

A Guide to the George E. May Papers, 1930s SC 0094

George E. May Papers
1930s



Title Statement

A Guide to the George E. May Papers, 1930s SC 0094

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Profile Description

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Revision Description

2013-11-21	Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.
February 2010	Updated
2017	Collection renumbered.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0094

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/249

Unit Date

1930s

Language

English

Abstract

The George E. May Papers, 1930s, contain 44 chapters (some missing) of a carbon-copy typescript manuscript plus handwritten drafts and other notes on the history of Port Republic, Virginia. The manuscript is a draft of May's book *Port Republic: The History of a Shenandoah Valley River Town* that was published for the first time in 2002 - the 200th anniversary of the founding of Port Republic.

Creator

May, George Elliott, 1869-1960

source

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society

Extent

0.1 cubic feet 5 folders

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collection Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

On deposit from the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, May 27, 1987.

Processing Information

In order to streamline the process of applying collection numbers, Special Collections staff completed a large-scale renumbering campaign in the spring of 2017. **This collection was previously cataloged as SC 2055.**

Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], [folder #], May, George E. Papers, 1930s, SC 0094, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Biographical/Historical Note

Born in 1869, George Elliott May was a lifelong resident of Port Republic, Virginia. His primary occupation was woodworker and mill builder, but May's passion was local history, particularly that of Port Republic. He spent much of his life researching and collection information about his hometown, and his manuscript, entitled "A History of Port Republic," was the culmination of that endeavor. May died February 6, 1960 and is buried at Port Republic Cemetery.

Port Republic, Virginia, founded in 1802, is one of the oldest towns in Rockingham County. It particularly flourished during the 1820s and 1830s after the South Shenandoah River was made navigable for flatboats. It is best known today as the site of the Civil War Battle of Port Republic in 1862.

Scope and Content

The George E. May Papers, written in the 1930s, consist of approximately 44 numbered chapters of a typed manuscript, with some chapters missing, plus handwritten materials on the history of Port Republic, Virginia. The manuscript begins with a portrait of the land and the American Indians who inhabited it and goes on to detail the establishment of the town and its subsequent growth. Information concerning farming (references to the invention of the notched sickle used on the McCormick reaper), boating, industry, and schooling is

included. Several chapters are devoted to the Civil War and Stonewall Jackson's victory at the Battle of Port Republic in 1862. Citizens of the town who were involved in wars through World War I are discussed, with additional genealogical chapters on the Carthrae, Burgess, Harper, Kemper, Harnsberger, Trout, Scott, Downs and Madden families. Other individuals mentioned include Zachariah Raines and local slave trader, George W. Eustler.

Keywords

Port Republic, Battle of, Port Republic, Va., 1862
Revivals -- Virginia -- Port Republic
Sickles -- History
Slavery -- Virginia -- Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.)
Port Republic (Va.) -- History
Port Republic (Va.) -- Social life and customs
Port Republic (Va.) -- Religious life and customs
Port Republic (Va.) -- Description
Industries -- Virginia -- Port Republic
Rockingham County (Va.) -- History
Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- Navigation
Shenandoah Valley Campaign, 1862
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Campaigns
Virginia -- Genealogy
Manuscripts (documents)
Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society
Jackson, Stonewall, 1824-1863
Raines, Zachariah
Eustler, George W.
Carthrae family
Burgess family
Harper family
Harnsberger family
Kemp family
Trout family
Scott family
Downs family
Madden family

Bibliography

May, George E. *Port Republic: The History of a Shenandoah Valley River Town*. Staunton, Va.: Lot's Wife Publishing, 2002.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in five folders divided by manuscript chapters.

Description of Subordinate Components

Chapters 1-7

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2528

Mixed Materials [1000886546] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

1. Locality

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2529

2. Early Settlers

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2530

3. Laying out the Town

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2531

4. Tragedy

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2532

5. Old Residenters

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2533

6. Farming

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2534

7. Boating

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2535

Chapters 8-12

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/911

Mixed Materials [1000886546] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

8. Industries

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/922

9. Lost Opportunities

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/923

10-12. Churches

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/924

Chapters 13-24

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2526

Mixed Materials [1000886546] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

13. Wars

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2527

14. Civil War: 1861-1865

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2536

15-17. Wars

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2537

18. Spanish American War: 1898-1899

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2538

19. Famous Fight

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2539

20. Post Office

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2540

21. Polls

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2541

22. Schools

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2542

23. Home Names

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2543

24. The Harper Family and Port Republic Bridges

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2544

Chapters 25-44

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/913

Mixed Materials [1000886546] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

25. Drownings at the Point: the Kemper family

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/935

26. The Harnsberger Family

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/936

27. John Dundore

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/937

28. [Missing]

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/938

29. Joseph Trout

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/939

30. Zacharia Rains (the Commodore of the Shenandoah)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/940

31. Michael Amos Scott

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/941

32-34. [Missing]

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/942

35. George W. Eustler

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/943

37-39. [Missing]

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/944

40. Thomas Madden

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/945

41. Cemetery

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/946

42-43. [Missing]

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/947

44. Bibles

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/948

Miscellaneous Papers

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/914

Mixed Materials [1000886546] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Minutes of the Methodist Meeting House

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/949

East Rockingham Magistrates

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/950

Civil War Soldier's Letter

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/951