

# Raiford, Rufus Livius, papers

Dr. Rufus Livius Raiford papers  
1891-1963,

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## Title Statement

Raiford, Rufus Livius, papersA Guide to the Dr. Rufus Livius Raiford papers 98.Dec.8

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## Profile Description

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

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

98.Dec.8

### Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/369

### Unit Date

1891-1963,

### Unit Date

1988

### Mixed Materials

1 (box)

### Mixed Materials

2 (box)

### Mixed Materials

3 (box)

### Mixed Materials

4 (box)

**Mixed Materials**

5 (box)

**Mixed Materials**

6 (box)

**Mixed Materials**

2 (N-Z) oversize (box)

**Mixed Materials**

Medium Images and Docs 4

**Language**

English

**Extent**

2.16 Linear Feet

**Repository**

VCU Health Sciences Library

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

The collection is without restrictions.

**Use Restrictions**

There are no restrictions.

**Acquisition Information**

Collection acquired by Katherine Smith, granddaughter of Rufus Livius Raiford and donated to Tompkins-McCaw Library.

**Preferred Citation**

Box/folder, Papers of Rufus Livius Raiford, 98/Dec/8, Special Collections and Archives, Health Sciences Library, Virginia Commonwealth University

## Biographical/Historical Information

Rufus Livius Raiford was born in the Corinth community of Southampton County, Virginia on November 17, 1880, and passed away on June 26, 1948. His early schooling was received at Corinth Academy, a private school operated by the Society of Friends. Later he attended Westtown Boarding School in Pennsylvania, from which he graduated in 1901. He then entered the University College of Medicine in Richmond, Virginia. He received his degree of Doctor of Medicine from that institution in 1906, and shortly thereafter passed the state examinations which licensed him to practice his profession.

On November 27, 1906, he married Lora K. Burgess. From this marriage were born two sons, Drs. Fletcher Raiford and Morgan Raiford. From 1906 to 1908, Raiford practiced medicine in his home community. Quickly Dr. Raiford was forced to work around many handicaps that faced rural doctors of the time. Things such as muddy roads, lack of modern conveniences, and lack of reliable transportation to name a few. In 1908 he built a home in the village of Sedley, about seven miles south of his old home. It was here that he began a modest clinic housed in his dwelling. This clinic was one of the first attempts by any physician to establish a clinic in a rural area.

In 1925 he opened a hospital in Franklin, Virginia that was known as the Raiford Memorial Hospital. The ever-growing needs for hospital service in Franklin and the surrounding community made necessary almost continuous expansion. This was made possible by substantial grants and other federal funds. It was at the Sedley Clinic and the Raiford Memorial Hospital that he began preaching and practicing the doctrine of preventive medicine and raising the health standards of people of both races in these areas. It was these efforts to provide equal medical care to all no matter their financial status or race that made him a pioneer and brought him national recognition.

## Scope and Content Information

The Rufus Livius Raiford Collection contains nearly 700 items. The collection is divided into six series: Personal Correspondence, Professional Papers, School Years, Genealogy and Local History, Photographs and Publications. The papers date from 1891-1963 with one biographical sketch of a family member, in the

genealogy and local history series, dating from 1988. Included with the collection are handwritten notes written by Raiford's granddaughter, the donor of the collection. These notes provide a good insight into certain aspects of the collection.

The largest series in this collection is the personal correspondence. It is arranged chronologically. The series consists primarily of letters written by Raiford and his wife to their son Fletcher while he was away at the Westtown School, the University of Richmond and the Medical College of Virginia between 1932 and 1937. These letters serve as weekly accounts of things going on at the Raiford Memorial Hospital, life in Franklin, and life during the Depression. They also illustrate many of the difficulties that were faced by Raiford in his attempt to establish a strong hospital and provide quality medical care in a rural area.

