

Sutton-Martin-Mason Family Papers

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1861-1968



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2003.013

Unit Date

1861-1968

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection consists of the papers of a Pulaski County, Virginia family, largely consisting of letters received by Rachel Louisa Sutton (later married to David H. Martin) from friends and family during the 1860s. Also contains deeds, family financial records, poetry, photographs and assorted ephemera. A small collection of materials belonging to the Martins' granddaughter, Elinor Mason, completes the collection.

Creator

Sutton family (Pulaski County, Va.)

Creator

Mason family (Pulaski County, Va.)

Creator

Martin family (Pulaski County, Va.)

Extent

0.2 Cubic Feet 1 box

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

The Sutton-Martin-Mason Family Papers were purchased by the Special Collections in 1993.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement and description of the Sutton-Martin-Mason Family Papers commenced in June 2003 and was completed the following month.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Sutton-Martin-Mason Family Papers, Ms2003-013, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Rachel Louisa Sutton, daughter of John and Eliza Glasgow Sutton, was born in Pulaski County, Virginia, in 1849. During the late 1860s, she attended nearby Martha Washington College. On December 14, 1870, she married Pulaski County farmer David H. Martin (born c.1849). The couple had 10 or 11 children, including Walter B. (VPI class of 1909) and Lilly, born probably in 1871, who attended Hollins Institute (now Hollins University) in the early 1890s. Lilly later married James Porterfield Mason, and they became the parents of six children, including Elinor.

Elinor Mason, daughter of James P. and Lilly Martin Mason, was born, probably in Pulaski County, in 1910. During the 1940s, she was a federal employee, living in Williamsburg, Virginia. She later retired to Glade Spring, Virginia, where she died in 1996.

Scope and Content

The papers of the Sutton-Martin-Mason family consist largely of the personal correspondence of Rachel Louisa Sutton (familiarily known as Louisa or Lou), the greater majority of the letters being from family and friends in the years before she was married. The letters mostly comment upon personal and family matters but many also relate to the Civil War--including comments on military campaigns, conditions on the homefront, and news of local men serving in the war. A number of letters are written from Martha Washington College (Abingdon, Virginia) and discuss the school, its classes, and related activities. A few of the letters appear to be draft copies of letters written by Sutton to her friends but never mailed.

The collection also contains other papers of David and Louisa Martin, such as deeds, assorted financial records (including personal checks, account statements, receipts, and a notice for the sale of the John Sutton estate), poetry (most of which seems to have been copied from published sources, rather than being original compositions), and general materials (including grade reports for the Martins' children from various Southwest Virginia educational institutions) and assorted ephemera (including a dress pattern fragment cut from a Civil War-era newspaper); and photographs.

The papers of Elinor Mason, comprising one folder, include correspondence, photographs, postcards and assorted ephemera.

Keywords

Civil War
Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
Women -- History

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The papers are arranged by document type, then chronologically. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit Date 1861-1896, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1-7 (folder)

A-G

H-L

M-R

S

T-V

W-Z

Unidentified or illegible

Deeds

Unit Date 1882-1890

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Financial records

Unit Date 1861-1900, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Poetry

Unit Date 1864, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Photographs**Unit Date** n.d.**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**General materials****Unit Date** 1862-1909, n.d.**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 12 (folder)**Elinor Mason papers****Unit Date** 1922-1968, n.d.**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 13 (folder)