

Edwards, Leroy S.

Leroy S. Edwards Papers
1850-1899

Title Statement

Edwards, Leroy S. Guide to the Leroy S. Edwards Papers RMC-00004

Subtitle: Leroy S. Edwards Papers

Author: Katie Hall

Publication Statement

Publisher: Flavia Reed Owen Special Collections & Archives, McGraw-Page Library, Randolph-Macon College

305 Henry Street, P.O. Box 5005
Ashland, Virginia 23005
Business Number: 804-752-3203
archives@rmc.edu
URL: <https://library.rmc.edu/research/archives>

2022

Notes

The Leroy S. Edwards Papers were initially processed in 2005. The collection was re-processed and finding aid revised by Katie Hall in 2022.

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-01-14 13:02:03 +0000.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Revision Description

2022 Corrections and additions to biography and content descriptions.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

RMC-00004

Unit Date

1850-1899

Mixed Materials

1-3 (box)

Mixed Materials

4 (case)

Language

English .

Abstract

The Leroy S. Edwards Papers contains Civil War correspondence and other personal materials, primarily diaries, written by Edwards from his school days and after the war. Included in the collection is a diary from his son, Leroy Jr., spanning his years at Randolph-Macon College from 1893-1899.

Extent

4 Linear Feet 3 boxes; 1 metal cannister; letters have been digitized

Repository

Flavia Reed Owen Special Collections & Archives, McGraw-Page Library, Randolph-Macon College

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research; appointments to view materials can be scheduled via the appointment request form on the Special Collections and Archives webpage of the library website
<https://library.rmc.edu/specialcollections>

Access Restrictions

Legal Status

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Much of the collection was donated to the college by Mrs. Frederick N. Thompson, the granddaughter of Leroy S. Edwards, and Leroy S. Edwards, Jr.

Preferred Citation

[item identification] Collection Name, Flavia Reed Owen Special Collections and Archives, McGraw-Page Library, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA

Biographical

Leroy Summerfield Edwards (1839-1901) was born in Lynchburg, Virginia. He was the oldest of three sons born to Rev. John Ellis Edwards, D.D., and Elizabeth A. Clark Edwards. His father was a prominent Methodist pastor, serving in the North Carolina Conference and the Virginia Conference, and was a trustee of Randolph-Macon College. Leroy S. Edwards attended Randolph-Macon College, then in Boydton, Virginia, from 1857-1859, receiving an A. B. degree. Afterwards, he attended the University of Virginia from 1859-1860.

Edwards was teaching at Petersburg Female College in 1861 when he enlisted in the 12th Virginia Infantry, Company E. He was engaged at the Seven Days Battles and was wounded in the arm at Crampton's Gap on September 14, 1862; he also fought at Sharpsburg. In 1863, Edwards was promoted to sergeant. After fighting in the Battle of the Wilderness, on May 8, 1864, he was captured while en route to Spotsylvania Court House. Edwards was sent to Point Lookout Prison Camp in Maryland and was transferred to Elmira, New York in August 1864, where he remained until his parole and exchange in February 1865. By March 1865, Edwards had returned to Richmond, Virginia. Soon after, he evacuated the Capital in April with the retreating Army of Northern Virginia and surrendered at Appomattox Court House, where he was paroled.

Edwards returned to Randolph-Macon College and received an A.M. degree in 1866. On August 8, 1866, he married Elizabeth Ferguson. By 1868, he and fellow R-MC alumnus, E. E. Parham, founded the Female Collegiate Institute in Richmond, Virginia. Edwards served his Richmond community extensively; he represented Clay Ward as a Councilman from 1878-1883, was a home office agent for the Piedmont and Arlington Life Insurance Co., principal of the Springfield School, and president of the YMCA from 1873-1874. He served as Secretary of the Alumni Society of Randolph-Macon College for many years and was elected to their Board of Trustees in 1877. Edwards was also secretary of the Association of the Virginia Division of the Army of Northern Virginia. He died in 1901 and is buried in Hollywood Cemetery.

Scope and Contents

The Leroy S. Edwards Papers contains Civil War correspondence and other personal materials, primarily diaries, written by Edwards from his school days and after the war. Included in the collection is a diary from his son, Leroy Jr., spanning his years at Randolph-Macon College from 1893-1899.

