

Turner Family Papers

Turner Family Papers

1830-1944



Title Statement

Turner Family PapersTurner Family Papers, 1830-1944 Ms.2017.004

Author: Kathryn Walters, Graduate Assistant and Kira A. Dietz, Archivist

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

specref@vt.edu

URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



2019 ([CC0 1.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/))

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2024-04-30 07:00:54 -0400.

Language Usage: English

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2017.004

Unit Date

1830-1944

Language

English .

Abstract

The Turner Family Papers consists of multiple sets of correspondence to members of generations of the extended Turner family written between 1830 and 1944. The bulk of the collection is letters between Lexie Fox and his wife, Bessie, written during World War I.

Extent

0.6 Cubic Feet 2 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

Permission to publish material from Turner Family Papers must be obtained from Special Collections, Virginia Tech.

Acquisition Information

The Turner Family Papers were donated to Special Collections in December 2016.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Turner Family Papers was completed in May 2019.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Turner Family Papers, Ms2017-004], Special Collections, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Lexie B. Fox was born February 15, 1896 in Roxboro, North Carolina, to John Younger Fox and Rosalie Alice Royster. Bessie (Oakley) Fox was born to Calvin Lester Oakley and Sarah Shelmoa Virginia Harris. Lexie and Bessie Oakley began corresponding in 1916. Throughout his service in World War I, he and Bessie kept in constant contact and were married on January 18, 1918.

Family connections to the extended Turner family and ancestors for the earlier letters are somewhat unclear, but in the course of processing the collection, Special Collections staff completed some additional research, which is available at the end of Box 2.

Scope and Content

The Turner Family Papers consists of multiple sets of correspondence to members of generations of the extended Turner family written between 1830 and 1944. The bulk of the collection is letters between Lexie Fox and his wife, Bessie, written during World War I. Late 19th century correspondence is written to Bessie's cousin, Minnie Rawlings. Minnie's letters describe the daily life of family, friends, and Miles Taylor, the man whom she would eventually marry. There is a small group of Civil War correspondence written to different people (Turner ancestors).

In their love letters, Lexie and Bessie Fox frequently talked about how much they missed one another. Lexie remained homesick while in France, and discussed his health, longing for home, travels in France, and asked for news about family and friends. Bessie praised her husband in her letters and kept him updated on life at home.

In addition, the collection contains military documents and a notebook Lexie purchased in France. These documents include a notice from the Treasury Department's Bureau of War Risk Insurance, a certificate of Farm War Service, a note from the Adjusted Service Bonds, and a letter from the Commander in Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces.

Keywords

Civil War

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

World War, 1914-1918

Correspondence

Turner family (Franklin County, Virginia)

Arrangement

Letters in the collection are in chronological order. Military papers are in a separate folder.

Description of Subordinate Components

Letters

Unit Date 1830-1944

Unit Date 1830, 1844, 1845
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 1 (folder)
Unit Date 1863-1864
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 2 (folder)
Unit Date 1891-1897
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 3 (folder)
Unit Date 1898
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 4 (folder)
Unit Date 1913-1917
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 5 (folder)
Unit Date January-April 1918
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 6 (folder)
Unit Date May-December 1918
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 7 (folder)
Unit Date January-February 1919
box-folder 2 (box)
Container 1 (folder)
Unit Date May-October 1919
box-folder 2 (box)
Container 2 (folder)
Unit Date Undated, c.1918-1919
box-folder 2 (box)
Container 3-4 (folder)
Unit Date 1942-1944
box-folder 2 (box)
Container 5 (folder)

Military Documents

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 8 (folder)