

# Alexander Lockhart Nelson papersWLU.RG.60.0001

Alexander Lockhart Nelson papers  
1848-1902

## Title Statement

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## Publication Statement

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

WLU.RG.60.0001

**Unit ID**

/repositories/5/resources/514

**Unit Date**

1848-1902

**Language**

English

**Creator**

Nelson, Alexander Lockhart, 1827-1910

**Creator**

Desha, Jack C.

**Extent**

0.5 Linear Feet

**Repository**

Washington and Lee University, University Library Special Collections and Archives

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

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**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Alexander Lockhart Nelson Papers, WLU-RG-0060, Special Collections and Archives, James G. Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA

# Biographical / Historical

Alexander Lockhart Nelson graduated from Washington College in 1849.

# Biographical / Historical

Alexander Lockhart Nelson was born in Augusta County, Virginia in 1827. He was of Scots-Irish and Presbyterian ancestry. He was raised in Augusta County, Virginia and attended Washington College – predecessor institution to Washington and Lee University in Lexington, enrolling in 1846. Upon graduating from Washington College, he spent time advancing his degree and teaching at University of Virginia before becoming a full professor at his alma mater. He had a long career at WLU and was designated Professor Emeritus in 1906. Nelson died on August 31, 1910.

On July 5, 1855 he married Miss Elizabeth Harvey Moore of Lexington, Virginia. Together they raised a family of three daughters and one son: Bessie Nelson, who later married Mr. Albert W. Gaines of Chattanooga, TN; Julia Nelson, who married Mr. Walter S. Forrester of Anchorage, KY; Frank A. Nelson; and Miss Evelyn Moore Nelson.

## Scope and Contents

The Alexander Lockhart Nelson Papers consist of materials related to Nelson's life as mathematician at Washington and Lee University; Nelson, Guy, Matthews, Archer, and Rennick family genealogy; an address by Nelson on his teaching experience during Robert E. Lee's presidency of Washington College; some family and miscellaneous correspondences; and photographs. Included and, perhaps, the primary aspect of the collection is Nelson's notebook used during his time as both student and professor of mathematics during the mid through late 19th century. The notebook also contains a range of content unrelated to his career as mathematician such as an extensive family tree, a journal/day book which includes details about weather from December 1880 through March 1881 in Lexington, Va.; a pencil drawing of his property and its improvements in downtown Lexington; and notes about payments made to a hired laborer for his Lexington home and grounds. There is an albumen photograph of a group of young girls of the Ann Smith Academy in Lexington – including an image of Nelson's daughter Evelyn. The collection is in two series – each formerly a unique accession from unique sources and different dates. The collections have recently been combined. Each series includes a control folder explaining its provenance. Series two includes a letter from WLU student Jack C. Desha in 1871 to his father Lucius Desha of Kentucky. In the letter Jack shares his travel experiences from Cincinnati, Ohio to Lexington, Va., including an overnight visit in Washington DC. Series two also includes student Randolph Preston's (WLU class of 1902) typescript reminiscence of his Washington and Lee University student experience fifty years earlier.

## Keywords

Genealogy

Virginia -- Lexington

College Students

Speeches, addresses, etc., American

Education -- Mathematics

Photographs

Personal Narratives

College Students

Correspondence

Weather

Washington College (Lexington, Va.)

Washington and Lee University

Washington College (Lexington, Va.)

Nelson family

Guy family

Archer family

Rennick family

Matthews Family

Ann Smith Academy

# Description of Subordinate Components

## Series 1

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14392

**Text** 1 (box)

**Language** English.

### Control folder

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14399

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

**Language** English.

### Scope and Contents

Synopsis and Analysis of A. L. Nelson Math Journal by Elizabeth Wolf including transcription of the non-math portions of the journal; a brief summary of an announcement in the Religious Herald section of the Lexington Gazette, Nov 21, 1889; a copy of an article from the online West Virginia Cyclopedia about mining in Royal, WV; a copy of the Miley carte de visite of A. L. Nelson.

