Empie, Adam Papers

Adam Empie Papers

1811-2004

Title Statement

Empie, Adam PapersGuide to the Adam Empie Papers Mss. 65 Em7

Author: Special Collections Staff.

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections Research Center

William & Mary Special Collections Research Center
Earl Gregg Swem Library
400 Landrum Dr
Williamsburg, Virginia
Business Number: 757-221-3090
spcoll@wm.edu
URL: https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections

2007-08-01

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-10-15 07:02:08 -0400.

Language Usage: English

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID
Mss. 65 Em7

Unit ID
/repositories/2/resources/7765

Unit Date
1811-2004

Unit Date
1811-1850

Language
English

Creator
Empie, Adam, 1785-1860

Extent
1.00 Linear Feet

Repository
Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open to all researchers. Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations, such as the Virginia Public Records Act (Code of Virginia. § 42.1-76-91); and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-3705.5). Confidential material may include, but is not limited to, educational, medical, and personnel records. If sensitive material is found in this collection, please contact a staff member immediately. The disclosure of personally identifiable information pertaining to a living individual may have legal consequences for which the College of William and Mary assumes no responsibility.

Conditions Governing Use:

Before reproducing or quoting from any materials, in whole or in part, permission must be obtained from the Special Collections Research Center, and the holder of the copyright, if not Swem Library.

Acquisition Information:

Gift, 82 items, of Adam E. Potts on 02/13/1959. Gift, 3 items, of Mrs. Adam E. Potts in 12/1969. Mss. 1979.13 gift of Ralph James. Acquisition information for material received after 7/13/2009 is available by consulting a Special Collections Research Center staff member.

Processing Information:

Mss. 2010.360 was accessioned as part of the backlog by Steven Bookman, University Archives Specialist, in June 2010. Mss. 1979.13 processed by Lisa Sparks Carpenter, American Studies Intern, in November 2010. Acc. 2011.710 accessioned and minimally processed by Steven Bookman, University Archives Specialist, in December 2011.

Preferred Citation:

Adam Empie Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical Information:

Adam Empie was born September 5, 1785 in Schenectady, New York. He was educated at Union College in Schenectady. He served St. George's Church in Hempstead on Long Island, NY and St. James Parish, Wilmington. He was chaplain and professor at the United States Military Academy. He was president of the College of William and Mary, 1827-1836. He resigned to be rector of St. James Episcopal Church, Richmond.

See the SCRC Wiki for more information about Adam Empie: http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/Adam_Empie.

Scope and Contents

Papers, 1821-1979, of and concerning Adam Empie, the president of the College of William and Mary and his family. Includes account book, 1829-1831, of Adam Empie and copy of his will as well as four letters, undated, from Sarah Moore Grimke to Anna Eliza (Wright) Empie as well as a commonplace book, undated; poems; engravings; flower illustrations, sketches and silhouettes; and prayers.

The addition, Mss. 1979.13, includes papers of the Rev. Dr. Adam Empie's descendants, most prominently of Warren Seymour Lurty, Confederate captain, prisoner of war, and US District Attorney of western Virginia from 1877-1882.

The addition, Mss. Acc. 2010.360, contains one letter of July 20, 1847 written by former College of William and Mary President Adam Empie sending his condolences for not being able to accept an invitation.

The addition, Mss. Acc. 2011.707, contains papers of and relating to Adam Empie, twelfth president of the College of William and Mary. The bulk of the collection consists of biographical information about Adam Empie. While most of the material consists of extracts and copies from official records and correspondence, there are a few original documents, including a Baccalaureate Sermon by Empie in 1832, as well as a letter from Rector John Tyler verifying he had administered the Oath of Office to Empie in 1828.

Separated Materials:

Mss. Acc. 2011.707 was previously part of the University Archives Faculty-Alumni File Collection and was added to this collection on 12/15/2011.

Keywords

Account books

Engravings (Prints)
Poems
Silhouettes
College of William and Mary--History--19th century
College of William and Mary--Presidents
Episcopal Church--Virginia--Clergy--19th century
Universities and Colleges--Virginia--Faculty

Custodial History:

Acc. 2011.707 was previously part of the University Archives Faculty-Alumni File Collection and was made part of this collection on 12/15/2011.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence between President A. D. Chandler and Colonl A. E. Potts

Unit ID id16098

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268372

Unit Date 1956 January

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Correspondence between President A. D. Chandler and Colonel A. E. Potts regarding a gift of items which belonged to Dr. Adam Empie, President of the College of William and Mary, 1827-36.

Newsclipping

Unit ID id16099

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268373

Unit Date 1955 October 9

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Richmond Times-Dispatch news clipping. Regarding St. James' Episcopal Church, Richmond, mentioning Dr. Empie's connection with that church.

