

A Guide to the Jennings C. Wise Papers, 1910-1960

Jennings C. Wise Papers 1910-1960
1910-1960

A Collection in Virginia Military Institute Archives mss 00004
Virginia Military Institute Archives
2002

History

Processed by: Virginia Military Institute Archives Staff
Funding: Web version of the finding aid funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Title Statement

A Guide to the Jennings C. Wise Papers, 1910-1960

Subtitle: Wise, Jennings C., Papers

Collection: mss 00004

Author: Diane B. Jacob

Sponsor: Web version of the finding aid funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Publication Statement

Date: © 2002 Virginia Military Institute

Publisher: Virginia Military Institute Archives

[Conditions of Use](#)

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from typescript by rekeying. Machine-readable finding aid created by Diane Jacob. Date of source: 2002

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

Feb 16, 2004 PUBLIC "-//Virginia Military Institute::Preston Library::Archives//TEXT (US::ViLxV::vilxv00038::A Guide to the Jennings C. Wise Papers)//EN" "vilxv00038.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).
Feb 26, 2004 converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl
2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

mss 00004

Language

English

Physical Characteristics

The collection is filed in 7 boxes.

Repository

Archives, Preston Library, Virginia Military Institute

Administrative Information

Access

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Preferred Citation

Jennings C. Wise Papers, mss 00004, Virginia Military Institute Archives, Lexington, Virginia.

Biographical/Historical Information

Jennings Cropper Wise, lawyer and army officer, was born on September 10, 1881 in Richmond, Virginia. He graduated from the Phillip Exeter Academy (New Hampshire) in 1882 and from the Virginia Military Institute in 1902. He subsequently received a law degree from the University of Virginia.

Wise spent the majority of his career in the practice of law, primarily in private practice. He was associated with the firms of Pollard , Wise and Chichester (Richmond, Virginia), and Munn, Anderson and Munn (Washington, DC). In addition, he taught at his alma mater, the Virginia Military Institute (1912-1915) and he served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the AEF during World War I.

Following his retirement in 1954, he concentrated on researching and writing a book ultimately published under the title *Sunrise of the Virginia Military Institute as a School of Arms.* He died in 1968.

Scope and Content Information

The Jennings C. Wise Papers consist primarily of incoming and outgoing correspondence from the period 1910-1960. Included are letters dating from his years as Professor and Commandant of Cadets at VMI, from his practice of law, and from his retirement period in which he devoted himself primarily to writing. Wise was passionately interested in the history and future development of VMI and much of the correspondence reflects his ongoing involvement with the school. He often held controversial views and frequently expressed his dismay at what he perceived to be a lessening of military discipline at VMI.

Other items in the papers include memoranda, editorials and articles written by Wise, circulars, notebooks, printed material, and a photograph album (1913-1914) documenting the retirement of the VMI Cadet Battery and the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of New Market, Virginia.

Contents List

Correspondence, 1910-1960

Box 1-5

Scope and Content

These letters pertain to both his professional life and personal interests.

Arrangement

Chronological

Memoranda, 1922-1960

Box 6

Editorials and Articles by Jennings Wise, 1950's

Box 6

Printed Material & Miscellaneous, 1950's

Box 6

Photograph Album 1913-1914

Box 7

Scope and Content

Containing images of the VMI Cadet Battery and of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of New Market, Virginia.

Archives, Preston Library, Virginia Military Institute