

A Guide to the Daniel Hess Records, 1882-1912

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1882-1912

A Collection in the Library of Virginia 28166

Library of Virginia

2002

History

Processed by: Ana Esterbrook

Funding: Web version of the finding aid funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Title Statement

A Guide to the Daniel Hess Records, 1882-1912

Subtitle: Hess, Daniel, Records, 1882-1912

Collection: 28166

Author: Ana Esterbrook

Sponsor: Web version of the finding aid funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Publication Statement

File size: 2 KB

Date: © 2002 By the Library of Virginia.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from Marc record. Created by Renee M. Savits 27 April 2002

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

Feb 14, 2004 PUBLIC "-//Library of Virginia//TEXT (US::Vi::vi00306::A Guide to the Daniel Hess Records, 1882-1912)//EN" "vi00306.xml" 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

2014-01-08 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Accession number

28166

Language

English

Physical Characteristics

2 volumes and 18 items

Physical Location

Business records collection, Acc. 28166

Repository

Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Purchased 1974.

Preferred Citation

Daniel Hess. Records, 1882-1912. Accession 28166, Business records collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Biographical/Historical Information

Daniel Hess (b. 1836) moved to his farm near Leavells, Spotsylvania County, Virginia, in June 1888. Prior to that time he operated a business in New York, as a manufacturer, importer, and wholesale dealer of musical instruments and supplies. Initially, Hess attempted oenoculture at his farm known as the Sunside Vineyard. He later changed to dairying and butter production under the trade name Daniel Hess' Crystal Creamery. Hess also raised sheep, chickens, and other farm produce for sale. He continued his interest in music through teaching, church choirs, and amateur bands. In 1896 Hess attempted to organize the Bryan and Sewall Silver Band for the Democratic presidential campaign.

Scope and Content Information

Records, 1882-1912, of Daniel Hess of Spotsylvania County, Virginia, and New York. Includes ledger, journal, and letter book relating accounts of Hess' music supply house in New York and his Spotsylvania farm. Entries related to Hess's music business record the sale of string, woodwind, and brass instruments. Entries related to his farming operations are for the purchase and sale of farm and dairy products and for the wine produced at Sunside Vineyard.

Correspondence included in the letter book concerns his personal affairs and farm in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. Numerous letters are written in German. Several letters refer to Hess's nephew Johannes Hess, an importer in Sydney, Australia. A copy of the charter of the University of Fredericksburg and an agenda for an organizational meeting concerning the university are also recorded. Several letters discuss Hess's involvement in the activities of Fair View Chapel and its minister, Rev. J.G. Gordon.