

A Guide to the Evans Family Papers 1709-1928

Evans Family Papers, 1709-1928
1709-1928

A Collection in the Library of Virginia 39664
Library of Virginia
2002

History

Processed by: Jim Greve
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 Evans Family Papers 1709-1928

Subtitle: Evans Family, Papers, 1709-1928

Collection: 39664

Author: Jim Greve

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

Publication Statement

File size: ca. 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 Microsoft Word. Created by Jim Greve 16 October 2002

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

17 September 2003 Added microfilm organization to the organization note.

Feb 14, 2004 PUBLIC "-//Library of Virginia//TEXT (US::Vi::vi00653::A Guide to the Evans Family Papers, 1709-1928)//EN" "vi00653.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xml (sy2003-10-15).

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

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

Descriptive Summary

Accession number

39664

Language

English

Creator

Evans Family

Physical Characteristics

10.75 cubic feet and 1 volume

Physical Location

Personal Papers Collection, Acc. 39664

Repository

Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

Use microfilm.

Acquisition Information

Gift of J. Wayne Adams, Jr., South Boston, 20 June 2002.

Preferred Citation

Evans Family Papers, 1709-1928. Accession 39664, Personal Papers Collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

Biographical Information

The Evans family were prominent residents of Paoli, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and South Boston, Virginia. Joshua Evans, Jr. was born in Paoli on 20 January 1777. He was a hotel keeper and farmer, and served one term in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (1820) and two terms in the United States House of Representatives (1829-1833). He married Lydia Davis. She was the daughter of Dr. John Davis (1744- 1816), and was born on 2 February 1778. She died shortly after the birth of their fifth child, on 20 November 1818. Joshua Evans, Jr. died in Paoli on 2 October 1846 and is buried in the Great Valley Baptist Church cemetery in New Centerville, Pennsylvania.

His son John D. Evans was born on 18 October 1814. He lived his entire life in Paoli, and took over the hotel business after his father died. He was also a farmer, and a partner in the Columbia Manufacturing Company. He owned rental property in Philadelphia as well. John D. Evans never married. He died at his home in Paoli on 6 June 1884.

His "adopted son" was Edward Livingston Evans. Born Edward Livingston on 2 January 1857, he was orphaned at a young age and resided in an orphanage in Philadelphia under the charge of John D. Evans' cousin Nathaniel Jones. Evans later assumed much of the expense for his care. Edward Livingston took the last name Evans around 1873. He later resided in Farmville, Virginia in the residence of Major Andrew R. Venable, Jr., and graduated from Hampden-Sidney College. He married Mildred Blanton on 22 April 1884. They had ten children and resided in South Boston, Virginia where he was employed in the hardware business, as well as in the lumber business and in manufacturing of building material, and also in the tobacco business. He served as a town councilman and was mayor for two terms. He died at his home in South Boston on 15 March 1909.

Scope and Content Information

Papers, 1709-1928, of the Evans family of Paoli, Chester County, Pennsylvania and South Boston, Halifax County, Virginia. The majority of the collection relates to the activities of Joshua Evans, Jr. (1777- 1846), John Davis Evans (1814-1884), and Edward Livingston Evans (1857-1909). Includes correspondence, accounts and receipts, estate papers, subject files, oversized items, framed items, and a ledger containing miscellaneous papers.

Organization

Organized into the following seven series: I. Correspondence.

II. Accounts and Receipts.

III. Estate Papers.

IV. Subject Files.

V. Oversized Items.

VI. Framed Items.

VII. Ledger.

The microfilm is organized in the following manner:

