

# A Guide to the Mary Greiner Papers, 1892-1912

Mary Greiner Papers 1892-1912  
1892-1912

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A Collection in Special Collections, Kegley Library 1997.6  
Special Collections, Kegley Library, Wytheville Community College  
2011

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## History

**Processed by:** Cathy Carlson Reynolds

## Title Statement

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**Collection:** 1997.6

**Author:** Cathy Carlson Reynolds

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## Profile Description

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**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Revision Description

**2013-11-21** Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

### Collection Number

1997.6

### Language

English

### Physical Characteristics

7 items.

### Repository

Special Collections, Kegley Library

## Administrative Information

### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open to research.

### **Use Restrictions**

There are no restrictions.

### **Acquisition Information**

Purchased in 1997.

### **Preferred Citation**

Mary Greiner Papers, Mss. Collection 1997.6, Kegley Library, Wytheville Community College, Wytheville, VA

## **Biographical Information**

Mary E. Greiner (1876-1959) was the daughter of Rev. John Bryson Greiner (1841-1917) and Mattie C. Stevens Greiner (1844-1931). A prominent Lutheran minister, Greiner and his wife had four other children including Dr. Albert Bryson Greiner, Mattie Louise Greiner (1882-1949), Etta Mae Greiner, and Margie Greiner.

Ordained in 1870, Rev. Greiner served congregations from Botetourt to Washington counties in Virginia until his death in 1917. Much of his pastorate was served at Grace and St. Paul's Lutheran churches in Rural Retreat, Wythe County. From 1888 to 1904 he preached at Grace while from May 1905 to December 1907 he ministered at St. Paul's.

The entire Greiner family also was involved in educational endeavors. Dr. Alfred Bryson Greiner probably graduated with a medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia while his sisters Mary and Margie taught at Hawkins Chapel School in Rural Retreat. Their father supervised Hawkins Chapel from 1892 to 1898. Mary oversaw the preparatory department while Margie instructed youngsters in art. Previously, Rev. Greiner and his wife both taught at Marion College; he taught Latin and mathematics while she demonstrated the art of "wax works" to young ladies.

Evidently Mary either attended or taught at Elizabeth College in Charlotte while Margie continued teaching at the Hawkins Chapel School. However, by November 1899, Mary returned home to Rural Retreat. All his daughters remained with Rev. Greiner and his wife, moving to Damascus in 1914. Rev. Greiner suffered a stroke while preaching and died a week later on 7 May 1917.

## **Scope and Content**

The Papers consist of six letters written to Mary E. Greiner from 1892 to 1912 and one written in 1895 to her mother Mattie C. Stevens Greiner.

## **Contents List**

### **Folder 1. Correspondence. 1892-1912**

#### **Letter. L.E.S. [unknown], Howe, Texas to Mary Greiner, Marion, Virginia. 15 March 1892.**

##### **Extent**

4 p.; enclosure, newspaper clipping of poem.

##### **Scope and Content**

Re: photographs sent to Mary Greiner and Rachel [unknown]; weather in Texas; Eva McLynn.

#### **Letter. Arthur [unknown], Bonsack, Virginia to Mary Greiner, Marion, Virginia. 21 July 1892.**

##### **Extent**

3 p.

##### **Scope and Content**

Re: visits to Durham, North Carolina, Blue Ridge Springs and Roanoke, Virginia; the relocation of the Greiners to Rural Retreat, Virginia.

**Letter. Kate S. Kiser, Little Mountain, South Carolina to Mattie C. Stevens Greiner, Rural Retreat, Virginia. 22 February 1895.**

**Extent**

6 p.

**Scope and Content**

Re: illness of her baby and mother; weather in South Carolina; romantic disappointments of Mary E. Greiner; molasses pie; Hawkins Chapel School; Mary Heldreth; Mrs. Baughman; Annie Repass.

**Letter. John Bryson Greiner, Rural Retreat, Virginia to Mary Greiner, Bland, Virginia. 11 March 1897.**

**Extent**

2 p.

**Scope and Content**

Re: Mary Greiner's 21st birthday; her siblings Alfred Greiner and Margie Greiner; John Thomas of Marion and tenant for Greiner's Marion house; Margie Greiner teaching at Hawkins Chapel School.

**Letter. Mattie C. Stevens Greiner, Rural Retreat, Virginia to Mary Greiner, Bland, Virginia. 16 February 1899.**

**Extent**

5 p.

**Scope and Content**

Re: sewing for her children; admiration of handmade suit made by Mr. Richardson of Richmond, Virginia; weather; Margie Greiner's husband Frank and new job as traveling salesman for Hardman House in Bristol, Virginia; Hattie Buck Candler and new son; Mrs. Marco Davis and new son.

**Letter. Addie [unknown], Pelzer, South Carolina to Mary Greiner, Rural Retreat, Virginia. 26 November 1899.**

**Extent**

8 p.

**Scope and Content**

Re: difficulty of nursing her sick brothers; departure of family cook; thanks for gift of books.

**Letter. Frank H. Pitman, Hotel Cadillac, New York, New York to Mary E. Greiner, Rural Retreat, Virginia. 22 July 1912.**

**Extent**

8 p.

**Scope and Content**

Re: common people at Ocean View beach in Norfolk, Virginia; boat trip from Norfolk, Virginia to New York City; weather; Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church; Mary Greiner's habit of wearing hats; his dislike of Yankee cooking; Atlantic City, New Jersey as a "wicked place."