

Snavely, Ambrose L., Papers

Ambrose L. Snavely Papers

1903-1952



Title Statement

Snavely, Ambrose L., Papers Ambrose L. Snavely Papers, 1903-1952 Ms.1989.014

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1989.014

Unit Date

1903-1952

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection includes diaries, financial records, and farm records of Ambrose L. Snavely, a farmer in Crockett (Wythe County), Virginia, during the first half of the 20th century.

Creator

Snavely, Ambrose L., 1868-1934

Extent

0.5 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 Ambrose L. Snavely Papers were purchased by Special Collections in 1989.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Ambrose L. Snavely Papers commenced and was completed in May 2013.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Ambrose L. Snavely Papers, Ms1989-014, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Ambrose Lafayette Snavely, son of Alexander S. and Ann Copenhaver Snavely, was born on September 14, 1868. He married Minnie Blanche Matney (1873-1913) in Wythe County on July 21, 1895, and the couple would have four children. Snavely remained in Wythe County, operating what was apparently a large apple orchard and livestock farm. Ambrose L. Snavely died on April 27, 1934, and was buried in Saint Pauls Lutheran Church Cemetery, Rural Retreat, Virginia.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the papers of Ambrose L. Snavely, a farmer in Crockett (Wythe County), Virginia, during the first half of the 20th century. The collection includes four small diaries, marked by Snavely as numbers 43-46. The diary entries consist largely of work records, detailing Snavely's work activities as well as the names of workers and the work they performed. Snavely also briefly notes weather conditions and occasionally mentions trips, visitors, and incidents at home and on the farm. The focus, however, is overwhelmingly on work. The collection also includes ledgers and memoranda books containing livestock purchase, sale, and breeding records; accounts with laborers; apple, poultry, and sheep transactions; and general and household financial records. Despite their arrangement, the ledgers do not always strictly track only one type of farm account. Also found within the labor accounts ledgers, for example, are pages devoted to oil purchases, haulage, and grass sold. The business seems to have been continued by one or two of Snavely's sons (A. Frank and Maury), and the 1931 poultry ledger bears the name of Mrs. Frank Snavely. A folder of loose materials at the end of the collection includes, among other items, a single letter written by Snavely to McClain Catterlin of Staunton, Indiana; and a certificate of membership for the International Corporation of Mercer Heirs.

Keywords

Agriculture

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged by ledger type, then chronologically, and followed by a folder of loose papers.

Description of Subordinate Components

Diaries

Unit Date 1929-1931

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Livestock and shucking records

Unit Date 1903-1932

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Labor accounts ledgers

Unit Date 1913-1932

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3-5 (folder)

Apple accounts

Unit Date 1940-1952

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Poultry ledger

Unit Date 1931

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Sheep ledger

Unit Date 1917-1952

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

General farm and household accounts ledgers

Unit Date 1918-1935, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Correspondence and ephemera

Unit Date 1932-1944

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)