

A Guide to the Thompson Family Papers, 1869-1944 SC 0246

Thompson Family Papers
1869-1944



Title Statement

A Guide to the Thompson Family Papers, 1869-1944 SC 0246

Author: Tiffany Cole

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820 Madison Drive
MSC 1706
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807
Telephone: (540) 568-3612
library-special@jmu.edu
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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0246

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/419

Unit Date

1869-1944

Language

English

Abstract

The Thompson Family Papers, 1869-1944, document the lives of Benjamin F. Thompson and his immediate family. The collection includes correspondence, diaries, a weather journal, financial and legal documents, genealogical notes, and family photographs.

Creator

Thompson family

source

Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates

Extent

0.2 cubic feet 1 box

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open to 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 been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

Purchased at Jeffrey S. Evans' August 26, 2017 Summer Variety Auction (lot 286).

Processing Information

The collection was received in no particular order. As a result, the archivist imposed an arrangement based on material type and date.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Thompson Family Papers, 1869-1944, SC 0246, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Bio/Historical Note

Benjamin F. "Frank" Thompson was born March 10, 1849 to Joseph and Clarissa Moubray Thompson (b. 1820). He married Martha Ellen Liskey on November 13, 1873. They lived in the Mt. Sinai community of Rockingham County for many years and together had six children. He was a farmer by trade. Thompson died January 1, 1913 after complications from a runaway accident involving a one horse wagon he was driving. According to his obituary, Thompson had for some time been residing with his son John W. Thompson. The obituary later lists his surviving children, including Benjamin H. Thompson and Ida E. Thompson "who lived with their mother." This suggests that, for one reason or another, Frank Thompson was not living in the same residence as Martha Thompson, his children's mother.

Other family members documented in this collection include Elizabeth Frances Sharpes Thompson (1872-1958) who was married to John William Thompson (1874-1932), Benjamin F. Thompson's eldest son; and Mary A. Thompson (1903-1997), the daughter of John W. and Elizabeth Sharpes Thompson.

Scope and Content

The Thompson Family Papers, 1869-1944, document the lives of Benjamin F. Thompson and his family. The collection includes correspondence between Thompson and his future-wife Martha E. Liskey Thompson, diaries, a weather journal, financial and legal documents, genealogical notes, and family photographs.

Related Material

[Mary A. Thompson Papers, 1882-1974, SC 0152, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.](#)

Keywords

Agriculture -- 19th century
Agriculture -- 20th century
Farm life -- 19th century
Farm life -- 20th century
Farmers -- Virginia -- Rockingham County -- 19th century
Farmers -- Virginia -- Rockingham County -- 20th century
Rockingham County (Va.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century
Rockingham County (Va.) -- Social life and customs -- 20th century
Rockingham County (Va.) -- History -- 19th century
Rockingham County (Va.) -- History -- 20th century
Rockingham County (Va.) -- Genealogy
Virginia -- Genealogy
Letters (correspondence)
Diaries
Weather diaries
Housebooks
Black-and-white photographs
Genealogies (histories)
Autograph albums
Ration books
Family papers
Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates

Bibliography

Obituary for Benjamin F. Thompson, *Rockingham Daily Record*, January 2, 1913. Obituary for Mary A. Thompson, *Daily News-Record*, November 26, 1997.

Provenance

These materials descended in the Benjamin F. Thompson (1849-1913) family of Rockingham County, Virginia.

Arrangement

The collections is arranged in three series. The contents are then further arranged chronologically.

- Correspondence, 1869-1873, 1944
- Personal Papers, 1886-1902, 1943
- Ephemera, 1872, 1907

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit ID 1

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4574

Unit Date 1869-1873

Unit Date 1944

Scope and Content

Series 1: Correspondence, 1869-1873, 1944, is comprised primarily of approximately 17 letters between Benjamin F. Thompson and Martha E. Liskey Thompson, written during their courtship. The content is generally newsy in nature and includes community and family gossip. The letters are also sentimental, conveying feelings of longing to be in the physical presence of one another. Miscellaneous letters, from persons with an unknown relationship to the Thompson family, are also included. The letters are arranged

by recipient.

Benjamin F. Thompson

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4577

Unit Date 1869-1873, undated

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Miscellaneous Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4578

Unit Date 1871, 1880, undated

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Martha E. Liskey Thompson

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4579

Unit Date 1872-1873, undated

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Mary A. Thompson

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4580

Unit Date 1944

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Personal Papers

Unit ID 2

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4575

Unit Date 1886-1902

Unit Date 1943

Scope and Content

Series 2: Personal Papers, 1886-1902, 1943, includes miscellaneous papers of the Thompson family primarily created by Benjamin F. Thompson. Papers include a listing of household accounts, a bargain agreement between Benjamin F. Thompson and Daniel Liskey for one hog and one piece of land adjoining the Mt. Vernon school house lot, and two diaries and one weather journal written by Benjamin F. Thompson. Thompson's diaries include brief daily entries in which he mentions visiting with neighbors, travel and work duties, and weather happenings. Of particular interest is a copy of an April 10, 1888 article of agreement between the Board of Trustees of Central School District of Rockingham County and Benjamin F. Thompson, et. al.. In this agreement the Board permits Thompson, Noah, L. Spitzer, and J. P. Brown to use school house number 10 (Dillard or Mt. Vernon) for preaching, Sunday school, and singing during the summer of 1888. In return, Thompson, et. al. will complete all necessary repairs to the building by October 1, 1888 in order to make it ready for public school.

The papers also include handwritten genealogical notes on the Thompson and Liskey families. Also included is an autograph album and war ration book belonging to Elizabeth F. Sharpes Thompson, Benjamin F. Thompson's daughter-in-law.

Household Accounts

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4581

Unit Date 1886-1887

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Benjamin F. Thompson and Daniel Liskey Bargain Agreement

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4582

Unit Date 1888

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Benjamin F. Thompson Diary

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4583

Unit Date 1888

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Benjamin F. Thompson Weather Journal

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4584

Unit Date 1888

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Copy, Article of Agreement between Board of Trustees of Central School District of Rockingham County, Va. and Benjamin F. Thompson, et. al.

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4585

Unit Date 1888

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Benjamin F. Thompson Diary

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4586

Unit Date 1895-1896

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Elizabeth F. Sharpes Thompson Autograph Album

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4587

Unit Date 1896-1902

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Elizabeth F. Sharpes Thompson War Ration Book

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4588

Unit Date 1943

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Liskey Family Genealogical Notes

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4589

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Thompson Family Genealogical Notes

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4590

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Ephemera

Unit ID 3

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4576

Unit Date 1872

Unit Date 1907

Scope and Content

Series 3: Ephemera, 1872, 1907, includes two Thompson family photographs and a newspaper clipping from the December 19, 1907 *Harrisonburg Daily Times*.

One photograph, taken by Jas. O. A. Clary's Palace of Photography in Harrisonburg, depicts Benjamin F. Thompson on November 18, 1872. The verso is inscribed with the following: "No. 18th 1872. Age 23 y 6 m 8 d. B. F. Y." The identity of the person in the second photograph is likely Clarissa Moubray Thompson based on the genealogical clues provided in the inscription: "Joseph Thompson wife. My great grand mother. Mary A. Thompson." This photograph was also taken by Jas. O. A. Clary.

The newspaper clipping is the full front page of the December 19, 1907 issue of the *Harrisonburg Daily Times*.

Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4591

Unit Date 1872, undated

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Newspaper Clipping, Harrisonburg Daily Times

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/4592

Unit Date 1907 December 19

Mixed Materials [1000886346] 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)