

A Guide to the Catlett Family Papers, 1850-1933 (bulk 1901-1929) SC 0276

Catlett Family Papers

1850-1933



Title Statement

A Guide to the Catlett Family Papers, 1850-1933 (bulk 1901-1929) SC 0276

Author: Phillip Wong

Publication Statement

Publisher: James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

880 Madison Drive

MSC 1704

Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807

Telephone: (540) 568-3612

library-special@jmu.edu

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



October 2018

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:37:49 -0400.

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

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0276

Unit Date

1850-1933

Unit Date

1901-1929

Language

English .

Abstract

The Catlett Family Papers, 1850-1933 (bulk 1901-1929), consists of two boxes containing the correspondence, personal financial records, and ephemera of the Catlett Family of Staunton, Virginia.

Creator

Catlett family

source

Green Valley Auctions, Inc.

Extent

0.66 cubic feet 2 boxes

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

This collection was acquired through the Large Antiques and Firearms Estate auction held by Green Valley Auctions on January 16, 2018.

Processing Information

The collection was received in no particular order other than general groupings of correspondence and financial files. The archivist imposed an order on any unordered documents, created discrete series, and filed accordingly.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Catlett Family Papers, 1850-1933 (bulk 1901-1929), SC 0276, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Bio/Historical Note

Richard Henry Catlett, born April 19, 1828 near Warren County, Virginia, served with the Confederate Army during the Civil War working as an aide, an acting assistant adjutant general, and as head of reserve organization. After the war, he moved to Staunton, Virginia and established a law firm in 1865 with two war acquaintances to help develop the economy of West Virginia and Virginia. He died in March 1898.

He had his first two children, Charles (1866-1945) and Richard Henry (1868-1940), with Mary Mercer Patton (1838-1871). After her death, he married Fannie Bolling Gay (1847-1938) and had four daughters: Margaret Erskine (1878-1958), Fanny Gay (1879-1838), Amy Pendleton (1883-1972), and Elizabeth Gay (1884-1948). The family remained active in the daily affairs of Staunton, and the children traveled extensively over the course of the early twentieth century. Most notably, Amy Pendleton and Elizabeth Gay Catlett travelled in France while Charles Catlett (a geologist and chemist) and Fannie Bolling Gay Catlett remained prominent figures in the Staunton community, contributing to the naming of areas such as Woodrow Wilson Park, and donating to local businesses.

The Catlett Family Papers, 1850-1933 (bulk 1901-1929), consists of two boxes containing the personal correspondence, financial records, and personal materials of the Catlett Family of Staunton, Virginia. The materials in this collection provide a small glimpse into early twentieth century life through the eyes of the Catlett family. The collection is divided into two series: Correspondence and Personal Papers and Ephemera. Topics of conversation in the correspondence can range from education to travel to day-to-day activity, while financial records comprise of receipts and checks usually directed to or filled out by Fannie Bolling Gay (noted as Mrs. R.H. Catlett). Ephemera include personal affects held by unspecified family members and business-related materials of the time period.

Keywords

Letters (correspondence)

Printed Ephemera

Receipts (financial records)
Financial Records
Appointment books
Family papers
Business records -- Virginia -- Staunton
Staunton (Va.) -- History -- 19th century
Staunton (Va.) -- History -- 20th century
Staunton (Va.) -- Description and travel
Staunton (Va.) -- Economic conditions
Augusta County (Va.) -- History -- 19th century
Augusta County (Va.) -- History -- 20th century
Green Valley Auctions, Inc.
Catlett family

Appraisal Note

Numerous voided checks were originally part of the collection. A representative sample of these checks were retained and are filed in the collection with Paid Checks and Statements. The remainder have been discarded due to their duplicative nature. A December 6, 1926 issue of *The Evening Leader* was also discarded due to its condition and duplication elsewhere.