Newsclipping

Unit ID id16100

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268374

Unit Date 1934 May 6

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2a (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Richmond Times-Dispatch news clipping. Regarding oil portrait Adam Empie given to Bruton Parish Church.

Newsclipping

Unit ID id16101

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268375

Unit Date 1932 May 22

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2b (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Newport News Daily Press news clipping. Biographical sketch of Adam Empie.

Biographical Information

Unit ID id16102

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268376

Unit Date Undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Typescript giving biographical details of Dr. Empie.

Personal note in Dr. Empie's hand

Unit ID id16103

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268377

Unit Date 1821 March 12

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Note in Dr. Empie's hand to Mr. and Mrs. Woosten asking them to accept an article as a token of affection.

Journal

Unit ID id16104

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268378

Unit Date 1829-1831

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Williamsburg. Journal in Dr. Empie's hand containing memoranda and notes of accounts. Gives salary from William and Mary College and benefits pertaining to position. Mentions the receipt of two loans from the Bursar of the College totalling $800. Also mentions receiving a trunk of books from Mrs. Avey to be appropriated as he pleased and possibly given to Church Library. Mention also of receipt of $400 from Mr. and Mrs. Woosten.

Will of Adam Empie

Unit ID id16105

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268379

Unit Date 1856 June 23

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5a (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Contemporary copy of will of Adam Empie.

Religious Sermons

Unit ID id16106

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268380

Unit Date Undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Three pages of notes for religious sermons in Dr. Empie's hand.

Letter from W.M. Atkinson, to Rev'd. A. Empie

Unit ID id16107

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268381

Unit Date Undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Letter from W. M. Atkinson, Raleigh, to Rev'd. A. Empie. Acknowledgement of Dr. Empie's inability to undertake some unspecified work previously agreed upon.

Four letters from Sarah M. Grimke to Mrs. Anna Eliza Empie

Unit ID id16108

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268382

Unit Date Undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Four letters from Sarah M. Grimke to Mrs. Anna Eliza Empie. Signature of two letters illegible but undoubtedly by the same hand. Personal letters. One mentions some embroidery for the Society and the dispatch of a box of Bibles and tracts. Mention in one letter of her school for Negroes.

Poems and letters addressed to Mrs. Empie

Unit ID id16109

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268383

Unit Date Undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Poems and letters addressed specifically to Mrs. Empie. Signatures include Mrs. Empie's sister Caroline, A.S. Swann, Eliza Ann Gautier, and (Mrs. Homan?). Two of the poems initialled E. G. G. and one initialled E.

Miscellaneous collection of poems by various authors

Unit ID id16110

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268384

Unit Date Undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Miscellaneous collection of poems all in differrent hands, only one signed-Anna Louisa Campbell.

Manuscript containing religious text and recipes

Unit ID id16111

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268385

Unit Date 1831 January

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Manuscript volume, in two unknown hands. Religious text in one half of notebook, receipes in the other half with list of household articles dated 1831 January.

3 manuscript prayers

Unit ID id16112

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268386

Unit Date Undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Three manuscript prayers.

Engravings

Unit ID id16113

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268387

Unit Date Undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Miscellaneous collection of engravings apparently cut from books, most of them very badly stained.

Miscellaneous collection of aquatints, flower illustrations, silhouettes and pencil sketches

Unit ID id16114

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268388

Unit Date Undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

One pencil sketch of a woman's head, signed Williamson. One silhouette of a girl's head, inscribed, cut by M. Honeywell. Still life addressed to Mis A. C. Empie from her friend I. Williamson.

Condolence Letter Written by Adam Empie

Unit ID id71405

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268389

Unit Date 1847 July 20

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Mss. Acc. 2010.360

Scope and Contents

One letter written by former College of William and Mary President Adam Empie sending his regrets for not being able to accept an invitation.

Biographical Information on Adam Empie

Unit ID id126261

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268390

Unit Date 1911-2004

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Mss. Acc. 2011.707

Scope and Contents

Biographical Information on Adam Empie.

Biographical Information on Adam Empie

Unit ID id126262

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268391

Unit Date 1811-1846

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Mss. Acc. 2011.707

Scope and Contents

Biographical Information on Adam Empie.

Correspondence, Certificate & Badges

Unit ID id78630

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268392

Unit Date 1859-1979

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Mss. 1979.13

Scope and Contents

These family papers focus on the Rev. Dr. Adam Empie's descendants, including two letters to his daughter Mrs. James Sheppard and a transcript of his genealogy from his family Bible. Items are as follows. Letter from Thomas A. Graves, Jr., President of the College of William and Mary to Ralph James, Sr. regarding his donation of what are now the Adam Empie Papers. Notes from vestry meeting of 1860 November 13 on death of the Rev. Dr. Empie with a letter to his daughter Mrs. Sheppard. Newspaper clipping from the Newport News Daily Press, 1960 March 20, regarding nineteenth-century silhouettes of four presidents of the College of William and Mary (William Holland Wilmer, Adam Empie, John Augustine Smith, and John Bracken), purchased in a New York antique shop and put on display in the campus library. Transcript of the family records from the family Bible of Rev. Adam Empie made 1935 April 21. Bible owned by Major Adam Empie Potts. Letter and envelope addressed to Mrs. James Sheppard of Richmond, Virginia. Dated 1859 May 1 from "Bro. Will" of Waterford, Mississippi.

