

Marchant, H.C. letter to Creasy, R.W.

H.C. Marchant letter to R.W. Creasy

August 23, 1900

Title Statement

Marchant, H.C. letter to Creasy, R.W. Guide to the H.C. Marchant letter to R.W. Creasy MSS 16888

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 16888

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1767

Unit Date

August 23, 1900

Mixed Materials [X032668454]

BW 57 (box)

Container

001 (folder)

Language

English

Creator

Marchant, H.C. (Henry Clay), 1838-1910

Extent

0.03 Cubic Feet 1 letter-sized file folder

Condition Description

Fair. Evidence of water staining.

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Preferred Citation

MSS 16888, H.C. Marchant letter to R.W. Creasy, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical / Historical Description

Henry Clay Marchant was born in Charlottesville, Virginia on April 1, 1838 to John Adams and Delilah Shackelford Marchant. John Adams Marchant was a merchant and began to involve himself in manufacturing later in life. John put Henry to work in his factory enterprises at a young age, instilling within Henry a deep interest in entrepreneurship. In 1861, Henry joined the Twelfth Virginia Regiment, Mahone's Brigade, Huger's Division. He was shot through the left leg on the first day of the Seven Day's Battle surrounding Richmond in 1862. He was forced to walk on crutches for a year, rendering him unable to return to battle before the end of the war. Marchant returned to Charlottesville, where he established the Woolen Mills by 1868. By the 1870s, the Woolen Mills became a thriving manufacturing firm known for quality throughout Charlottesville and beyond. Its first president was Thomas Jefferson Randolph, a son of Thomas Jefferson and a close associate of Marchant. Marchant was the president of the H.C. Marchant Manufacturing Company, one-time president of the Woolen Mills, vice president of the People's National Bank, and president of the State Sunday School Association. He was married first to Elizabeth Whitehead of Petersburg, yielding five children together. He later married Fannie Bragg of Lunenburg County. Marchant died suddenly in Cincinnati on October 11, 1910 while on delegation at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. He is interred at the Riverview Cemetery in Charlottesville.

Sources

Azizi, Joseph. 2018. MSS 16353, Charlottesville Woolen Mills records, Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia. https://archives.lib.virginia.edu/repositories/uva-sc/resources/charlottesville_woolen_mills_records

Emory. 2009. Review of Fabric of History 171. Historic Woolen Mills. BlogSpot. April 1, 2009. <http://www.historicwoolenmills.org/labels/Henry%20Clay%20Marchant.html>.

"Henry Clay Marchant." "Find a Grave" n.d. Ancestry Accessed May 1, 2025.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60525/records/109101065>. <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60525/records/109101065>

Content Description

This collection contains one holograph letter dated August 23, 1900 from H.C. Marchant of Charlottesville to R. W. Creasy of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The letter is written on Charlottesville Woolen Mills stationery. The letter addresses Creasy's interest in employment which Marchant seems hesitant to give. Marchant requests references that can speak to Creasy's conduct and to his to his habits since leaving Charlottesville.

Keywords

Charlottesville (Va.) -- History