Misc. Reel 4172: Box 1 Folder 1 - Box 3 Folder 8

Misc. Reel 4173: Box 3 Folder 9 - Box 6 Folder 3

Misc. Reel 4174: Box 6 Folder 4 - Box 7 Folder 19

Misc. Reel 4175: Box 7 Folder 20 - Box 9 Folder 18

Misc. Reel 4176: Box 10 Folders 1-54

Misc. Reel 4177: Box 10 Folder 55 - Box 11 Folder 9

Misc. Reel 4178: Box 11 Folders 10-19

Misc. Reel 4179: Box 11 Folders 20-32

Misc. Reel 4180: Box 12 Folders 1-17

Misc. Reel 4181: Box 13 Folders 1-14

Misc. Reel 4182: Box 13 Folder 15 - Box 14 Folder 7

Misc. Reel 4183: Box 15 Folders 1-25

Misc. Reel 4184: Box 15 Folder 26 - Box 16 Folder 29

Misc. Reel 4185: Box 17 Folders 1 - Box 18 Folder 7

Misc. Reel 4186: Box 18 Folders 8-15

Misc. Reel 4187: Box 18 Folder 16 - Box 19 Folder 4

Misc. Reel 4188: Box 19 Folder 5 - Box 20 Folder 1

Misc. Reel 4189: Box 20 Folder 2 - Box 21 Folder 10

Misc. Reel 4190: Box 21 Folder 11

Misc. Reel 4191: Box 22 Folder 1- Box 24 Folder 15

Misc. Reel 4192: Boxes 25-26

Contents List

Series I. Correspondence

Container Box 1-9

Scope and Content

The correspondence begins in 1770, but the majority is post-1810. Most of the letters between 1810 and 1840 are addressed to Joshua Evans, Jr. and his sister-in-law Sarah Davis (1784-1857), who moved in with

the family following the death of his wife, Lydia Evans, in 1818. There is a good deal of correspondence written to Davis from her sisters in Havre de Grace, Maryland. Also of note are letters written to Joshua Evans, Jr. while he was serving in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (1820) and the United States House of Representatives (1829-1833). Subjects include state and national political issues, the introduction of various petitions to the legislature, political patronage and appointments, taxation issues, the annexation of Texas, removal of deposits from the Bank of the United States, letters regarding pensions and bounty land of Revolutionary War veterans, party politics, tariff matters, and internal improvements.

The correspondence between 1840 and 1880 is mostly to John D. Evans, as well as Sarah Davis. There are a number of letters from his sister Mary M. Baily while she was living in Memphis, Cincinnati, and Troy, New York. She describes her medical studies while attending the Troy Female Seminary. Many of the letters contain her views on women's rights, and also relate to her separation and divorce from her husband John P. Baily (b. 1805). There is a good deal of correspondence concerning the settlement of the estate of their father Joshua Evans. Also included are letters between John D. Evans and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company concerning damages to his property by the railroad.

The correspondence after 1880 concerns the activities of Edward Livingston Evans of South Boston, Virginia. There are a large number of letters between him and his future wife Mildred Blanton of Farmville concerning their courtship and marriage. Much of the correspondence also relates to his activities in the hardware business, as well as legal and financial matters. Also included are letters of sympathy written to the family upon his death on 15 March 1909.

Arrangement

Chrononlogical

1770

Box 1

Folder 1

1783-1789

Box 1

Folder 2

1790-1796

Box 1

Folder 3

1803-1808

Box 1

Folder 4

1810

Box 1

Folder 5

1811

Box 1

Folder 6

1812

Box 1

Folder 7

1813

Box 1

Folder 8

1814

Box 1

Folder 9

1815

Box 1

Folder 10

1816

Box 1

Folder 11

1817

Box 1

Folder 12

1818 (January-June)

Box 1

Folder 13

1818 (July-December)

Box 1

Folder 14

1819

Box 1

Folder 15

1820

Box 1

Folder 16

1821 (January-February)

Box 2

Folder 1

1821 (March-December)

Box 2

Folder 2

1822 (January-June)

Box 2

Folder 3

1822 (July-December)

Box 2

Folder 4

1823 (January-June)

Box 2

Folder 5

1823 (July-December)

Box 2

Folder 6

1824

Box 2

Folder 7

1825

Box 2

Folder 8

1826

Box 2

Folder 9

1827 (January-July)

Box 2

Folder 10

1827 (August-December)

Box 2

Folder 11

1828

Box 3

Folder 1

1829 (January-November)

Box 3

Folder 2

1829 (December)

Box 3

Folder 3

1830 (January)

Box 3

Folder 4

1830 (February)

Box 3

Folder 5

1830 (March-May)

Box 3

Folder 6

1830 (October, December)

Box 3

Folder 7

1831 (January)

Box 3

Folder 8

1831 (February-March)

Box 3

Folder 9

1831 (August, November-December)

Box 3

Folder 10

1832 (January-May)

Box 3

Folder 11

1832 (June-December)