Warren Seymour Lurty correspondence

Unit ID id78635

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268393

Unit Date 1865-1895

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Scope and Contents

Warren Seymour Lurty, uncle of Adam Empie Potts, served as a captain in the Confederate army over the Virginia Horse Artillery Battery, which was involved in the Shenandoah Valley campaign. The battery was nearly annihilated and Lurty was captured at Ninevah, Virginia in 1864 and was a prisoner of war at Fort Delaware. Lurty served as a lawyer before and after the Civil War. He was US District Attorney of western Virginia from 1877-1882.

This folder, which mainly consists of correspondence, includes Civil War military documents and letters of recommendation written for Lurty as he reentered the practice of law after the Civil War.

The folder contains the following papers:

Letter to Lurty from Lieutenant Halyburton on behalf of General Jubal Anderson Early expressing disapproval of Lurty's application to acquire horses and approval of Lurty's moving camp to Fishersville or Waynesboro, Virginia. 1864 October 8.

Letter from Hon. W. T. Willey, U. S. Senate, War Department, Washington City, 1865 January 26, requesting a prisoner exchange.

Printed and singed copy of loyalty oath taken by Lurty upon his release from Fort Delaware, 1865 June 17.

Letters of recommendation for Lurty as he seeks to recommence practicing law from W. P. Cooper, U.(?) M. Turner, James M. Jackson, and Gro. W. Jackson, who writes to affirm Lurty's relation to Stonewall Jackson, 1865 October.

Two 1877 letters recommending the reappointment of Lurty as U. S. District Attorney of western Virginia: one to President Rutherford B. Hayes, 1877, the other from Senator John F. Lewis to Hon. O.(?) P. Morton.

Letters of introduction for Lurty from William Pope Harrison to the Hon. B. H. Hill, U.S. Senate, and to Hon. Joseph E. Brown, U.S. Senate. Both letters are dated 1881 March 15.

Letter to President Chester A. Arthur recommending the reappointment of Lurty as U. .S. District Attorney of western Virginia from the members of the bar of Carroll County, Virginia: Norman Staley(?), Commonwealth attorney, G. B. Wiley, R. M. Brown, Walter Pendleton, Garland Hale, and Walter S. Tipton(?), 1882.

Draft of a speech commemorating the Civil War, 1885.

The envelope dated 1895 January 15 bears two inscriptions: "the $10 note is my first fee as atty in Washington in 1892 –Seymour" and a verse to his "best earthly friend"." The accompanying note seems to be a marriage proposal and references a gift of a ring.

Typed note to Lurty signed by William McKinley, dated 1896 April 28 on letterhead from his home in Canton, Ohio. This note was written to congratulate Lurty on his selection as "Elector-at-large" and thank him for his support in McKinley's presidential campaign, which was underway during 1896.

Photocopy of military order dated 1866(?) January 12 removing any "person having served in the Rebel Armies" from the "Public grounds of Fortress Monroe."

Empty envelope from State-Planters Bank & Trust Co. labeled "Lurty Papers, Uncle of Adam E. Potts".

Joseph S. Potts certificate and badges

Unit ID id78642

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268394

Unit Date 1888

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Mss. 1979.13

Scope and Contents

Certificate from the Columbian Democratic Club, certifying that Joseph S. Potts' election as delegate to the Convention of the National League of Democratic Clubs, 1888 June 14. Badge for the Richmond, Virginia Delegation of the Baltimore Convention of the Columbian Democratic Club, 1888 July 4. Seal attached to black cloth. The faded seal reads "Richmond Public Schools."

Adam Empie Letter to Eliphalet Nott

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/464789

Unit Date 1828 March 31

Mixed materials 2 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Language English

Creator Empie, Adam, 1785-1860

Biographical / Historical

Empie was an alumnus of Union College.

Scope and Contents

Empie writes from Williamsburg, Virginia, to Rev. Doctor Eliphalet Nott, a Presbyterian minister and president of Union College in Schenectady, New York. Empie asks for a copy of Union College laws, course of studies, and textbooks, as he is interested in "different literary seminaries." He also promises to call on Nott when he visits New York "next summer."

Keywords

Course work

College presidents

College of William and Mary--Presidents