Separated Materials

The following books written by R-MC alumnus Richard Irby were owned by, and inscribed to, Leroy S. Edwards and have been catalogued into the R-MC book collection of the Flavia Reed Owen Special Collections and Archives:

Historical Sketches of the Nottoway Grays (1878) Bird Notes and Other Sketches (1900)

Related Collections

Edwards Family Papers, Special Collections Libraries, University of Georgia.

Related Materials

Additional material on the Edwards Family is available in the R-MC Alumni files. See also "12th Virginia Infantry" (1987) by William D. Henderson and "Letters of Leroy S. Edwards" (1985) by Terry A. Walton in the Randolph-Macon College library catalogue.

Keywords

Edwards, Leroy S., 1839-1901
Randolph-Macon College--Alumnus
Association of the Army of Northern Virginia--Records and correspondence
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
Prisoners of war--Confederate States of America--Correspondence

Accruals

Additional materials may be gifted in the future.

Content Disclaimer

Some images and content in these materials depict prejudices not condoned by the College. These materials are presented as documentation of the historical record of the College and broader American history. Randolph-Macon College values a diverse and inclusive community that promotes student learning and transparency.

For users preferring to avoid potentially offensive content, please contact archives@rmc.edu; we are happy to assist in locating specific materials.

Contact Information

Inquiries may be directed to the Special Collections and Archives team by emailing archives@rmc.edu

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into eight series: 1. Correspondence; 2. Manuscripts; 3. Printed Materials; 4. Professional Materials; 5. Notebooks; 6. Diaries; 7. Miscellaneous; 8. Newspapers.

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Correspondence Includes Civil War and family correspondence between Leroy S. Edwards and his brother, Landon "Lanny" Brame Edwards, and his father, Reverend John Ellis Edwards.

Series 2: Manuscripts Speeches written by Leroy S. Edwards while he was attending Randolph-Macon College and a member of the Franklin Literary Society.

Series 3: Printed Materials Collected materials relating to Randolph-Macon College, Female Collegiate Institute, the Army of Northern Virginia, and Phi Kappa Sigma.

Series 4: Professional Materials President's Book for the Lynchburg Youth Debating Society circa 1853.

Series 5: Notebooks, c. 1868-1870 Notebook written by Leroy S. Edwards. Includes an envelope with inserts from the notebook.

Series 6: Diaries, c. 1857-1899 Diaries kept by Leroy S. Edwards, with some entries written by his wife, Elizabeth Ferguson Edwards; many contain inserts, or loose materials. Subjects include the evacuation of Richmond in 1865 and Edwards' marriage in 1866. The 1865-1868 diary entries were written on a Roll Book for Petersburg Female College dated March 25, 1861. Also included is a diary from his son, Leroy Jr., during his time at Randolph-Macon College from 1893-1899.

Series 7: Photographs CSA and postwar photographs of Leroy S. Edwards, as well as an 1892 photograph of Leroy Jr. Photographs of Leroy S. Edwards are stored separately in the archives' Meilink cabinet.

Series 8: Miscellaneous Personal memorabilia, miscellaneous printed materials, and paraphernalia for the June 27, 1877, Virginia Primary Election. Edwards' Randolph-Macon College diploma is located on shelf in its

original metal cannister.

Series 9: Newspapers, 1846-1880 Newspapers and collected clippings, much of which documents the Virginia Division of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1850-1880

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 1-14 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes Civil War and family correspondence between Leroy S. Edwards and his brother, Landon "Lanny" Brame Edwards, and his father, Reverend John Ellis Edwards.

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1850

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1861

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1863

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1864

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1865

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1866

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1875

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1876

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1877

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1878

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1879

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1880

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

n.d.

Unit ID 1

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

envelopes

Unit ID 1

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Manuscripts

Unit ID 2

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 15-18 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Speeches written by Leroy S. Edwards while he was attending Randolph-Macon College and a member of the Franklin Literary Society.

R-MC

Unit ID 2

Unit Date 1858-1859

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

R-MC

Unit ID 2

Unit Date 1874

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

miscellaneous and n.d.