Box 3

Folder 12

1833 (January-March)

Box 4

Folder 1

1833 (April-December)

Box 4

Folder 2

1834 (January-June)

Box 4

Folder 3

1834 (July-December)

Box 4

Folder 4

1835 (January-June)

Box 4

Folder 5

1835 (July-December)

Box 4

Folder 6

1836 (January-June)

Box 4

Folder 7

1836 (July-December)

Box 4

Folder 8

1837 (January-June)

Box 4

Folder 9

1837 (July-December)

Box 4

Folder 10

1838

Box 4

Folder 11

1839

Box 4

Folder 12

1840

Box 5

Folder 1

1841

Box 5

Folder 2

1842 (January-June)

Box 5

Folder 3

1842 (July-December)

Box 5

Folder 4

1843 (January-June)

Box 5

Folder 5

1843 (July-December)

Box 5

Folder 6

1844 (January-June)

Box 5

Folder 7

1844 (July-December)

Box 5

Folder 8

1845

Box 5

Folder 9

1846 (January-June)

Box 5

Folder 10

1846 (July-December)

Box 5

Folder 11

1847

Box 6

Folder 1

1848

Box 6

Folder 2

1849

Box 6

Folder 3

1850

Box 6

Folder 4

1851

Box 6

Folder 5

1852

Box 6

Folder 6

1853

Box 6

Folder 7

1854

Box 6

Folder 8

1855

Box 6

Folder 9

1856

Box 6

Folder 10

1857

Box 6

Folder 11

1858

Box 6

Folder 12

1859

Box 6

Folder 13

1860

Box 6

Folder 14

1861

Box 6

Folder 15

1862

Box 6

Folder 16

1863

Box 6

Folder 17

1864

Box 6

Folder 18

1865

Box 6

Folder 19

1866

Box 6

Folder 20

1867

Box 6

Folder 21

1868

Box 6

Folder 22

1870

Box 6

Folder 23

1871

Box 6

Folder 24

1872

Box 6

Folder 25

1873

Box 6

Folder 26

1874

Box 6

Folder 27

1877

Box 6

Folder 28

1878

Box 6

Folder 29

1879

Box 6

Folder 30

1880

Box 7

Folder 1

1881

Box 7

Folder 2

1882 (June)

Box 7

Folder 3

1882 (July 1-15)

Box 7

Folder 4

1882 (July 16-31)

Box 7

Folder 5

1883 (March-June)

Box 7

Folder 6

1883 (August)

Box 7

Folder 7

1883 (September)

Box 7

Folder 8

1883 (October)

Box 7

Folder 9

1883 (November)

Box 7

Folder 10

1884

Box 7

Folder 11

1885

Box 7

Folder 12

1886

Box 7

Folder 13

1887

Box 7

Folder 14

1888

Box 7

Folder 15

1889

Box 7

Folder 16

1890

Box 7

Folder 17

1891

Box 7

Folder 18

1892

Box 7

Folder 19

1893

Box 7

Folder 20

1894

Box 7

Folder 21

1895

Box 7

Folder 22

1896

Box 7

Folder 23

1897

Box 8

Folder 1

1898

Box 8

Folder 2

1899

Box 8

Folder 3

1900

Box 8

Folder 4

1901

Box 8

Folder 5

1903

Box 8

Folder 6

1904

Box 8

Folder 7

1905

Box 8

Folder 8

1906

Box 8

Folder 9

1907 (January, April)

Box 8

Folder 10

1907 (May)

Box 8

Folder 11

1907 (June)

Box 8

Folder 12

1907 (August-December)

Box 8

Folder 13

1908

Box 8

Folder 14

1909 (January-February)

Box 8

Folder 15

1909 (March 1-15)

Box 8

Folder 16

1909 (March 16-17)

Box 8

Folder 17

1909 (March 18-19)

Box 8

Folder 18

1909 (March 20-31)

Box 8

Folder 19

1909 (April-June)

Box 8

Folder 20

1911-1912, 1916

Box 8

Folder 21

1928

Box 8

Folder 22

n.d. - Baily, Mary Malin

Box 9

Folder 1

n.d. - Davis, Ann Elizabeth

Box 9

Folder 2

n.d. - Davis, Mary G.

