

May Family Papers Finding Aid MS233

May Family Papers (MS233)
1846-1949 (Bulk, 1876-1913)



Title Statement

May Family Papers Finding Aid MS233

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS233

Unit Date

1846-1949 (Bulk, 1876-1913)

Language

English .

Creator

May Family

Creator

May, William H., 1822-1910

Creator

May, John W., 1855-1930

Creator

May, Effie H. (DeVaughn), 1859-1903

Creator

May, Emily

Creator

May, Carroll Hackney, 1882-1950

source

DeVaughn, James H. , 1816-1899

Creator

DeVaughn, Mary

Extent

1.01 Cubic Feet 3 boxes

Repository

Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Item identification], May Family Papers, MS233, Alexandria Library, Local History/Special Collections, Alexandria, Va.

Biographical / Historical

The May Family operated the William H. May & Son Company, begun in 1852 and located just south of the Carlyle House on the one hundred block of North Fairfax Street, and later at 201-203 King Street. There are pictures of the company on its letterhead in the collection. The company manufactured plows, wagons and fertilizers and sold agricultural implements and seeds. It disappeared from the Alexandria City Directories after 1934. The Mays represented in this collection are William H. May (1822-1910), his son John W. May (1855-1930), John's wife Effie H. DeVaughn May (1859-1903), daughter Emily May, and son Carroll Hackney May (1882-1950). Effie May's father, James H. DeVaughn (1816-1899), and sister, Mary DeVaughn, also have materials in this collection.

Content Description

This collection includes records and correspondence relating to the William H. May & Son Company, including an undated four page list of supplies available from the company. There are also flyers with information and pictures relating to nineteenth century farm equipment from other companies. Other correspondence shows William H. May's involvement with the International Silver Company and the Alexandria Home Insurance Company. There is also a letter to William H. May from a Russian banker, caught embezzling in Europe and incarcerated in Madrid, Spain, asking for help with funds for his daughter in the United States. John W. May is represented in this collection by some deeds and correspondence. There are two 1845-1846 letters to John from cousins Isaac and Hoziah Hook of Cumberland, Maryland. Carroll H. May was not only involved with the William H. May & Son Company until its demise, but correspondence in this collection shows that as Lieutenant of Company G, First Regiment, Infantry, Virginia Volunteers, Alexandria, he was active in organizing a parade for the dedication of a park and laying the cornerstone of a monument to George Washington. The George Washington Monument Association is mentioned. Carroll resigned his commission in 1912. There are also some papers relating to Carroll as president of the Bethel Cemetery Company. Other correspondence to Carroll includes items from an 1899 gramophone company, the YMCA, advertisements of a magic book, the Improved Order of Red Men of Virginia and North Carolina, and Robinson Moncure (a Virginia House delegate). Carroll was a medical doctor and Sanitary Inspector for the City of Alexandria. Letters from 1943 offer consolation for the death of his son in World War II. There are several pieces of correspondence to May women. One is a 1903 letter to Effie DeVaughn from Palais Royal of Washington, D.C., and the other is a 1936 letter from Laura P. Sullivan of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Alexandria, Virginia, to Emily R. May. There is also an 1846 letter to William and his mother from his sister, Margaret May. There is an 1856 autograph album of Mary DeVaughn. Emily R. May's English literature scrapbook of 1901-1902 and her correspondence are in this collection. There is also some correspondence to and from James DeVaughn, a furniture manufacturer, who was Effie DeVaughn's father.

Related Materials

See Boush/Asher Family Papers (Box 234) for Mary May who married Samuel Boush. See also Alexandria vertical file, biographies - M for information on William H. May.

Keywords

May Family
DeVaughn Family
Bethel Cemetery -- Alexandria (Va.)
Improved Order of Red Men. Virginia
Fraternal organizations. -- Alexandria (Va.)
DeVaughn, James H. , 1816-1899

Arrangement

The material is arranged either under the May Company or under the name of the family member concerned.

Description of Subordinate Components

Mary DeVaughn Autograph Album

Unit Date 1856-1863

Text 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

William H. May & Son advertisements

Text 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

William H. May, correspondence

Unit Date 1843-1910

Text 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

William H. May & Son Company, correspondence from

Unit Date 1865-1913

Text 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

William H. May & Son Company, correspondence to

Unit Date 1867-1918

Text 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

William H. May & Son Company, International Silver Company correspondence

Unit Date 1907-1910

Text 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

John L. May of Winchester, correspondence from cousins Isaac S. Hook and Hoziah Hook and Cumberland, Maryland

Unit Date 1845-1846

Text 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

John W. May, correspondence, business and legal papers

Unit Date 1897-1919

Text 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Mrs. J.W. May [Effie DeVaughn], correspondence

Unit Date 1903

Text 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

J.W. May correspondence to Carroll H. May during a business trip

Unit Date 1904

Text 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

W.H. May, Alexandria Home Insurance Company

Unit Date 1906-1913

Text 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Emily R. May, English literature scrapbook

Unit Date 1901-1902

Text 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Emily R. May, correspondence

Unit Date 1906-1935

Text 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Carroll H. May, Washington School certificates

Unit Date 1890-1894

Text 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Carroll H. May, Potomac Academy certificates and Potomac Academy Catalogue

Unit Date 1890-1899

Text 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Carroll H. May, miscellaneous personal correspondence

Unit Date 1897-1909

Text 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Alexandria Home Fire Insurance Company Policies

Unit Date 1907

Text 2 (box)

Carroll H. May, business correspondence received

Unit Date 1899-1935

Text 3 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Carroll H. May, correspondence advertising a magic book

Unit Date 1897

Text 3 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Carroll H. May, correspondence with Martha H. Swan [May]

Unit Date 1905

Text 3 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Carroll H. May, correspondence relating to George Washington Monument/parade

Unit Date 1905-1913

Text 3 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Carroll H. May, correspondence from Mary C. May [Lovey]

Unit Date 1907-1909

Text 3 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Carroll H. May, correspondence relating to Red Men

Unit Date 1908-1913

Text 3 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Carroll H. May, Bethel Cemetery papers

Unit Date 1898-1913

Text 3 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Carroll H. May, Jr. and John May to their mother, Martha Swan May

Unit Date 1929

Text 3 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Carroll H. and Martha (Mrs. Carroll) May, letters of sympathy on the death of their son John in World War II

Unit Date 1943

Text 3 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Alexandria first day covers

Unit Date 1949

Text 3 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

May family genealogical material

Text 3 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Carroll H. May, correspondence relating to military service in Company G, First Regiment, Infantry, Virginia Volunteers

Text 3 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

DeVaughn family correspondence

Unit Date 1891

Text 3 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

James DeVaughn, business correspondence

Unit Date 1870-1900

Text 3 (box)

Container 30 (folder)