

A Guide to the Ezra M. Minnick Sr. Diary, 1900 SC 0051

Ezra M. Minnick Sr. diary
1900



Title Statement

A Guide to the Ezra M. Minnick Sr. Diary, 1900 SC 0051

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Publication Statement

Publisher: James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

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URL: <https://www.lib.jmu.edu/special/>



February 2017

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-10-08 07:06:06 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0051

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/371

Unit Date

1900

Language

English

Abstract

The Ezra M. Minnick Sr. Diary, 1900, comprises one Excelsior Diary with daily entries by Timberville, Virginia farmer and government inspector, Ezra M. Minnick Sr. General subject matter includes weather reports, local and state politics, business dealings, and personal news and events.

Creator

Minnick, Ezra M., Sr., 1865-1939

Extent

0.06 cubic feet 1 letter folder

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

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Acquisition Information

Acquired from M. Benjamin Katz Fine Books/Rare Manuscripts, Toronto, Ontario, Canada in November 2016.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Ezra M. Minnick Sr. Diary, 1900, SC 0051, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Bio/Historical Note

Ezra M. Minnick Sr. (1865-1939) was a native of Timberville, Virginia. He married Joanna C. Bowman (1861-1934), daughter of David Bowman, on April 24, 1888 at the bride's father's home north of Timberville. They had four children, but only two survived into adulthood - Ezra M. Minnick Jr. (1890-1973) and Millard B. Minnick (1902-1979). Minnick was engaged in farming as his primary occupation, but was also appointed fertilizer inspector for the 7th Congressional District in March 1900. By 1910, Minnick was listed in the federal census as a merchant of farm implements, but eventually went back to farming exclusively. Minnick was an active member of the Lutheran church, specifically Rader's Lutheran Church on the outskirts of Timberville. He served his local congregation in many leadership capacities as a member of the executive committee and secretary of the church council. Minnick was also elected corresponding secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod at the annual convention in August 1902. He is buried in Rader's Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Scope and Content

The Ezra M. Minnick Sr. Diary, 1900, is comprised of one Excelsior Diary with daily entries by Timberville, Virginia farmer and government inspector, Ezra M. Minnick Sr. General subject matter includes weather reports, local and state politics, business dealings, and personal news and events.

The bound pocket diary, sold by William F. Murphy's Sons Stationers in Philadelphia, includes printed calendars, moon cycles, information on domestic and foreign currency, interest tables, and "valuable information for business men." Minnick completed diary entries for each day in 1900. On most days Minnick travelled into the town of Timberville to conduct business. He commented daily on weather patterns, made regular mentions of visitors to his home and visiting he did, described his weekly church attendance, local deaths, marriages, other major community happenings including court days. He discussed his interactions with community members including Jonathan Calhoun, Casper Tussing, William J. Arehart, and Peter J. Knupp.

After Minnick was appointed to fertilizer inspector of the 7th District in March 1900, many of his diary entries discuss his duties and responsibilities related to that position. For example, on Wednesday, May 23, 1900 Minnick was "This morning in Winchester at the Taylor House...then went about the place to see the different Fertilizer agents as to how much fertilizer they had received." Entries also include meetings with George B. Keezell (1854-1931), member of the Virginia Senate, and George W. Koiner (1852-1939), commissioner of

agriculture in Virginia. Minnick made frequent mentions of his son Ezra Jr., wife Joanna, and 16-year-old live-in servant Mamie in his diary entries.

Other entries of note include:

Tuesday, January 9, 1900 - "Went to Mt. Jackson and attended the annual meeting off the stock holders of Mt. Jackson Natl. Bank. I rode in superintendent E. Ryder's private car from Timberville to Mt. Jackson."

Monday, January 15, 1900 - "I had my petition which I sent to Hon. G. B. Keezel this p. m. to present to Geo. W. Koiner Comr of Agriculture...as I am an applicant for Fertilizer Inspector for the 7th Congressional District."

Monday, March 19, 1900 - "I had a long talk with Geo. B. Keezel in reference to my appointment as fertz. Inspector for the 7th District."

Wednesday, March. 21, 1900 - "I noticed in the Baltimore daily papers I received my appointment as fertilizer Inspector from the 7th district."

Tuesday, March 27, 1900 - "This morning I went down to Mr. Bowman's & found him no better, then to Timberville and there was a letter from G. W. Koiner Commis. Agriculture Richmond Va. Notifying me to be in Richmond next Tuesday."

Saturday, July 28, 1900 - "This morning to Timberville and made ready and went to Fisher's Hill to attend the Reunion of the farmers of Shenandoah Co. On getting on the train I found the Hon. G. W. Koiner on the train, on his way to Fisher's Hill. I had a considerable talk with him, on the way. Not a very large crowd present. Prof. Hughs spoke on the subject of Fruit raising."

The end of the diary includes notes and memoranda for eggs and other farm products sold for the year and miscellaneous accounting notes.

Related Material

Per the minutes of the November 13, 2014 and February 12, 2015 Timberville town council meetings, Beverly Garber, town historian, acquired historic documents from the Minnick family, including two diaries, through Ebay.

Keywords

Farmers -- Virginia -- Timberville
Agriculture -- Virginia -- Rockingham County -- History
Farm life -- Virginia -- Timberville -- History
Agriculture -- Economic aspects
Local government -- Virginia -- Timberville
Rockingham County (Va.) -- History
Virginia -- History, Local
Diaries
Weather diaries

Bibliography

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Arrangement

The diary is housed in one letter folder.

Description of Subordinate Components

Ezra M. Minnick Sr. diary

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/2330

Unit Date 1900

Mixed Materials [1000886509] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)