Box 9

Folder 3

n.d. - Davis, Sarah

Box 9

Folder 4

n.d. - Evans, Edward F.

Box 9

Folder 5

n.d. - Evans, Edward L.

Box 9

Folder 6

n.d. - Evans, John D.

Box 9

Folder 7

n.d. - Evans, Lydia

Box 9

Folder 8

n.d. - Evans, Mildred

Box 9

Folder 9

n.d. - Evans, Pattie

Box 9

Folder 10

n.d. - Morgan, Mary

Box 9

Folder 11

n.d. - Rulong, Sarah

Box 9

Folder 12

n.d. - Wayne, Isaac

Box 9

Folder 13

n.d. - Willing, Charles

Box 9

Folder 14

n.d. - Willing, Rosalind**Box** 9**Folder** 15**n.d. - Wiltse, Pattie S.****Box** 9**Folder** 16**n.d. - Misc. Individuals****Box** 9**Folder** 17-18**Series II. Accounts and Receipts****Container** Box 10-11.**Scope and Content**

The accounts and receipts cover the years 1806 to 1909. Most of them relate to the operation of the Paoli Inn by Joshua Evans, Jr. and his son John D. Evans.

Arrangement

Chronological by year.

1806-1868**Box** 10**Folder** 1-62**1869-1909, n.d.****Box** 11**Folder** 1-32**Series III. Estate Papers****Container** Box 12-14**Scope and Content**

The estate papers contain information on numerous individuals for whose estates Joshua Evans and John D. Evans served as executor or administrator. There is a large amount of material on the estates of John Campbell, Robert Clemens, Henry and Margaret Dermont, Frederick Landis, Philip Landis, and Nathaniel and Jane Lawrence. See the container list for a complete listing of individuals.

Arrangement

Alphabetical by name of decedent.

Andrew, Caleb**Box** 12**Folder** 1**Baugh, Sarah****Box** 12**Folder** 2**Campbell, John****Box** 12**Folder** 3-7**Clemens, Robert****Box** 12**Folder** 8-9

Crow, Ann

Box 12

Folder 10

Davis, Dr. John

Box 12

Folder 11

Dermont, Henry and Margaret

Box 12

Folder 12-14

Emlen, George Jr.

Box 12

Folder 15

Evans, Joshua Jr.

Box 12

Folder 16

Evans, Lydia

Box 12

Folder 17

Hampton, Harvey

Box 13

Folder 1

Hampton, Joseph

Box 13

Folder 2

Hampton, Thomas

Box 13

Folder 3

Hughes, Mrs. Elizabeth

Box 13

Folder 4

Hughes, Ephraim

Box 13

Folder 5

Landis, Frederick

Box 13

Folder 6-8

Landis, Philip

Box 13

Folder 9-10

Lawrence, Nathaniel and Jane**Box** 13**Folder** 11-15**Low, James****Box** 14**Folder** 1**Parke, Robert****Box** 14**Folder** 2**Phillips, Abram****Box** 14**Folder** 3**Richison, Mary****Box** 14**Folder** 4**Rulong, Mary****Box** 14**Folder** 5**Rulong, Sarah****Box** 14**Folder** 6**Wayne, Dr. Charles****Box** 14**Folder** 7**Series IV. Subject Files****Container** Box 15-21**Scope and Content**

The subject files include account books, agreements, accounts and correspondence with the brokerage firm Thomas A. Biddle and Company, cancelled checks, circulars, clippings, and information concerning the Columbia Manufacturing Company in which John D. Evans was a partner. There are also deeds, exercise books on geometry and oceanography, guardianship papers, invitations, travel journals, and memorandum books. There are a large number of bank statements for the firm Norwood & Company in Halifax County. Also included in the subject files is information on the Paoli Monument, powers of attorney, promissory notes, information on rental property owned by John D. Evans, report cards, resolutions, tavern licenses, tax tickets and receipts, and other items.

Arrangement

Alphabetical.

Account Book - Planters and Merchants Bank**Box** 15**Folder** 1**Account Book - Various Estates****Box** 15**Folder** 2

Agreements

Box 15

Folder 3

Apprenticeship Indenture

Box 15

Folder 4

Assigned Estate of Edward L. Evans - Petition, 1900

Box 15

Folder 5

Bad Notes

Box 15

Folder 6

Baily vs. Baily (Divorce)

Box 15

Folder 7

Bank Protests

Box 15

Folder 8

Biddle, Clement Cornell - Biographical Sketch

Box 15

Folder 9

Biddle, Dr. John B.

