

Fiske-Seymour Family Papers

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1864-1918, n.d.



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2009.133

Unit Date

1864-1918, n.d.

Language

The material in the collection is in English.

Abstract

This collection contains personal correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, and ephemera from the Fiske and Seymour families. The bulk of the correspondence was written by William Warren Fiske and Eliza "Lida" Robertson Seymour Fiske. The remainder of the collection pertains to William and Lida's children, family, and friends.

Creator

Ochsner, Fleda Fiske

Creator

Fiske, Eliza (Lida) Robinson Seymour

Creator

Ochsner, Albert H., c.1889-1964

Creator

Seymour family

Creator

Fiske, William Warren

Creator

Fiske family

Extent

1.4 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 Fiske-Seymour Family Papers were acquired by Special Collections before 2009.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Fiske-Seymour Family Papers commenced in October 2009 and was completed in January 2010.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Fiske-Seymour Family Papers, Ms2009-133, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Eliza "Lida" Robertson Seymour Fiske (c.1856-1922) was the daughter of Lucretia R. Seymour (born c.1832) and Dr. James H. Seymour (c.1825-1862). Lida married William Warren Fiske (born abt. 1857-1930s?)—son of Harriet M. Fiske (c.1823-1903)—on November 25, 1880. Both Lida and William were devout Christians. The couple lived in Philadelphia where William worked as a printer. Lida and William had four children—Robert Seymour (b.1885), Fleda (1888-1935), Donald Robertson (b.1891), and Seymour (b.1895). Fleda married Albert H. Ochsner (c.1889-1964)—a man she met on a return trip from her (Wellesley College) junior year abroad in Germany—and the couple had two children, Albert (b.1913) and Seymour Fiske (1915-2005). At least one source mentions a third child, but little information is available.

Fleda and Albert moved to Eastover—a large farm in Spring Grove, Virginia—in late 1913. The house was purchased by Albert's father, Dr. Albert J. Ochsner, who was a practicing surgeon in Chicago. While Albert had received both his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Agriculture, the property measured about 700 acres and the main building was in poor condition, providing quite a challenge to the young couple. On a property adjacent to Eastover, a small house was built for William W. Fiske (Fleda's father) that was referred to as "The Fiske Place." William got little use of the house, however, with his wife (Lida) dying in 1923 and him following in the early 1930s. Fleda, herself, passed away in 1935, and Albert remarried.

Scope and Content

The Fiske-Seymour Family Papers are separated into three series: Series I: Correspondence, Series II: Photographs, and Series III: Family Papers and Ephemera. The first series contains around 600 letters written by various members of the Fiske and Seymour families, as well as family friends. The bulk of the letters were written by William W. Fiske (over 200 letters) and Lida S. Fiske (over 100 letters). Many of these letters were

written before Lida and William were married, and many of them were written while William was traveling for his job. Other substantial writers were Fleda F. Ochsner and Lucretia R. Seymour, writing over 50 letters each. The Family Correspondence folders contain letters written by family and friends that do not exceed more than two or three in number by each individual.

The collection also contains over 30 photographs of family members, as well as family-owned properties. Most of the photographs are undated. The Family Papers and Ephemera series contains newspaper and magazine clippings (some written by family members), programs for various events, school papers, and calling cards.

Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Women -- History

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series:

Series I: Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by author. Each author's letters are arranged chronologically with undated letters last. The Family Correspondence folders are arranged alphabetically by author with unidentified authors last.

Series II: Photographs is arranged by subject matter.

Series III: Family Papers and Ephemera is arranged by material type.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit Date 1864-1918, n.d.

Fiske, Donald R.

Unit Date 1903-1917, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Fiske, Harriet M.

Unit Date 1880-1903

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Fiske, Lida S.

Unit Date June 1864-October 1879

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Fiske, Lida S.

Unit Date November 1879-March 1880

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Fiske, Lida S.

Unit Date April 1880-July 1880

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Fiske, Lida S.

Unit Date November 1880-November 1916, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Fiske, Robert S.

Unit Date 1904-1908, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Fiske, Sara

Unit Date 1888, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Fiske, Seymour

Unit Date 1906-1915

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Fiske, William W.

Unit Date June 1877-December 1879

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Fiske, William W.

Unit Date January 1880-March 1880

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Fiske, William W.

Unit Date June 1880-October 1880

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Fiske, William W.

Unit Date April 1880-May 1880

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Fiske, William W.

Unit Date November 1880-November 1916

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Fiske, William W.

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Ochsner, Albert

Unit Date 1915, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Ochsner, Fleda F.

Unit Date November 1900-March 1915

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Ochsner, Fleda F.

Unit Date April 1915-January 1918

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Ochsner, Fleda F.

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Seymour, James C.

Unit Date 1877-1916

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Seymour, Lucretia R.

Unit Date August 1875-December 1877

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Seymour, Lucretia R.

Unit Date February 1878-December 1902, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Family Correspondence (A-L)

Unit Date 1877-1916, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Family Correspondence (M-Z, unidentified)

Unit Date 1877-1916, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Photographs

Unit Date 1900-1909, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Family Papers and Ephemera

Unit Date 1887-1912, n.d.

Clippings

Unit Date 1901-1916, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Fiske, Robert S., Papers

Unit Date 1902-1908

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Fiske, Seymour, Papers

Unit Date 1902-1903, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Ephemera

Unit Date 1887-1912, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 29 (folder)