Bibliography

"Capt. Richard H. Catlett Dead." Staunton Spectator and Vindicator [Staunton, VA], March, 24, 1898. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024720/1898-03-24/ed-1/seq-3/> (accessed September 21, 2018). "The Leland Family of Virginia, et. al." RootsWeb, April 12, 2017, <https://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=r11946&id=i60669> (accessed September 24, 2018). "Richard Henry Catlett and Family in Staunton." Janegrayavery, July, 4 2016, <https://janegrayavery.com/index.php/richard-henry-catlett-and-family-in-staunton/> (accessed October 5, 2018).

Arrangement

The collection is divided into two series. All series are arranged chronologically.

- Correspondence, 1901-1929
- Personal Papers and Ephemera, 1850-1933

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit ID 1

Unit Date 1901-1929

Scope and Content

This series contains the correspondence between Catlett family members. The bulk of correspondence is addressed to the matriarch, Fannie Bolling Gay Catlett (under the name Mrs. R.H. Catlett), with most being sent by Elizabeth Gay Catlett (who signed these letters as "Dib"). Other family members gave the nickname "Baby" to Fanny Gay and a slew of other illegible nicknames to Amy Pendleton. The correspondence itself covers family and community news: Fannie Catlett would update her children about the goings-on of Staunton, Elizabeth would write her family about school experiences at Edgeworth College in Baltimore, Maryland, and Amy Pendleton wrote about her travels in Europe. Some items of potential interest include Elizabeth Catlett's monthly report cards or letters to Amy Catlett from a gentleman admirer.

Margaret Erskine Catlett Correspondence

Unit Date 1901-1904

Mixed Materials [1000886397] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Fanny Gay Catlett Correspondence

Unit Date 1901-1906

Mixed Materials [1000886397] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Fannie Bolling Gay Catlett Correspondence

Unit Date 1902-1903

Mixed Materials [1000886397] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Amy Pendleton Catlett Correspondence

Unit Date 1903-1922

Mixed Materials [1000886397] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Fannie Bolling Gay Catlett Correspondence

Unit Date 1904

Mixed Materials [1000886397] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Elizabeth Gay Catlett Correspondence

Unit Date 1904-1910

Mixed Materials [1000886397] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Charles Catlett Correspondence

Unit Date 1904-1931

Mixed Materials [1000886397] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Fannie Bolling Gay Catlett Correspondence

Unit Date 1906-1929

Mixed Materials [1000886397] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Amy Pendleton Catlett

Unit Date 1922-1923

Mixed Materials [1000886398] 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Henry Catlett Correspondence

Unit Date 1923

Mixed Materials [1000886398] 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Miscellaneous Catlett Correspondence

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000886398] 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Personal Papers and Ephemera

Unit ID 2

Unit Date 1850-1933

Scope and Content

This series contains personal financial records and ephemera collected by the family. Many of the receipts are from local businesses around Staunton (e.g. the Augusta Meat Market, the Hogshead Drug Store, Woodward's Cleaning and Dyeing Works). The canceled checks are largely paid to family members and the city in the form of tax payments and service bills. Materials in French can be found in both Amy Pendleton Catlett's date book (written in both English and French) as well as the Printed Materials and Personal Effects folder in the forms of poetry, newspaper articles, and other notes. Other items of note include programs for a reception for members of the Iron and Steel Institute and the American Institute of Mining Engineers, dated July and August 1906.

Financial Files and Receipts

Unit Date 1850-1928

Mixed Materials [1000886398] 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Amy Pendleton Catlett Date Book

Unit Date 1921

Mixed Materials [1000886398] 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Paid Checks and Statements

Unit Date 1925-1933

Mixed Materials [1000886398] 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Financial Files and Receipts

Unit Date 1928-1931

Mixed Materials [1000886398] 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Advertisements and Business Cards

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000886398] 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Printed Materials and Personal Effects

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000886398] 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Travel Brochures

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [1000886398] 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)