

William B. Cochran, Jr. papersMS.0512.Oversized

William B. Cochran, Jr. papers
1888-1931

Title Statement

William B. Cochran, Jr. papersMS.0512.Oversized

Publication Statement

Publisher: Virginia Military Institute Archives

VMI Archives
Preston Library
Lexington, VA 24450
Business Number: 540-464-7516
archives@vmi.edu
URL: <http://www.vmi.edu/archives>

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-06-30 07:03:21 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: Undetermined, Code for undetermined script script.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS.0512.Oversized

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/794

Unit Date

1888-1931

Language

English

Creator

Cochran, William B., Jr. (William Burr), 1868-1931

Extent

1 boxes 1 letter sized manuscript box, plus oversized items

Physical Location

Manuscripts stacks and oversized case 2

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions.

Conditions Governing Use

Manuscript Collections in the VMI Archives are made available for noncommercial educational and research use. The VMI Archives should be cited as the source. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any copyright holders. Materials from our collections may not be redistributed, published or reproduced without permission from the VMI Archives. Contact the VMI Archives for additional information.

Preferred Citation

William B. Cochran, Jr. papers, 1888-1931. MS 0512. VMI Archives, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

William Burr Cochran was born on July 9, 1868 in Middleburg, Virginia to John Henry Cochran and Charlotte Carr. He graduated from VMI in 1888, enlisted in the United States Army in 1892, and subsequently received a commission. Cochran served in the Spanish American War. During World War I he remained stateside to train troops. He retired in 1922 and was appointed Brigadier General (retired list) effective June 21, 1930.

Cochran married Mathilde "Tillie" Kessler of Helena, Montana in 1904 and the couple had three children.

Cochran died in an automobile accident near Salisbury, Maryland on July 2, 1931. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of the personal papers of Brigadier General William Burr Cochran, VMI Class of 1888, including: Correspondence Photographs An unpublished biographical essay titled "Reminiscences of Camp Life During the World War" Other items, such as instructions for "final German Figures," a formal VMI dance

Keywords

United States. Army—Officers—Biography

Generals—United States

Virginia Military Institute—Class of 1888

Photographs

Correspondence

Memoirs

Description of Subordinate Components

"Reminiscences of Camp Life in the United States During the World War"

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4325

Unit Date circa 1925

Language English

Creator Cochran, William B., Jr. (William Burr), 1868-1931

Extent Twenty page typescript and handwritten draft.

Scope and Contents

Typescript memoirs by William B. Cochran, Jr. that document his stateside service during World War I. He was stationed at numerous troop training camps, including Camp Taylor near Louisville, Kentucky.

Keywords

World War, 1914-1918

Air pilots, Military

World War, 1914-1918—Personal narratives, American

Military training camps

United States. Army—Officers—Biography

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4323

Unit Date 1903-1930

Language English

Creator Cochran, William B., Jr. (William Burr), 1868-1931

Extent 2 Folder

Scope and Contents

This series includes correspondence (1903-1904) written by William B. Cochran, Jr. to his future wife, Mathilde Kessler. During this time Cochran was stationed at Fort Harrison near Helena, Montana.

Also included are letters written to Marion Lee Cochran, Cochran's daughter. The bulk are written from Cochran while Marion was visiting friends in North Carolina (1930). Also included are two letters from her mother (1926 and 1928) and one from her brother-in-law's friends in Charlotte (1929).

Keywords

Love letters

Correspondence

Cochran, Mathilde Kessler

Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4324

Unit Date 1875-1930

Language English

Extent 25 items Approximately 25 items

Scope and Contents

Photographs span from childhood through post-retirement years and include images as a VMI cadet, United States Army officer, and as a civilian. Two images of William B. Cochran, Jr. are available online.

Keywords

Photographs

Cochran, William B., Jr. (William Burr), 1868-1931

Instructions for VMI dance "Final German Figures"

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4326

Unit Date 1888

Language English

Scope and Contents

Handwritten instructions for "Final German Figures" at VMI. In this context, a "German" is a type of formal dance.

Keywords

Virginia Military Institute—Social life and customs

United States Army promotion certificate

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4327

Unit Date 1930

Language English

Scope and Contents

A certificate appointing William B. Cochran, Jr. as a Brigadier General, retired.

Keywords

Certificates

United States. Army

Cochran, William B., Jr. (William Burr), 1868-1931