

A Guide to the Micajah Woods Papers

Micajah Woods Papers 1847-1926

1847-1926

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

10279

Language

English

Collector

Mrs. Thomas H. Fox

Extent

ca. 760 items

Repository

University of Virginia. Library. Special Collections Dept.

Alderman Library
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
USA

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

The collection was given to the library by Mrs. Thomas H. Fox on 24 April 1978.

Funding Note

Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

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Biographical Sketch

Micajah Woods, the son of John Rodes Woods and Sabina Lewis Stewart Creigh, was born on May 17, 1844, at "Holkham," his parents' residence near Ivy Depot, in Albemarle County, Virginia. The eldest son of a family of ten children, he received his early education at Lewisburg Academy, the military school at Charlottesville, and the Bloomfield Academy. In August 1861, at the age of seventeen, he joined the Confederate Army as aide-de-camp on the staff of General John B. Floyd in West Virginia. He spent the winter of 1861-1862 at the University of Virginia, being under military age. In May 1862, Woods joined the Second Virginia Cavalry (Co. K) and fought under "Stonewall" Jackson at Port Republic, under J. E. B. Stuart in the Northern Virginia raids, and in the battles of Second Manassas, Crampton's Gap, and Sharpsburg.

In October 1862, he was appointed first lieutenant of cavalry in the Virginia State Line, recently organized by General Floyd. He spent the winter of 1862-1863 involved in campaigns in West Virginia and Kentucky. From April 1863, to the close of the war he served as first lieutenant in Jackson's (Virginia) Horse Artillery, participating in the battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, and the battles of New Market, Second Cold Harbor, Lynchburg, Fisher's Hill, and Monocacy.

After the war he returned to the University of Virginia where he studied for three sessions, receiving a Bachelor of Law degree in June, 1868. He began his practice in Charlottesville; and, in 1870 was elected commonwealth attorney, a position he held until his death in 1911. In 1881 Woods was elected and commissioned captain of the Monticello Guard, and commanded the company at the Yorktown Centennial in October of that year. In 1889, the John Bowie Strange Camp, United Confederate Veterans, was organized with Woods as commander. In 1909 he served as president of the Virginia State Bar Association.

On June 9, 1874, Woods married Matilda ("Tillie") Minor Morris, the second daughter of Edward Watts Morris and Matilda E. Coleman of "Clazemont," Hanover County, Virginia. They had five children: Edward Morris, b. March 17, 1875; Sallie Stuart, b. June 5, 1876, m. April 28, 1910 to William James Rucker of St. James, Missouri; Matilda (Maud) Coleman, b. August 23, 1877, d. August 24, 1910; Mary Watts, b. August 9, 1880, m. February 13, 1908 to Frank Lupton of Birmingham, Alabama; and Lettie Page, b. October 23, 1888, m. June 1, 1921 to Martin E. Rehfuess. Edward Morris Woods, the couple's only son, disappeared after 1902 and apparently died sometime before 1911. The Woods' daughters were renowned for their beauty; Maud Coleman Woods was one of the two women chosen to typify the beauty of North and South America on the official emblem of the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo in 1901.

Scope and Content

This collection, consisting of ca. 760 items, (5 Hollinger boxes, 22-1/2 linear shelf inches), includes the papers of the Woods Family of Albemarle County, Virginia, from 1847 to 1926. Correspondence comprises the major part of the collection and deals with a variety of subjects. The correspondence between Micajah Woods and his parents during the Civil War includes detailed descriptions of the campaigns and battles in which he fought, among them the battles of Port Republic, Second Manassas, Crampton's Gap, Sharpsburg, New Market, Second Cold Harbor, Lynchburg, Fisher's Hill, and Monocacy. The men under whom he served included "Stonewall" Jackson, J. E. B. Stuart, and John Floyd. A portion of the post-Civil War correspondence regards Civil War Veterans' Reunions and recollections of battles and campaigns.

