

Cassell, Charles Willis, Family Papers

Charles Willis Cassell Family Papers

1883-1950



Title Statement

Cassell, Charles Willis, Family PapersCharles Willis Cassell Family Papers 1883-1950 Ms.1984.170

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1984.170

Unit Date

1883-1950

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection consists of the papers of a Wythe County, Virginia, Lutheran minister, farmer and businessman and his family. It includes Cassell's personal, professional, and business correspondence; the personal correspondence of his wife and children; financial and legal records; diaries; notes on catechetics; and scrapbooks containing historical sketches of various Lutheran Churches, obituaries, family-related social events, and newspaper clippings concerning Cassell's services as pastor.

Creator

Charles Willis Cassell family (Wythe County, Va.)

Extent

4.2 Cubic Feet 11 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Charles Willis Cassell Family Papers were purchased by the Special Collections and University Archives in 1984.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement and description of the Charles Willis Cassell Family Papers commenced in November 2003 and was completed in December 2003.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Charles Willis Cassell Family Papers, Ms1984-170, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Charles Willis Cassell, farmer, businessman and Lutheran minister, was born--probably in Wythe County, Virginia--on March 25, 1871, to Michael Cassell (1827-1898) and Eliza Ann Rapass (1830-1909). Cassell married Helen Roberta Buchanan (1875-1958) in 1899; the couple had four daughters--Eliza Helen (1903-1906), Anna Catherine (1910-1912), Rebekah, and Mary Brown (1908-1979)--and one son, Joseph B. Cassell, who also later became a Lutheran pastor.

Cassell was a prominent member of the Lutheran Church and served as pastor in several parishes, including Bland County (1896-1898); Tazewell County (1898-1905); Augusta County (1918-1922); Page County (1922-?); Rockbridge County and others. During his work in the Synod of Virginia, he also compiled and edited--along with W. J. Fink and Elon O. Henkel--the *History of the Lutheran Church in Virginia and East Tennessee* (1930).

Cassell died April 14, 1937. He and his wife are buried in Kimberling Cemetery in Wythe County, Virginia.

Sources

Cassell C. W., Fink, W. J. and Henkel, E. O. editors. *History of the Lutheran Church in Virginia and East Tennessee*. [Strasburg, Va., Shenandoah Publishing House, 1930.] (BX8042 V8 C3 Spec/Large)

Scope and Content

This collection contains the papers of Wythe County, Virginia farmer, businessman and Lutheran minister Charles Willis Cassell and his family. Nearly half of the collection consists of letters to Cassell. While much of this correspondence concerns purely personal matters, many letters are related to Cassell's work in the Lutheran church and to his own personal business affairs. The personal correspondence of Cassell's wife Helen and three of their children (Mary, Rebekah, and Joseph) is included as well. The collection also contains a number of financial and legal records relating to Cassell's Wythe County farm and property which he owned in Marion, Virginia and Columbia, South Carolina. The collection includes a set of Cassell's personal diaries, together with notebooks and scrapbooks, many of which contain notes and newspaper clippings on Cassell's church duties and information on Virginia Lutheran history, apparently assembled preparatory to compilation of a book on the subject. A small group of printed materials (including a 1921 Marion College newspaper) completes the collection.

Separated Materials

The following item was transferred to the Rare Book Collection:

Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Women -- History

Charles Willis Cassell family (Wythe County, Va.)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in the following series:

Series I. Correspondence, 1883-1950. This series is comprised primarily of correspondence addressed to either Cassell or other family members. The series has been divided into the following subseries:

Subseries A. Charles Willis Cassell Correspondence, 1883-1934. This subseries includes Cassell's personal, professional and business correspondence. The personal correspondence (1883-1935), divided by subject matter and then organized chronologically, includes letters of sympathy following the death of various family members and letters relating to his marriage with Helen Buchanan.

Cassell's professional correspondence (1896-1927) relates to his work as home missionary pastor of the Lutheran Church. It includes letters regarding calls largely requiring Cassell's services as pastor in various Lutheran churches; letters concerning synodical matters such as the printing of the "The Monitor"(published by the Southwestern Virginia Synod), and letters and reports regarding a closer union between the Virginia and North Carolina Lutheran synods. Also included are letters concerning Cassell's role as financial secretary of Marion College.