Box 15

Folder 10

Thomas A. Biddle & Co.

Box 15

Folder 11-12

Bonds

Box 15

Folder 13

Brick Yard Rental, 1872

Box 15

Folder 14

Calling Cards

Box 15

Folder 15

Cancelled Checks, 1891

Box 15

Folder 16

Cancelled Checks, 1895-1898

Box 15

Folder 17

Cancelled Checks, 1900

Box 15

Folder 18

Cancelled Checks, 1902

Box 15

Folder 19

Cancelled Checks, 1905

Box 15

Folder 20

Cancelled Checks, 1906

Box 15

Folder 21

Circulars

Box 15

Folder 22

Clippings

Box 15

Folder 23

Cochran, E.C.

Box 15

Folder 24

Columbia Manufacturing Company

Box 15

Folder 25-26

Compact Disc

Box 15

Folder 27

Contracts for Trees Cut, 1900

Box 15

Folder 28

Daniel, A.V.

Box 16

Folder 1

Davis Family Bible Records

Box 16

Folder 2

Deeds

Box 16

Folder 3

Democratic Committee Meeting, n.d.

Box 16

Folder 4

Deweese, Jacob

Box 16

Folder 5

Diary of a Trip to Havana and Mexico, 1883

Box 16

Folder 6

Envelopes

Box 16

Folder 7

Essay

Box 17

Folder 8

Evans vs. Owen - Settlement

Box 16

Folder 9

Evans vs. Steen, 1875-1877

Box 16

Folder 10

Evans Family Register

Box 16

Folder 11

Eviction Notice, 1874

Box 16

Folder 12

Exercise Book (Geometry), n.d.

Box 16

Folder 13

Exercise Book (Oceanography), n.d.

Box 16

Folder 14

Fabric Swatch

Box 16

Folder 15

Fieles, Martin M.

Box 16

Folder 16

Garden, Andrew - Petition for Relief, 1833

Box 16

Folder 17

Good Intent Stage Company

Box 16

Folder 18

Greeting Cards

Box 16

Folder 19

Guardianship of Children of Ephraim Hughes

Box 16

Folder 20

Guardianship of Sarah E. Norton

Box 16

Folder 21-23

John Gwinn & Co.

Box 16

Folder 24-25

Hall & Norwood - Sale to Norwood Bros.

Box 16

Folder 26

Hedley, D.B.

Box 16

Folder 27

Housekeeper

Box 16

Folder 28

Hughes, Ephraim - Medical Examination

Box 16

Folder 29

Invitations

Box 17

Folder 1

Journal/Harvest Book, 1852-1855

Box 17

Folder 2

Journal of a Voyage from Philadelphia to Canton, 1832

Box 17

Folder 3

Journal of a Voyage from Canton to Philadelphia, 1833

Box 17

Folder 4

Journal of a Voyage from Philadelphia to Canton, 1834

Box 17

Folder 5

Journal - Proceedings of the House of Representatives, 18 January - 16 March 1821

Box 17

Folder 6

Killough, S., 1857-1860

Box 17

Folder 7

Lawrence, Nathaniel

Box 17

Folder 8

List of Articles in Paoli Owned by Joshua Evans, 1841

Box 17

Folder 9

List of Members of Congress - 22nd Congress, 2nd Session (1832-1833)

Box 17

Folder 10

List of Students, 1877

Box 17

Folder 11

Literary Debating Society of West Chester Academy - Constitution and Minutes, 1834-1835

Box 17

Folder 12

McFall, Archibald - Petition for Relief, 1803

Box 17

Folder 13

Memorandum Book, 1819-1825

Box 17

Folder 14

Memorandum Book, 1830-1832

Box 17

Folder 15

Memorandum Book, 1832-1833

Box 17

Folder 16

Memorandum Book, 1842-1843

Box 17

Folder 17

Memorandum Book, 1845

Box 17

Folder 18

Memorandum Book, 1878-1879

Box 17

Folder 19

Memorandum Book ("Miscellanies"), n.d.