The correspondence between members of the Woods Family mainly concerns family matters such as the 1864 execution by Union soldiers of David S. Creigh, Micajah Woods' uncle, and the selection of Woods' daughter, Maud Coleman Woods, as the first Miss America in 1901. Correspondence regarding the Pleasants-Ritchie duel of 1847 includes an eye-witness description. A separate section of the correspondence deals with genealogy, principally that of the Woods, Buster, Rodes, and McDowell families. The major family correspondents are Micajah Woods; his parents, Dr. John Rodes Woods and Sabina Lewis Stewart Creigh Woods; Woods' wife, Matilda ("Tillie") Minor Morris; and his children--Morris, Sallie, Maud, Mary Watts, and Lettie.

The papers are of several kinds and deal with numerous topics. There are two Civil War diaries belonging to Micajah Woods, one entitled "Sketches of the Campaign of General Floyd," Woods' class notes, his 1864 account book, certificates, and notes regarding genealogy. There is an article written by Micajah Woods about Abraham Lincoln and copies of several speeches delivered by Micajah Woods. These include an address to the Augusta Memorial Association in Staunton, Virginia; "Woman and Vacation," which was delivered at the Albemarle Baptist Female Institute in 1890; an address he made at the 1895 Great Confederate Reunion in Lewisburg, West Virginia; the memo of a speech given before "colored people"; a speech to the Washington Society of the University of Virginia; and a copy of the address given by Woods before the Virginia State Bar Association in 1909 entitled "The Necessity for General Culture in the Training of the Lawyer." Also included in the manuscripts section are two short biographical sketches of Micajah Woods, a Muster Roll of Jackson's Battery of Horse Artillery, and a ten-page statement dictated by General John Floyd detailing the acts of B. A. Witcher and his band of followers during the Civil War.

A four-page printed biographical sketch of Micajah Woods can be found in the printed section along with several programs and memorials. The collection also includes nine scrapbooks primarily containing newspaper clippings, and dating from 1882 to 1926. One of the scrapbooks deals with the trial of ex-Charlottesville mayor Samuel McCue for the murder of his wife (at which Micajah Woods was the prosecuting attorney). There is also a small collection of prints and memorabilia, principally related to the Civil War.

Organization

The collection is divided into four series: correspondence, manuscripts, printed material, and scrapbooks. The correspondence is arranged chronologically and is divided into two sections: general correspondence and correspondence regarding genealogy. Manuscripts include speeches, diaries, biographical sketches, genealogical notes, notes regarding the Civil War, and an account book. Manuscripts and printed material are arranged alphabetically. A small collection of prints and memorabilia appears at the end of the collection. A Masonic apron, and 30 Civil War medals were removed from the collection, and are stored elsewhere in the department. (Separation sheets have been filed for these items.) The letterbooks of Micajah Woods' law practice can be found in accession number 1444 and an additional scrapbook dated 1895-1902 can be found in accession number 1379.

Container List

General Correspondence

Correspondence re Pleasants-Ritchie Duel (1846)

Unit Date 1847, 1887, 1897

Container Box 1

Correspondence of Woods Family

Unit Date 1851, 1855, ca. 1855

Container Box 1

John R. Woods to Micajah Woods

Unit Date 1854, 1855, 1859

Container Box 1

Correspondence of Micajah Woods and John and Sabina Woods

Unit Date 1861 Mar-Oct

Container Box 1

Extent 2 folders

Correspondence of Woods Family

Unit Date 1861-1864, ca. 1864

Container Box 1

Correspondence of Micajah Woods and John and Sabina Woods

Unit Date 1862-1863

Container Box 1

Extent 5 folders

Correspondence and Papers re Execution of David S. Creigh (1864 June)