Unit ID 2

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 17-18 (folder)

Printed Materials

Unit ID 3

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 19-23 (folder)

R-MC**Unit ID** 3**Unit Date** 1841-1899**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 19 (folder)**Female Collegiate Institute****Unit ID** 3**Unit Date** 1868-1879**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 20 (folder)**Army of Northern Virginia****Unit ID** 3**Unit Date** 1875-1878**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 21 (folder)**Phi Kappa Sigma****Unit ID** 3**Unit Date** 1854-1879**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 22-23 (folder)**Professional Materials****Unit ID** 4**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 24 (folder)**Scope and Contents**

President's Book for the Lynchburg Youth Debating Society circa 1853.

President's Book, Lynchburg Youth Debating Society**Unit ID** 4**Unit Date** 1853**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 24 (folder)**Notebooks****Unit ID** 5**Unit Date** 1868-1870**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 25 (folder)**Scope and Contents**

Notebook written by Leroy S. Edwards. Includes an envelope with inserts from the notebook.

Unit ID 5**Unit Date** 1868-1870**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 25 (folder)

Diaries

Unit ID 6

Unit Date 1857-1899

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 26-30 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Diaries kept by Leroy S. Edwards, with some entries written by his wife, Elizabeth Ferguson Edwards; many contain inserts, or loose materials. Subjects include the evacuation of Richmond in 1865 and Edwards' marriage in 1866. The 1865-1868 diary entries were written on a Roll Book for Petersburg Female College dated March 25, 1861. Also included is a diary from his son, Leroy Jr., during his time at Randolph-Macon College from 1893-1899.

Unit ID 6

Unit Date 1857

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Unit ID 6

Unit Date 1859

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Unit ID 6

Unit Date 1859-1863

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Unit ID 6

Unit Date 1865-1868

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Leroy S. E. Jr.

Unit ID 6

Unit Date 1893-1899

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Photographs

Unit ID 7

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Mixed Materials Meilink (case)

Scope and Contents

CSA and postwar photographs of Leroy S. Edwards, as well as an 1892 photograph of Leroy Jr. Photographs of Leroy S. Edwards are stored separately in the archives' Meilink cabinet.

Leroy S. E.

Unit ID 7

Mixed Materials Meilink (case)

Leroy S. E. Jr.

Unit ID 7

Unit Date 1892

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Miscellaneous

Unit ID 8

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 32-36 (folder)

Books 2 (box)

Container 1-2 (folder)

Mixed Materials 4, Metal Cannister (box)

Scope and Contents

Personal memorabilia, miscellaneous printed materials, and paraphernalia for the June 27, 1877, Virginia Primary Election. Edwards' Randolph-Macon College diploma is located on shelf in its original metal cannister.

Virginia Primary Election

Unit ID 8

Unit Date 1877

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Printed Materials

Unit ID 8

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

"Letters of Leroy S. Edwards," Terry A. Walton

Unit ID 8

Unit Date 1985

Books 1 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

Wallet

Unit ID 8

Unit Date 1875

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 35-36 (folder)

R-MC Catalogues

Unit ID 8

Unit Date 1875-1883

Books 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

"A History of Chemistry," Ernst von Meyer

Unit ID 8

Unit Date 1898

Books 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Diploma, Randolph-Macon College

Unit ID 8

Unit Date 1859

Mixed Materials 4, Metal Cannister (box)

Newspapers

Unit ID 9

Unit Date 1846-1880

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Container 1-9 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Newspapers and collected clippings, much of which documents the Virginia Division of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Handbill, "For Senate--W.C. Knight, P.H. Starke"

Unit ID 9

Text 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Daily Dispatch

Unit ID 9

Unit Date October 26, 1875 May 1, 1876

Text 3 (box)

Container 2-3 (folder)

The Daily Express

Unit ID 9

Unit Date April 4, 1861 July 3, 1861

Text 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

The Daily News

Unit ID 9

Unit Date May 11, 1875

Text 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Richmond Christian Advocate

Unit ID 9

Unit Date February 5, 1846 July 30, 1846

Text 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Richmond Daily Whig

Unit ID 9

Unit Date November 16, 1880

Text 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

The Richmond Enquirer

Unit ID 9

Unit Date March 25, 1876 October 30, 1877

Text 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

miscellaneous clippings

Unit ID 9

Unit Date October 30, 1874 and n.d.

Text 3 (box)

Container 9 (folder)