Box 17

Folder 20

Mingo Oil Company Stock, 1864-1867

Box 17

Folder 21

Miscellaneous

Box 17

Folder 22

Money Holder

Box 18

Folder 1

Myers, Percival F. - Collector of Tolls

Box 18

Folder 2

Neff/Killough Matter, 1858-1864

Box 18

Folder 3

Norwood Bros. - Failure, 1886-1888

Box 18

Folder 4

Norwood Bros. - License, 1887

Box 18

Folder 5

Norwood Bros. - Notes and Accounts

Box 18

Folder 6-7

Norwood & Co. - Monthly Bank Statements, April 1888-April 1890

Box 18

Folder 8-21

Norwood & Co. - Monthly Bank Statements, June 1890-August 1891

Box 19

Folder 1-6

Norwood & Co. - Miscellaneous

Box 19

Folder 7

Odd Fellows Widows and Orphans Relief Association - Assessments

Box 19

Folder 8

Opinions

Box 19

Folder 9

Owen, John J., 1889-1892

Box 19

Folder 10

Paoli Monument

Box 19

Folder 11

Partial Account of Outstanding Debts, 1841-1843

Box 19

Folder 12

Patent Rights

Box 19

Folder 13

Pearce, Edward Jr.

Box 19

Folder 14

Pennsylvania Railroad Company - Damages to John D. Evans Property, 1876-1880

Box 19

Folder 15

Personal Liabilities of Joshua Evans

Box 19

Folder 16

Petition to Canal Board, 1854

Box 19

Folder 17

Petition to Pennsylvania General Assembly, n.d.

Box 19

Folder 18

Petitions for Tavern Licenses, 1816-1818

Box 19

Folder 19

Photographs

Box 19

Folder 20

Planets and Seasons - Memorandum Book (In German)

Box 19

Folder 21

Poetry

Box 19

Folder 22

Post Office Appointment, 1868

Box 19

Folder 23

Post Office Department

Box 19

Folder 24

Potts, George

Box 19

Folder 25

Powers of Attorney

Box 19

Folder 26

Promissory Notes, 1805, 1815-1819

Box 19

Folder 27

Promissory Notes, 1820, 1829

Box 19

Folder 28

Promissory Notes, 1830-1839

Box 19

Folder 29

Promissory Notes, 1841-1846

Box 19

Folder 30

Promissory Notes, 1855, 1866-1869

Box 19

Folder 31

Promissory Notes, 1870-1872, 1876

Box 19

Folder 32

Promissory Notes, 1880-1888

Box 19

Folder 33

Promissory Notes, 1890-1898

Box 19

Folder 34

Promissory Notes, 1900, 1905-1906

Box 19

Folder 35

Prospectus - The Times and Constitutional Press

Box 19

Folder 36

Reduction of Railroad Fare

Box 19

Folder 37

Register of the Officers and Cadets of the U.S. Military Academy, 1832

Box 19

Folder 38

Registered Letter Bills, 1868-1869

Box 19

Folder 39

Rental Property

Box 20

Folder 1-3

Report Card - South Boston Female Institute, 1896

Box 20

Folder 4

Report Cards - Hampden-Sidney College, 1906-1907

Box 20

Folder 5

Resolutions

Box 20

Folder 6

Resolutions of a Political Meeting Held at Paoli, n.d.

Box 20

Folder 7

Return Registered Letter Receipts

Box 20

Folder 8

South Boston Female Institute - Commencement Program, 1897

Box 20

Folder 9

Speeches/Letters to the Editor

Box 20

Folder 10

State Female Normal School - Commencement Program and Certificate, 1904

Box 20

Folder 11

Stock Certificates - Little Conostogoa Turnpike Road, 1811

Box 20

Folder 12

Stock Certificates - Roseland Iron and Coal Company, 1889

Box 20

Folder 13

Supplee Steam Engine Company

Box 20

Folder 14

Survey Field Book, n.d.

