

Smith, F. H., Letter

F. H. Smith Letter

1867



Title Statement

Smith, F. H., Letter F. H. Smith Letter, 1867 Ms.1964.002

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Business Number: 540-231-6308
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URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



2022 (CC0 1.0)

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-03-25 08:44:38 -0400.

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

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Revision Description

2025-03-24 Ella Winterling added Existence and Location of Copies.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1964.002

Unit Date

1867

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection contains a carbon copy of a 1867 letter written to Captain M. F. Maury from Francis Henney Smith at Virginia Military Institute, describing his time in Richmond and discussing a state agricultural and mechanical arts school.

Creator

Smith, Francis H. (Francis Henney), 1812-1890

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

This collection was acquired by Newman Library prior to 1964.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the F.H. Smith Letter was completed prior to January 2011. Additional description was completed in January 2011 and November 2022.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], F. H. Smith Letter, Ms1964-002, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Francis Henney Smith was the first Superintendent of Virginia Military Institute (VMI). He served there from 1839 to 1889. In the Civil War, Smith was a Colonel in Companies F and S of the 9th Virginia Infantry. Smith was also the President of the United States Military Academy Board of Visitors.

Captain M. F. Maury may be Matthew Fontaine Maury (1806-1873), a former U.S. Navy commander and Confederate commander who taught at VMI starting in 1868. Maury advocated for the establishment of an agricultural and mechanical arts college in Virginia and was offered the presidency of Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Virginia Tech) but declined.

Sources:

"VMI Archives," <http://www.vmi.edu/archives.aspx?id=6287>, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20150908010843/http://vmi.edu/archives.aspx?id=6287>, accessed Nov. 28, 2022.

Trask, Benjamin H. *9th Virginia Infantry*. 1984. Print.

DuVal, Captain Miles P., Jr. "Matthew Fontaine Maury: Benefactor of Mankind", *Naval History and Heritage Command, U.S. Navy (A Naval Historical Foundation Publication)*, Nov. 13, 2017.

<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhhc/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/m/matthew-fontaine-maury-benefactor-of-mankind.html>, accessed Nov. 28, 2022.

Scope and Content

This collection contains a carbon copy of a 1867 letter written to Captain M. F. Maury from Francis Henney Smith at Virginia Military Institute. The letter discusses Smith's recent visit to Richmond where he spoke on the behalf of the Virginia Military Institute. During the visit, he was concerned with the issue of a land-grant endowment for a school that would concentrate on agriculture and mechanic arts. Later, two land-grant schools were established in Virginia - Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Virginia Tech) and Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute (now Hampton University). (In 1920, what-is-now Virginia State University took over the land grant status from Hampton Institute.)

Related Archival Materials

See also the Papers of the Virginia Military Institute Superintendent. Francis H. Smith, 1839-1889. Accession #RG02.01.01, Virginia Military Institute Archives.

Keywords

University History

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (1872-1896)

Existence and Location of Copies

Some of this collection has been digitized and is available online.

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit Date 1867

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