Unit Date 1863-1865

Container Box 1

Correspondence of Micajah Woods and John and Sabina Woods

Unit Date 1864

Container Box 1

Extent 2 folders

Correspondence of Woods Family

Unit Date 1866-1892

Container Box 1

Extent 3 folders

Correspondence re Death of John Rodes Woods

Unit Date 1885 July

Container Box 1

Correspondence of Woods Family

Unit Date 1896-1899

Container Box 1

Correspondence of Woods Family

Unit Date 1900

Container Box 2

Correspondence re Portrait of Maud Woods

Unit Date 1900-1901

Container Box 2

Correspondence of Woods Family

Unit Date 1901

Container Box 2

Extent 3 folders

Correspondence re Masonic Apron belonging to Thomas Creigh

Unit Date 1901

Container Box 2

Correspondence re Edward Morris Woods

Unit Date 1901-1908

Container Box 2

Correspondence re Death of Sabina Lewis Stewart Creigh Woods

Unit Date 1902 Nov

Container Box 2

Correspondence of Woods Family

Unit Date 1902-1903

Container Box 2

Extent 2 folders

Correspondence re Jackson's Battery of Horse Artillery

Unit Date 1903-1906, 1910

Container Box 2

Correspondence of Woods Family

Unit Date 1904

Container Box 2

Extent 2 folders

Correspondence of Woods Family

Unit Date 1905-1908

Container Box 3

Extent 10 folders

Correspondence re Virginia Bar Association Meeting (1909 Aug 10-12)

Unit Date 1908-1909

Container Box 3

Correspondence of Woods Family

Unit Date 1909

Container Box 3

Extent 2 folders

Correspondence of Woods Family

Unit Date 1910-1911, n. d.

Container Box 4

Extent 5 folders

Correspondence re Genealogy

Correspondence re Genealogy

Unit Date 1881-1910, n. d.

Container Box 4

Extent 13 folders

Manuscripts

"Abraham Lincoln--An Estimate of Him" by Micajah Woods

Unit Date 1909 Feb

Container Box 5

Account Book of Micajah Woods

Unit Date 1864

Container Box 5

Biographical Sketch of Micajah Woods and Mary Watts Woods for Louisville Confederate Veterans Reunion

Unit Date 1900 May 30-Jun 2

Container Box 5

Biography of Micajah Woods

Unit Date 1906

Container Box 5

Certificates belonging to Micajah Woods

Unit Date 1868, 1875

Container Box 5

Class Notes: Senior Math and Tacitus Annales, Book III

Unit Date 1862, 1866

Container Box 5

Diary: "Sketches of the Campaign of General Floyd"

Unit Date 1861

Container Box 5

Diary of Micajah Woods

Unit Date 1864

Container Box 5

Last Order Given Lieutenant Micajah Woods During Civil War

Unit Date 1865 Apr 14

Container Box 5

"A list of my friends and relatives to write to if taken prisoner"

Unit Date ca. 1861-1864

Container Box 5

"In Memory of Captain Micajah Woods" by Belle Wright

Unit Date [post 1911 Mar 14]

Container Box 5

Muster Roll of Jackson's Battery of Horse Artillery

Unit Date ca. 1864

Container Box 5

Notes re Genealogy

Unit Date 1895, 1903, n. d.

Container Box 5

Extent 2 folders

Resolutions Passed by John Bowie Strange Camp Confederate Veterans

Unit Date 1904 Jan 12

Container Box 5

Speeches Delivered by Micajah Woods

Unit Date 1883, 1890, 1892, ca. 1897, 1909, n. d.

Container Box 5

"Statement of Outrages Committed by B. A. Witcher" dictated by General Floyd

Unit Date 1863

Container Box 5

Unsettled Claims of Warner Woods' Estate

Unit Date 1910

Container Box 5

Miscellaneous Notes

Unit Date 1866, n. d.

Container Box 5

Printed Material

Biographical Sketch of Micajah Woods

Unit Date n. d.

Container Box 5

Newspaper Clippings

Unit Date 1897, 1899, 1902, 1904

Container Box 5

Programs and Memorials

Unit Date 1897, 1899, 1902, 1903, 1905

Container Box 5

6th Annual Reunion United Confederate Veterans

Unit Date 1896

Container Box 5

Virginia State Bar Association, including Speech Delivered by Micajah Woods

Unit Date 1909 Aug 10-12

Container Box 5

Miscellaneous

Prints of Micajah Woods

Unit Date ca. 1903

Memorabilia

Unit Date n.d.

Scrapbooks

11 Scrapbooks, primarily containing newspaper clippings

Unit Date 1882-1926