Box 20

Folder 15

Surveys

Box 20

Folder 16

Tavern Licenses, 1814-1851

Box 20

Folder 17

Tax Tickets and Receipts, 1841

Box 20

Folder 18

Tax Tickets and Receipts, 1847

Box 20

Folder 19

Tax Tickets and Receipts, 1854

Box 20

Folder 20

Tax Tickets and Receipts, 1871

Box 20

Folder 21

Tax Tickets and Receipts, 1876

Box 20

Folder 22

Tax Tickets and Receipts, 1878-1879

Box 20

Folder 23

Tax Tickets and Receipts, 1888

Box 20

Folder 24

Tax Tickets and Receipts, 1889

Box 20

Folder 25

Tax Tickets and Receipts, 1890

Box 20

Folder 26

Tax Tickets and Receipts, 1896

Box 20

Folder 27

Tax Tickets and Receipts, 1903

Box 20

Folder 28

Telephone Contracts, 1887-1888

Box 20

Folder 29

Title Abstracts

Box 20

Folder 30

Tombstone Inscription - Joshua Evans

Box 20

Folder 31

Travel Diaries, 1825-1829

Box 20

Folder 32

Tredyffrin School Board

Box 20

Folder 33

Tucker, J.D. (Trustee - Norwood Bros.)

Box 20

Folder 34

Uderzook, Henry

Box 21

Folder 1

Union Protective Association of Berwyn

Box 21

Folder 2

Union Ticket - List of Candidates

Box 21

Folder 3

Unpaid Letters

Box 21

Folder 4

Watson vs. Watson

Box 21

Folder 5

Weather Log and List of Members of the Literary Debating Society of West Chester Academy, 1834-1835, 1838

Box 21

Folder 6

Whitesides, Peter

Box 21

Folder 7

Will of George King (Draft)

Box 21

Folder 8

Wine Price List

Box 21

Folder 9

Wisner, Jacob

Box 21

Folder 10

Wrappers

Box 21

Folder 11

One Hundredth Anniversary of the Paoli Massacre (1877)

Box 21

Folder n/a

Rudiments of English Grammar (1812)

Box 21

Folder n/a

The New Testament

Box 21

Folder n/a

Series V. Oversized Items

Container Box 22-24

Scope and Content

There are a large number of oversized items similar to those contained in the subject files.

Arrangement

Alphabetical by Subject.

Thomas A. Biddle & Co. - Statements of Account

Box 22

Folder 1-2

Bonds

Box 22

Folder 3

Certificate

Box 22

Folder 4

Construction of Pumping Station at Paoli

Box 22

Folder 6

Deeds

Box 22

Folder 7

Estate of Ann Crow

Box 22

Folder 8

Estate of James Davis

Box 22

Folder 9

Estate of Frederick Landis

Box 22

Folder 10

Genealogical Charts

Box 22

Folder 11

Insurance Policies

Box 22

Folder 12

Maps and Plats

Box 23

Folder n/a

Militia Commission

Box 24

Folder 1

Miscellaneous

Box 24

Folder 2

Newspapers

Box 24

Folder 3

Newspapers (Encapsulated)

Box 24

Folder 4

Phrenological Analysis - Edward F. Evans, 1837

Box 24

Folder 5

Post Office Department - Accounts Current,

Box 24

Folder 6-8

Postmaster Appointments

Box 24

Folder 9

Promissory Note

Box 24

Folder 10

Stock Certificate - Downingstown, Ephrata and Harrisburg Turnpike Road, 1803

Box 24

Folder 11

Subscription List - Relief for Citizens of Savannah, 1820

Box 24

Folder 12

Supplee Steam Engine Company

Box 24

Folder 13

Tavern Licenses

Box 24

Folder 14

Title Abstracts

Box 24

Folder 15

Series VI. Framed Items

Container Box 25

Scope and Content

The framed items include a letter from David Jones of Philadelphia to Brig. Gen. William Irvine of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, dated 20 April 1781, as well as a deed from David Powell to James Parry, dated 28 October 1709.

Letter, David Jones (Chaplain), Philadelphia, to Brig. Gen. William Irvine, Carlisle, 20 April 1781

Box 25

Folder n/a

Deed, David Powell to James Parry, 28 October 1709

Box 25

Folder n/a

Series VII. Ledger

Scope and Content

The ledger contains miscellaneous papers that were professionally conserved prior to their donation to The Library of Virginia. A decision was made to leave the ledger intact, rather than split up its contents. It includes various wills and estate inventories of members of the Evans and Davis families, correspondence between John D. Evans and Edward Livingston (Evans), Bible records, genealogical notes, and other material.