The personal business affairs correspondence (1903-1934) is comprised of letters concerning Cassell's house in Marion, Virginia; letters from S.W. Hedrick (a farm manager in Rural Retreat, Virginia) relating to farm affairs; and letters concerning Cassell's property in Columbia, South Carolina. Many of these letters mention the economic difficulties Cassell had regarding this property as a result of World War I. The business affairs correspondence includes a few pieces of outgoing correspondence.

Subseries B. Family correspondence, 1897-1950. This subseries contains letters addressed to Cassell's wife, Helen Buchanan Cassell, and children--Mary, Rebekah, and Joe (Joseph?). Helen Cassell's letters include personal correspondence from family and friends both before and after her marriage. Mary Cassell's correspondence consists of letters from family and from Irvine MacNeill, a U. S. soldier during World War II. MacNeill's letters relate his experiences and feelings while training at Camp Lee and Camp Crowder, and later while serving at Drew Field (Florida) and Camp Gordon (Georgia). The subseries also includes the correspondence of Rebekah Cassell (largely from family and friends) and Joe (Joseph?) Cassell, as well as a set of invitations to various commencements, weddings and entertainments. Arranged by name of recipient, then chronologically, with invitations completing the subseries.

Subseries C. Other Correspondence, 1870-1947. This subseries includes correspondence sent to Miss Bertha Buchanan, Mrs. Mary Buchanan, Miss Mary Lookup, and Mr. and Mrs. Preston. Also included are letters to unidentified people. Arranged chronologically.

Series II. Financial Records, 1890-1935. This series has been divided among the following subseries:

Subseries A. Account books, 1899-1935. The account books mostly relate to Cassell's farm but also include bank, personal, trip and store account books. The books are all signed by C.W. Cassell, except one trip account book that apparently belonged to Mary Brown Cassell. The six farm account books contain detailed information regarding the sale of farm produce, statements on farm workers' hours and wages, conditions of crops, stock gains and losses and other farm income and expenditures. One book devoted to cattle sales also lists promissory notes and contributions made to schools, churches, libraries, etc. A personal account book, with notations regarding daily expenditures for groceries, gas, laundry, etc., is included as well.

Subseries B. Bank Account Records, 1899-1927. This subseries includes bank statements, checks, check stubs, and deposit slips from accounts held by Cassell at financial institutions in Graham, Rural Retreat, Stephen City, Roanoke, Marion, Buena Vista, Luray and Mt. Sidney, Virginia and Bluefield, West Virginia. The subseries is arranged by document type, then by name of institution, then chronologically.

Subseries C. Insurance Assessment Notifications, 1900-1913. These notifications were sent to Cassell from the Farmer's Mutual Fire Association of Wythe County, Virginia. The material is arranged chronologically.

Subseries D. Promissory notes, 1899-1926. This subseries includes promissory notes from Cassell to either

individuals (e.g. Sidney Cassell) or institutions (e.g. Marion College). The notes are arranged chronologically.

Subseries E. Tax Records, 1915-1928. This subseries is largely comprised of taxes charged on the Cassells. The material is arranged chronologically.

Subseries F. Receipts, 1892-1925. This subseries includes receipts from different stores and the Norfolk & Western Railway Company. It also contains receipts indicating Cassell's payment on interest on mortgages for property in Columbia, South Carolina, and materials purchased to build a house there. Also included are receipts from various hospitals, the Theological Seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Philadelphia, Roanoke College, Presbyterian Minister Funds, etc. The subseries is organized by receipt type, then chronologically.

Subseries G. Farm Reports, 1924-1928. This subseries contains general statements of the farm work, time put in by regular help, special help employed, conditions of crops, increase or loss of stock, sale of stock, sale of grain not in exchange of work, sale of grain for work, sale of poultry and eggs, other sales, income and expenditures. The reports were sent to Cassell by S.W. Hedrick, the farm manager. The subseries is organized chronologically.

Subseries H. Miscellaneous financial records, 1901-1926. This subseries includes personal notations regarding Cassell's farm, a list of members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church that paid to support Cassell as pastor for the Bland Charge, the estate of V. J. Hudson, etc. This subseries is organized chronologically.

Series III. Legal Records, 1922-1927. This series is largely comprised of legal documents regarding Cassell's business affairs in Columbia, South Carolina. Among the papers are a charter for Caldwell T Co., court resolutions regarding a legal dispute on the construction of the Cassells' house there; a contract of sale between The Monticello Home Co. and Mrs. Helen R. Cassell, etc. The series is arranged chronologically.

