

# A Guide to the Varner Family Papers, 1774-1933 SC 0129

Varner Family Papers  
1774-1933



## Title Statement

A Guide to the Varner Family Papers, 1774-1933 SC 0129

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## Profile Description

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## Revision Description

<b>July 2008</b>	Edited
<b>2013-11-21</b>	Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

SC 0129

**Unit ID**

/repositories/4/resources/276

**Unit Date**

1774-1933

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

The Varner Family Papers, 1774-1933, documents the Varner family of Page County, Virginia with particular emphasis on correspondence, legal and financial documents, and documents relating to their distillery business.

**Creator**

Varner family

**source**

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society

**Extent**

0.4 cubic feet 1 box

**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**

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**Acquisition Information**

This collection is on deposit from the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society.

**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 3035.**

**Preferred Citation**

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Varner Family Papers, 1774-1933, SC 0129, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

## Bio/Historical Note

The Varner family of Page County, Virginia was of German descent, and their name appears as early as 1801 on records of the Antioch Christian Church near Stony Man Creek, Virginia.

Despite wide-spread anti-liquor sentiment in the Shenandoah Valley in the nineteenth century, the Varners operated a distillery. Documentary evidence of the business begins in 1869 and includes state permits to distill, Internal Revenue "Distillery Gauger" forms, and several orders for brandy.

## Scope and Content

The Varner Family Papers, 1774-1933, document the Varner family of Page County, Virginia with particular emphasis on correspondence, legal and financial documents, and documents relating to their distillery business.

Series 1: Letters, 1816-1910, contains documents from relatives of the Varners in the Midwest and from other family members within Virginia. Most of these documents date from the latter half of the nineteenth century. In general these letters discuss health, the weather and farming; however, there are several accounts relating to the Civil War and its devastating effects on the family.

Series 2: Legal Documents, 1774-1931, contains a thorough collection of tax receipts dating from 1803-1930; several papers pertaining to John Varner's duties as an executor; a folder of receipts for various financial transactions; and, among other papers in the miscellaneous folder, a Confederate States of America Bond.

Series 3: Distillery Papers, 1869-1893, contains documents related to the Varner's distillery business in Luray, Virginia. Despite wide-spread anti-liquor sentiment in the Shenandoah Valley in the nineteenth century, the Varners operated a distillery. Documentary evidence of the business begins in 1869 and includes state permits to distill, Internal Revenue "Distillery Gauger" forms and several orders for brandy.

## Keywords

Agriculture -- Virginia -- History -- 19th century  
Distilleries -- Virginia -- Sources  
Liquor laws -- Virginia  
Liquor -- Selling  
Financial statements -- Virginia  
Estates (Law) -- Virginia -- Sources  
Virginia -- Sources  
Page County (Va.) -- Social life and customs -- Sources  
Page County (Va.) -- Economic conditions  
Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- History  
Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- Social life and customs -- Sources  
Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- Economic conditions -- Sources  
Virginia -- History, Local  
Virginia -- Social life and customs -- Sources  
Virginia -- Economic conditions -- Sources  
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives, Confederate  
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Destruction and pillage  
Family papers  
Legal documents  
Letters (correspondence)  
Page County (Va.) -- History  
Varner family  
Varner family -- Correspondence  
Varner, John  
Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society

## Bibliography

Lambert, Darwin S. *The Undying Past of Shenandoah National Park*. Boulder, CO: Roberts Rinehart, Inc., 1989. Strickler, Harry M. *A Short History of Page County Virginia*. Richmond, VA: Dietz Press, Inc., 1952.

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series:

- Letters, 1816-1933
- Legal Documents, 1774-1931
- Distillery Papers, 1869-1893

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Letters

**Unit ID** 1

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/1261

**Unit Date** 1816-1933

### Letters from Virginia

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/1264

**Unit Date** 1816-1865

**Mixed Materials [1000886583]** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

### **Letters from Virginia**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/1265

**Unit Date** 1866-1933, undated

**Mixed Materials [1000886583]** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

### **Letters from the Midwest**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/1266

**Unit Date** 1840-1869

**Mixed Materials [1000886583]** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

### **Letters from the Midwest**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/1267

**Unit Date** 1870-1910, undated

**Mixed Materials [1000886583]** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

### **Legal Documents**

**Unit ID** 2

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/1262

**Unit Date** 1774-1931

### **Tax Receipts**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/1268

**Unit Date** 1804-1930

**Mixed Materials [1000886583]** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

### **Executor Documents**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/1269

**Unit Date** 1822-1836

**Mixed Materials [1000886583]** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

### **Financial Documents**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/1270

**Unit Date** 1807-1931, undated

**Mixed Materials [1000886583]** 1 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

### **Miscellaneous Documents**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/1271

**Unit Date** 1774-1910

**Mixed Materials [1000886583]** 1 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

**Distillery Papers**

**Unit ID** 3

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/1263

**Unit Date** 1869-1893

**Distillery Papers**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/1272

**Unit Date** 1869-1893

**Mixed Materials [1000886583]** 1 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)