. box can be found in the collection through the finding aid.