The professional papers include correspondence, patient accounts, physician visiting lists, information on the Raiford Memorial Hospital, and information on various conferences. This series contains letters from other professionals in the medical field, information on hospital business, and information on conferences. This series reflects many of the areas of concern and interest Raiford had for the hospital and his profession. It also shows the types of business he conducted over the years.

The school years series consists of matriculation cards of Rufus Raiford while at the University College of Medicine, YMCA booklets, commencement invitations and a small set of correspondence. Lastly the collection has three smaller series: genealogy and local history, photographs, and publications. The photographs are personal family images and shots of Raiford Memorial Hospital. Publications include articles written by Raiford and articles about Raiford and the hospital.

## Arrangement

Materials are arranged in six series and chronological therein.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Series I: Personal Correspondence

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6321

#### 1891-1908

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6327

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

#### 1906-1909

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6328

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

#### 1910-1917

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6329

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

#### 1919-1922

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6330

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

#### 1921-1922

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6331

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

#### September-November 1932

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6332

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

#### November-December 1932

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6333  
**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**January 1933**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6334  
**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Frebruary-March 1933**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6335  
**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**April-May 1933**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6336  
**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**September-October 1933**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6337  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**November-December 1933**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6338  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**January-February 1934**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6339  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**March-April 1934**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6340  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**May-September 1934**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6341  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**October-December 1934**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6342  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**January-February 1935**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6343  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**March-April 1935**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6344  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**May-June 1935**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6345  
**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)

**July-September 1935****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6346**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**January-February 1936****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6347**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**March-April 1936****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6348**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**May 1936****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6349**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**June-August 1937****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6350**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**1939****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6351**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**1945-1963****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6352**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Undated****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6353**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Series II: Professional Papers****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6322**Correspondence 1907-1909, 1923****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6354**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Correspondence 1944-47****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6355**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Correspondence 1948****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6356**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Raiford Memorial Hospital****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6357**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Patient Accounts**

**Patient Accounts****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6358**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Patient Accounts****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6359**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Physicians Visiting Lists****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6360**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Physicians Visiting Lists****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6361**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Notes and Journal****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6362**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)**Medical Society of Virginia****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6363**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)**Seaboard Medical Society****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6364**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)**Southern Rural Health Conference****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6365**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)**Bank Notes****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6366**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)**Medical Stamps****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6367**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)**Series III: School Years****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6323**Unit Date** 1901-1906**Correspondence 1902-1905****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6368**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)**Westtown Literary Union****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6369**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Young Men's Christian Association booklets**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6370

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Matriculation Cards**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6371

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Sketch Book**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6372

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Commencement Invitation**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6373

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**State Board of Medical Examiners**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6374

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Series IV: Genealogy and Local History**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6324

**Sedley**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6375

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Corinth Acadmey**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6376

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Black Creek Friends Meeting**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6377

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Biographical Sketch-Daniel Morgan Burgess**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6378

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Series V: Photographs**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6325

**Richmond 1900-1906**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6379

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Westtown School, Class of 1901**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6380

**Unit Date** 1901

**Mixed Materials** Medium Images and Docs 4

**B. L. Relford production 1906**

**K. L. Kairora graduation 1906**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6381

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Lora K. Burgess 1906**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6382

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Family Photos 1908-1926**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6383

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Raiford Memorial Hospital**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6384

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Personal Photos (Undated)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6385

**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)

**Series VI: Publications**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6326

**Virginia Medical Monthly, 1908-1946**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6386

**Mixed Materials** 6 (box)

**Hospital Management, April 1946**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6387

**Mixed Materials** 6 (box)

**Coronet, March 1948**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6388

**Mixed Materials** 6 (box)

**Hospitals, July 1948**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6389

**Mixed Materials** 6 (box)

**Sun Article, March 1988 and Leggett 1976**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6390

**Mixed Materials** 6 (box)

**Newspaper Clippings**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6391

**Mixed Materials** 6 (box)

**Newspaper Clippings**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/6392

**Mixed Materials** 6 (box)