

A Guide to the Childress Family Papers

Childress Family Papers 1823-1930

1823-1930

A Collection in the Special Collections Department 6435-b
Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library
1997

History

Processed by: Special Collections Department Staff
Date Completed: 1997
Encoded by: Elizabeth Slomba

Title Statement

A Guide to the Childress Family Papers

Subtitle: Childress family.

Collection: 6435-b

Author: Processed by Special Collections Dept. staff; machine-readable finding aid created by Elizabeth Slomba

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

Publication Statement

File size: 15 Kilobytes

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Publisher: University of Virginia Library

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from WordPerfect. [Date of source: 1997.]

Language Usage: Description is in English.

Revision Description

Feb 17, 2004 PUBLIC "-//University of Virginia::Library::Special Collections Dept.//TEXT (US::ViU::00700::Childress Family Papers)//EN" "ViU00700.sgm" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).

Feb 27, 2004 converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl

Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

6435-b

Language

English

Collector

Atcheson L. Hench

Extent

317 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

This collection was given to the Library by Atcheson L. Hench of Charlottesville, Virginia, on December 14, 1961.

Funding Note

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Preferred Citation

Childress Family Papers, Accession 6435-b, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

Scope and Content

This collection of 317 items, 1823-1930, contains chiefly letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress. Fannie was originally from "Caroline" in Spotsylvania County, but after her marriage to J. Waller Childress she moved around quite frequently.

Letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress from her relatives are mainly concerned with family affairs. One of February 19, 1872 mentions the marriage of Aurelius Roseto Bettie Bearyley on January 20. Another mentions the marriage of Fannie's nephew Thomas Durrett (born September 23, 1873) to Jessie Frazer on November 14, 1893 (October 19, 1893).

Letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress from her sister Margaret J. Tompkins Childress Durett are mostly concerned with family relations. A number of the letters refer to Margaret's experience raising chickens which was not very profitable for her; from the references Fannie also engaged in this occupation. In addition, a number of the letters refer to the poor health of Margaret and her family. Two letters speak of the marriage of Margaret's daughter Fannie Durett to William Tribble in January 1900 (January 5 and February 21, 1900.) Margaret and her husband were greatly upset at this marriage, but later restored normal relations. A n.d. letter mentions the death of Margaret's husband and the pain it caused.

Letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress from her husband J. Waller Childress are courtship letters. They met on November 2, 1871 and were married November 6, 1872. During most of that period they did not see each other.

Letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress from her sons, Robert Waller Childress and Clifford Childress, are mostly requests for their mother to do something for them.

Letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress from Dr. James B. Manson are love letters. James was originally from Georgia, and met Fannie during the Civil War. Manson, a married man with one child, became quite infatuated with Fannie. The early letters mention Sherman's drive through Georgia; letters of January 9 and March 10, 1870 mention the postwar conditions of farmers in Georgia. A January 13, 1871 letter mentions a black revolt and the Ku Klux Klan, the success of the Democrats in congressional elections of 1870, and the Franco-Prussian War.

Letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress from her cousin James Tompkins were written during the Civil War. However, very little of interest was discussed. One, September 26, 1862, mentions all the people in his regiment that have been killed or wounded.

Miscellaneous letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress contain two letters referring to Robert E. Lee, and two letters, 1868-1869, to Thomas Garland of Albemarle County from Henry Horatio Wells and Ale[xander?] Rivesre

appointments and political amnesty.

Miscellaneous Papers of the Terrell family contain epitaphs for two children who died, Junius Smith Tyler Terrell on August 22, 1833 and Lucy Ann Terrell on November 1, 1837.

Business Papers contain bills and receipts and some letters concerning the sale of property owned by Frances C. Marshall after her death.

Miscellaneous material contains four photographs and an obituary of Fannie Tompkins Childress.

Container List

Letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress from relatives

Unit Date 1868-1893, n.d.

Letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress from her sister Margaret J. Tompkins Durrett

Unit Date 1867-1900, n.d.

Extent (2 folders)

Letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress from her husband J. Waller Childress

Unit Date 1871-1872

Letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress from her sons

Unit Date 1899-1901, n.d.

Letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress from Dr. James B. Manson

Unit Date 1864-1871, n.d.

Letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress from her cousin James Tompkins

Unit Date 1861-1867

Miscellaneous Letters to Fannie Tompkins Childress

Unit Date 1862-1874

Letters to Margaret Childress from her Aunt Margaret J. Tompkins Durrett

Unit Date 1900-1902, n.d.

Miscellaneous Letters

Unit Date 1847-1930, n.d.

Miscellaneous Papers of the Terrell Family

Unit Date 1823-1867, n.d.

Business Papers

Unit Date 1843-1915

Miscellaneous

Unit Date n.d.