## Genealogy

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14400

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Language** English.

### Math Problem 1

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14412

**Unit Date** 1880-06

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Language** English.

### Notice of Death

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14413

**Unit Date** 1882-08-05

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Language** English.

### Letter from Margaret M. Ratcliffe to A. L. Nelson

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14414

**Unit Date** 1893-12-11

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Language** English.

### Letter from R. M. Guy to A. L. Nelson

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14415

**Unit Date** 1903-11-16

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Biographical Notes on A. L. Nelson and Wm. Nelson**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14416

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Letter from "your cousin" Belle M. Guy to A. L. Nelson**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14417

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Genealogy Notes -- John Mathews and James Lockhart**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14418

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Genealogy Notes -- Matthews family**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14419

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Genealogy Diagram -- Matthews Family**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14420

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Genealogy Diagram -- Guy, Henry, Moore, Nelson Families**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14421

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Genealogy Notes -- Myers and Nelson Families**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14422

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Genealogy Diagram -- Robert Guy Family**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14423

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Math problems**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14401

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Letter from E. A. Armistead to A. L. Nelson**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14424

**Unit Date** 1906-04-20

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Pledged Math Paper, F. N. Snead**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14425

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Pledged Math Paper, F. R. Crawford**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14426

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Math Problem 2**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14427

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Example in Integral Calculus, No. 6, Page 131**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14428

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Math Problem 4**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14429

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Math Problem 6**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14430

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Examination, Intermediate Math**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14431

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Math Problem 7**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14432

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Working of Proof (2), page 111, Byerly's Int Cal**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14433

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Math Problem 8**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14434

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Math Problem 9**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14435

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Math Problem 10**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14436

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Math problem III (3)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14437

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Exam, Math II**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14438

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Math Problem 11**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14439

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Ex (1) and 146 Brierly Int Calculus**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14440

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Math problem V (5)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14441

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Math Problem 12**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14442

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Mathematics II, H. R. Morse**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14443

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Misc materials**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14402

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Math Problem 13**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14444

**Unit Date** 1882-12-22

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Nelson's Receipts for Clothing: Vest, Coat, Trousers**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14445

**Unit Date** 1897-04-01

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Math Problem 14**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14446

**Unit Date** 1909-03-04

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Letter to Douglas from Dad****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14447**Unit Date** 1926-07-01**Text** 1 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Language** English.**Math Problem 15****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14448**Text** 1 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Language** English.**Handwritten Excerpt from "The Road Not Taken"****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14449**Text** 1 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Language** English.**Transportation Schedule on Hotel Stationery****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14450**Text** 1 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Language** English.**Notebook****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14403**Text** 1 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Language** English.**Series 2****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14394**Text** 1 (box)**Language** English.**Control folder****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14404**Text** 1 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Language** English.**Scope and Contents**

Information about the Alexander N. Nelson Home on Preston Street; acquisition notes

**Letter from Jack Desha to "Dear Papa"****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14409**Unit Date** 1871-10-02**Text** 1 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Language** English.

**Address by Nelson to the Students at the University Chapel**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14405

**Unit Date** 1905-03-14

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Newspaper Clippings**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14406

**Unit Date** 1899-02

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

**Language** English.

**A Student at Washington and Lee University 50 Years Ago**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14407

**Unit Date** 1955-11

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 10 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Teenage girls in studio portrait**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14408

**Unit Date** 1884

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 11 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Photographs**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14410

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Lee Chapel Interior**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14452

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Recumbent Lee Statue**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14453

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Unidentified Photo**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14454

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Lithographs**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14411

**Text** 1 (box)

**Container** 13 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Lithograph of R. E. Lee, Hand-colored**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14455

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 13 (folder)

**Language** English.

**Lithograph of R. E. Lee, Discolored**

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/14456

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 13 (folder)

**Language** English.