

Guide to the St. Emma's Military Academy catalog and postcard C0380

St. Emma's Military Academy catalog and postcard
circa 1930s - 1940s; 1943



Title Statement

Guide to the St. Emma's Military Academy catalog and postcard C0380

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

C0380

Unit ID

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Unit Date

circa 1930s - 1940s; 1943

box

1 (folder)

Language

English .

Abstract

Program catalog and postcard sent by a student from St. Emma's Military Academy, a high school for Black boys in Powhattan, Virginia.

Creator

St. Emma's Military Academy (Powhatan, Va.)

Extent

.01 linear feet 1 folder

Physical Location

R 72, C 3, S 4

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

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Historical Information

St. Emma Military Academy, also known as St. Emma's Military Academy, was a school for Black boys in Powhatan, Virginia. It was founded in 1895 as the St. Emma's Industrial and Agricultural Institute. The school's founders, Edward de Vaux Morrell and his wife Louise, were from Philadelphia. The school was located at Belmead, which had been a plantation where Philip St. George Cocke enslaved hundreds of Black men, women, and children. As noted by Greg McQuade in a news story for WTVR Richmond, "Ten thousand young men graduated in nearly 80 years. A stark contrast to the dark beginnings of Belmead," ("Former cadets push to save old African-American military academy"). Robert Walker, a graduate of the school, said, "You would leave here with a military diploma. A trade diploma and an academic diploma,"(quoted in McQuade, "Former cadets push to save old African-American military academy"). St. Emma's Military Academy closed in 1972.

Scope and Content

Program catalog and postcard sent by a student from St. Emma's Military Academy, a high school for Black boys in Powhattan, VA. The postcard is written by Ernest Noble to his mother Sadie Noble in New York City.

Related Material

The Archives and Special Collections of Manhattan College and the De La Salle Christian Brothers hold [material](#) from St. Emma's Military Academy in the De La Salle Christian Brothers Archives of the Baltimore District.

Keywords

African American children -- Education
African American schools
Military education

Bibliography

"Edward De Veaux Morrell," (7 Aug 1862–1 Sep 1917), Find a Grave Memorial no. 139668945, www.findagrave.com, accessed December 17, 2020, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/139668945/edward-deveaux-morrell> Koons, Kenneth E., "Cocke, Philip St. George (1809-1861)," Encyclopedia Virginia, Virginia Humanities, accessed December 17, 2020, https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Cocke_Philip_St_George_1809-1861 McQuade, Greg, "Former cadets push to save old African-American military academy," CBS 6 News Richmond, WTRV.com, accessed December 17, 2020, <https://www.wtvr.com/i-have-a-story/former-cadets-push-to-save-old-african-american-military-academy> Virginia Humanities, "Belmead (St. Emma's Military Academy)," AfroVirginia, accessed December 17, 2020, <http://places.afrovirginia.org/items/show/39>

Arrangement

This collection contains two items.