

John Sims papersMS.0475

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1868-1871

Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

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Unit ID

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Unit Date

1868-1871

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English .

Creator

Sims, John, 1850-1909

Extent

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Physical Location

Manuscripts stacks

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

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Biographical / Historical

John Sims was born in 1850 in Halifax County, Virginia. After graduating from VMI in 1871, he returned to Maxwelton, Halifax County and was a farmer there until his death in 1909.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of 14 letters (dated 1868-1871) written by VMI Cadet John Sims (Class of 1871), to members of his family, a VMI quarterly grade report, and other documents. The correspondence provides rich details of cadet life during that era, as well as personal news. Sims mentions many leisure activities and comments on academic life and routine events. The letter dated October 17, 1870 mentions viewing the body of, and preparations for, the funeral of General Robert E. Lee.

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—History—19th century

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1871

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet life—1860-1869

Virginia Military Institute—Cadet life—1870-1879

Baseball

Washington and Lee University—History

Correspondence

Virginia Military Institute—Curricula

Lee, Robert E. (Robert Edward), 1807-1870