Series IV. Personal Records, 1888-1934. This series is divided into the following subseries:

Subseries A. Diaries, 1893-1927. Cassell's diaries--ten in number--contain detailed records of his daily activities as a pastor of the Lutheran Church, personal reflections, letters received, and commentaries on weather, personal and family events. Arranged chronologically.

Subseries B. Notebooks, 1894-1895. Contains one notebook holding Cassell's notes on catechesis under Dr. Spaeth at the Lutheran Theological Seminary (Philadelphia).

Subseries C. Scrapbooks, 1897-1928. The scrapbooks include newspaper clippings concerning Cassell's services as Lutheran pastor, historical sketches of various Lutheran churches, obituaries and social events related to Cassell's family. (Note: newspaper clippings are pasted in ledger books also containing account notations from an unidentified church (1850-1852) and court judgments (1854-1856).

Subseries D. Miscellaneous personal records. This subseries includes Cassell's notes concerning the history of various Lutheran churches and pastors, newspaper clippings related to Lutheran churches, and other general materials.

Series V. Printed Materials, 1888-1934. The printed materials series includes a 1921 issue of "The Marion College Record," two booklets, pamphlets, programs, postcards, newspaper clippings and other ephemeral material.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I. Correspondence

Unit Date 1883-1950

Subseries A. Cassell's Incoming Correspondence

Unit Date 1883-1935

Personal correspondence

Unit Date 1883-1935

Letters of sympathy following father's death

Unit Date 1898

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Letters relating to Cassell's marriage

Unit Date 1899-1900

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Letters of sympathy following daughter's death

Unit Date 1906

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Letters of sympathy following mother's death

Unit Date 1909

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Letter of sympathy following daughter's death

Unit Date 1912, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

General personal correspondence

Unit Date 1883-1894

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Unit Date 1895-1896

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Unit Date 1897-April 1898

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Unit Date May-December 1898

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Unit Date 1899

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Unit Date 1900-1935, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Professional correspondence

Unit Date 1896-1927

Letters concerning calls for pastoral work

Unit Date 1896-1903

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Letters concerning calls for pastoral work

Unit Date 1904-1918

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Letters concerning synodical matters

Unit Date 1901-1924

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Letters concerning Marion College

Unit Date 1914-1927

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

General professional correspondence

Unit Date 1896-1915

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Business affairs correspondence

Unit Date 1903-1934, n.d.

Letters from financial institutions

Unit Date 1903-1934

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Letters concerning business affairs in Columbia, South Carolina

Unit Date 1914-1927

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Letters concerning Cassell's property in Marion, Virginia

Unit Date 1917-1918

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Letters concerning farm management

Unit Date 1924-1927, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

General incoming business correspondence

Unit Date 1898-1932, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Outgoing business correspondence

Unit Date 1917-1932

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Subseries B. Family Correspondence

Unit Date 1897-1950

Helen Buchanan Cassell's correspondence

Unit Date 1897-1938

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Joe (Joseph?) Cassell's correspondence

Unit Date 1915

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Mary Brown Cassell's correspondence

Unit Date 1915-1930

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Unit Date January-April 1931

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Unit Date May-December 1931

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Unit Date 1932

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Unit Date January-April 1933

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Unit Date May-September 1933

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Unit Date October-December 1933

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Unit Date 1934

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Unit Date 1935-1941

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Unit Date 1942

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Unit Date 1943

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Unit Date 1944-1950

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Rebekah Cassell's correspondence

Unit Date 1933-1943

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Invitations

Unit Date 1890-1915

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Subseries C. Other correspondence

Unit Date 1870-1932

General correspondence to other people

Unit Date 1870-1947, n.d.

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

General correspondence to unidentified people

Unit Date 1932, n.d.

