

Michael, Rudolph Dixon, Papers

Rudolph Dixon Michael Papers

1925-1984



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1960.005

Unit Date

1925-1984

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection contains the papers of Virginia Tech alumnus and agricultural information editor, Rudolph Dixon Michael. It contains correspondence and notes relating to the histories Blacksburg, the Preston family, and Smithfield Plantation (including maps of the grounds and the cemetery). It also contains a few campus photographs and printed materials related to Virginia Tech.

Creator

Michael, Rudolph Dixon, 1904-1994

Extent

0.2 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Rudolph Dixon Michael Papers were donated to Newman Library in two accessions in 1960 and 1988.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Rudolph Dixon Michael Papers occurred in January 2004.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Rudolph Dixon Michael Papers, Ms1960-005, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Rudolph Dixon Michael, Virginia Tech alumnus and agricultural information editor, was born in Berwick, Pennsylvania on January 14, 1904. The son of William Ellis and Laura McHenry Michael, he graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech) in 1926 with a degree in agricultural engineering. (He would later also obtain a degree from Kansas State University.) An active student, Michael was a member of the basketball team and several clubs; he also served as editor of the student newspaper and as president of the senior class.

Michael became an English instructor at Virginia Tech in 1928, while also serving as an assistant in publications. In 1930, he became director of broadcasting and assistant agricultural editor of the Agricultural Extension Division. In 1943, he was promoted to agricultural editor, a position from which he retired in 1965.

Michael served on the Blacksburg Town Council for ten years and later in life served as chairman of the VPI-Blacksburg Sanitation Authority. He was a member of several community organizations and a deacon at Blacksburg Baptist Church. Michael and his wife, Mary Spiggle Michael, had two daughters. He died January 5, 1994.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the papers of Virginia Tech alumnus and agricultural information editor Rudolph Dixon Michael. The collection includes a small group of correspondence, much of which dates from 1929 to 1930, and concerns the Preston family, Smithfield Plantation, and the university's effort to restore the cemetery there. The correspondence is complemented by a number of notes and essays regarding the history of Blacksburg, the Preston family, Smithfield Plantation, and Whitethorne; and maps of Smithfield Plantation, its landscaping, and the cemetery. The collection also contains a small group of printed materials relating to Virginia Tech, including a commencement program and pictorial calendar from 1926, a booklet for a 1929 alumni celebration (including biographical material on Julian Burruss and an overview of his administration), and an informational booklet on the Blacksburg-VPI Sanitation Authority. Three large photographs of campus scenes are also included, as well as reproductions of the Virginia Tech seal and Phi Kappa Phi charter certificate.

Separated Archival Materials

The following item was transferred to the Rare Book Collection:

Virginia Polytechnic Institute. *Regulations for the Virginia Polytechnic Institute*, 1922. [Blacksburg, Va. : The Institute, 1922]. (Spec/VPI LD5655 A3 R43 1922)

Keywords

Blacksburg (Va.)
Faculty and staff
Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
Montgomery County (Va.)
Politicians -- United States
University History
Preston family (Montgomery County, Va.)
Smithfield Plantation House (Blacksburg, Va.)
Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (1896-1944)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944-1970)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1970-)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged by document type, then chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit Date 1926-1930, n. d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Historical and Genealogical Notes and Essays

Unit Date 1930-1953, n. d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Printed materials

Unit Date 1925-1984

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Regulations of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Unit Date 1925

Virginia Tech Commencement Program

Unit Date 1926

Virginia Tech Photo Calendar

Unit Date 1926

"Alumni Celebration... Marking the Completion of the Tenth Year of the Present [Burruss] Administration of the College" booklet

Unit Date 1929

Potable Water and Wastewater Treatment

Unit Date 1984

Photographs

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

General Materials

Unit Date 1921-1926

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Virginia Tech Phi Kappa Phi charter [reproduction]

Unit Date 1921

Virginia Tech Seal

Unit Date 1926

Virginia Tech Seal

Unit Date n. d.