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Series II. Financial Records

Unit Date 1890-1935

Subseries A. Account Books

Unit Date 1899-1935

Farm account books

Unit Date 1901-1908

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Unit Date 1910-1913

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Unit Date 1914

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Unit Date 1914-1916

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Unit Date 1919-1928

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Unit Date 1934-1935

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Cattle sale book

Unit Date 1902-1918

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Personal account book

Unit Date 1919-1927

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Store account book

Unit Date 1922

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Trip account book

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Bank account book (Graham, Virginia)

Unit Date 1899-1905

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Bank account book (Rural Retreat, Virginia)

Unit Date 1899-1905

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Subseries B. Bank Account Records

Unit Date 1899-1927

Checks

Bank of Graham

Unit Date 1899-1914

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Augsburg Bank

Unit Date 1900-1906

box-folder 6 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Bank of Rural Retreat**Unit Date** 1905-1913**box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**People's Bank****box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Unit Date** 1906-1912**box-folder** 6 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Unit Date** 1913-1915**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Fidelity Banking and Trust****Unit Date** 1910**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Colonial National Bank****Unit Date** 1914-1927**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**First National Bank of Rural Retreat****Unit Date** 1913-1927**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Marion National Bank****Unit Date** 1915-1917**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Bank of Marion****Unit Date** 1916**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**People's Bank****Unit Date** 1917**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**First National Bank of Luray****Unit Date** 1925-1927**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Check stubs**

Augsburg Bank**Unit Date** 1903-1907**box-folder** 8 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Bank of Graham****Unit Date** 1904-1914**box-folder** 8 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**People's Bank****Unit Date** 1906-1915**box-folder** 8 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Bank of Rural Retreat****Unit Date** 1907-1913**box-folder** 8 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**National Bank of Rural Retreat****Unit Date** 1914-1917**box-folder** 8 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**First National Bank of Rural Retreat****Unit Date** 1914-1929**box-folder** 8 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Marion National Bank****Unit Date** 1915**box-folder** 8 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**People's Bank****Unit Date** 1917**box-folder** 8 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Weyer's Cave Bank****Unit Date** 1921-1922**box-folder** 8 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**First National Bank of Luray****Unit Date** 1923-1926**box-folder** 8 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)

Unidentified banks

Unit Date 1905

box-folder 8 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Deposit slips

Unit Date 1909-1927

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Bank statements

Unit Date 1923-1927

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Subseries C. Insurance Assessment Notifications

Unit Date 1900-1913

Insurance assessment notifications

Unit Date 1900-1913

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Subseries D. Promissory Notes

Unit Date 1899-1926

Promissory notes

Unit Date 1899-1926

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Subseries E. Tax Records

Unit Date 1915-1928

Tax records

Unit Date 1915-1928

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Subseries F. Receipts

Unit Date 1890-1925

Store and railway company receipts

Unit Date 1892-1913, n.d.

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Columbia business affairs receipts

Unit Date 1914-1925

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Medical receipts

Unit Date 1893-1909, n.d.

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

General receipts

Unit Date 1890-1924, n.d.

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Subseries G. Farm Reports

Unit Date 1924-1928

Unit Date 1924

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Unit Date 1925

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Unit Date 1926

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Unit Date 1928

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Subseries H. Miscellaneous Financial Records

Unit Date 1901-1926

Miscellaneous financial records

Unit Date 1901-1926, n.d.

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Series III. Legal Records

Unit Date 1922-1927

Court judgments, wills contracts, etc.

Unit Date 1922-1927, n.d.

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Series IV. Personal Records

Unit Date 1888-1934

Subseries A. Diaries

Unit Date 1893-1927

Unit Date September 25, 1893-July 1894

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Unit Date August 1894-February 11, 1895

box-folder 9 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Unit Date February 12, 1895-1896

box-folder 10 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Unit Date 1899-May 1901

box-folder 10 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Unit Date June 1901-July 1904

box-folder 10 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Unit Date August 1904-August 20, 1907

box-folder 10 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Unit Date August 22, 1907-June 1912

box-folder 10 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Unit Date August 1912-1914

box-folder 10 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Unit Date 1921

box-folder 10 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Unit Date 1927

box-folder 10 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Subseries B. Notebook

Unit Date 1894-1895

Notebook

Unit Date 1894-1895

box-folder 10 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Subseries C. Scrapbooks

Unit Date 1897-1928

Unit Date 1897-1913, n.d.

box-folder 11 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Unit Date 1897-1928

box-folder 11 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Subseries D. Miscellaneous Personal Records

Miscellaneous personal records

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 11 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Series V. Printed Materials

Unit Date 1888-1934

Booklets, pamphlets, programs, etc.

Unit Date 1888-1934, n.d.

box-folder 11 (box)

Container 4 (folder)