

Wagg, John D., Papers

John D. Wagg Papers
1849-1894



Title Statement

Wagg, John D., PapersJohn D. Wagg Papers, 1849-1894 Ms.1992.048

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1992.048

Unit Date

1849-1894

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The John D. Wagg Papers, 1849-1894, documents the career and religious thoughts of Methodist preacher John D. Wagg and his fellow preachers, as well as the lives of his daughter Bettie Wagg, their family, and their friends. The collection contains correspondence, diaries and notebooks, sermons, church documents, and miscellaneous writings.

Creator

Wagg, John D., 1835-1866

Extent

0.4 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 John D. Wagg Papers were purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in November 1992 and August 2011.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the John D. Wagg Papers commenced and was completed in January 1993. Additional processing, arrangement, and description was completed in September 2020.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], John D. Wagg Papers, Ms1992-048, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

John D. Wagg, son of minister James Wagg, was born in Jefferson, North Carolina, on July 8, 1835. Although he initially studied medicine in 1854 at Jefferson Academy, Wagg eventually entered the ministry. On July 17, 1858, the Holston Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South authorized and licensed him as a preacher. The Holston Conference, in the mid-nineteenth century, encompassed most of western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, and southwestern Virginia.

Wagg's first appointments were in the Virginia counties of Giles, Russell, and Wise, where he labored as a circuit preacher. By 1859, however, he was reassigned to Hillsville, Virginia, where he married Lavinia "Vin" Anderson on May 13, 1862.

Wagg subsequently assumed ministerial duties in Asheville, North Carolina, in late 1862. His only child, Martha Elizabeth "Bettie" Wagg, was born there at the home of lawyer Joshua Roberts on March 6, 1863. On August 6, 1864, his wife Lavinia died.

In late 1864, John D. Wagg relocated to Bristol, Virginia, although he continued to deliver occasional sermons in Asheville. Wagg was superannuated by the Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1865 because of tuberculosis. He died in 1866.

Bettie Wagg attended Martha Washington College in Abingdon, Virginia, in the mid-1880s. She died on March 20, 1898, and is buried along with her father John D. Wagg in Hillsville, Virginia.

Scope and Content

The John D. Wagg Papers, 1849-1894, contain correspondence, diaries and notebooks, church documents, and miscellaneous poems and essays. Correspondence comprises letters to Wagg from ministers, family, and friends, 1858-1866, and letters between Bettie Wagg and her grandfather James Wagg and friends, 1869-1894. Church documents include Wagg's credentials and a list of members and map of the Hillsville circuit. The diaries and notebooks include notes for and copies of sermons as well as information about church. There are also miscellaneous poems and essays by Wagg and his wife Lavinia and daughter Bettie.

Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Existence and Location of Copies

Some of this collection has been digitized and is available online.

Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the John D. Wagg Papers by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

Arrangement

The collection is arranged by material type.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit Date 1858-1859

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Josiah Torbett in Princeton, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date November 11, 1858

James K. Stringfield in Wytheville, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date December 14, 1858

[Unknown writer] in Stony Point, North Carolina, to Jno. [J. D. Wagg?]

Unit Date April 26, 1859

Josiah Torbett in Princeton, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date May 17, 1859

T. D. Summers in Boon's Creek, Tennessee, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date July 7, 1859

Josiah Torbett in Princeton, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date August 18, 1859

A. W. Wagg to "My Dear Brother" [J. D. Wagg?]

Unit Date October 22, 1859

A. W. Smith in Gladeville, Wise Courthouse, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date November 8, 1859

W. W. Neal in Athens, Tennessee, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date November 12, 1859

John. W. Mann in Hillsville, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date December 7, 1859

A. W. Smith in Wise Courthouse, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date December 23, 1859

Correspondence**Unit Date** 1860**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**W. P. Quien in Wythe County, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** January 29, 1860**A. W. Smith in Wise County, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** February 13, 1860**John N. Jones in Taylorsville, North Carolina, to J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** February 28, 1860**John W. Mann in Hillsville, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** March 21, 1860**James Wagg in Jefferson, North Carolina, to J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** May 17, 1860**John W. Mann in Hillsville, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** June 21, 1860**J. W. M. [John W. Mann?] in Hillsville, Virginia, to Jonnie [J. D. Wagg?]****Unit Date** July 25, 1860**James Wagg in Jefferson, North Carolina, to J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** August 1, 1860**Correspondence****Unit Date** 1861-1862**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**J. D. Peters in Pearisburg, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** January 1, 1861**John D. Wagg in Hillsville, Virginia, to Samuel Wagg****Unit Date** February 18, 1861**A. J. Frazier in Rheatown, Tennessee, to J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** March 4, 1861**A. G. Pendleton in Fort Branch, [North Carolina?], to J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** March 5, 1861**A. J. Frazier in Rheatown, Tennessee, to J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** June 4, 1861**W. P. Quien in Grayson County, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** August 11, 1861

John [Wagg?], Jefferson, North Carolina, to Lavinia Anderson

Unit Date December 14, 1861

Scope and Content

Includes two handwritten copies.

W. P. Quien in Ducktown, Tennessee, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date December 26, 1861

Gwen in Knoxville, Tennessee, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date February 11, 1862

J. M. McTeer in Speedwell, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date March 24, 1862

W. McDowell in Wytheville, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date April 11, 1862

Gwen in Knoxville, Tennessee, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date April 15, 1862

Gwen in Knoxville, Tennessee, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date May 25, 1862

John [Wagg] to Lavinia Anderson

Unit Date [ca. May 1862]

James Wagg, Jefferson, North Carolina, to Lavinia Wagg

Unit Date September 2, 1862

Benjamin W. S. Bishop in Jefferson, North Carolina, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date September 20, 1862

Lavinia Wagg, Asheville, North Carolina, to "Dear Sister"

Unit Date October 3, 1862

J. D. Wagg in Wytheville, Virginia, to "Vin" [Lavinia Wagg]

Unit Date October 11, 1862

Scope and Content

Includes typewritten transcription

Lavinia [Wagg], Hillsville, Virginia, to "Dear husband" [J. D. Wagg]

Unit Date October 14, 1862

F. L. Hale, Hillsville, Virginia, to J. D. and L. Wagg

Unit Date November 19, 1862

Laura and John Wilkinson, Carroll County, Virginia, and [Hillsville?], Virginia, to "Vin" and "Dear Sister" [Lavinia Wagg]

Unit Date December 10, 1862

Lavinia and John Wagg, Asheville, North Carolina, to "Dear Sister"

Unit Date December 28, [1862]

M. Tatum to J. D. Wagg, with newspaper clipping

Unit Date December 1862

Correspondence

Unit Date 1863-1866

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Samuel S. Grant in Hillsville, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date April 16, 1863

[Thena?], Hillsville, Virginia, to Lavinia and John Wagg

Unit Date May 3, 1863

A. J. Frazier in Jacksboro, Tennessee, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date May 19, 1863

Samuel S. Grant in Hillsville, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date August 12, 1863

William H. Howell in Hendersonville, North Carolina, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date July 20, 1864

Invitation for the funeral of Lavinia Wagg

Unit Date August 9, 1864

Joshua Roberts in Asheville, North Carolina, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date October 2, 1864

A. D. Stewart to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date February 20, 1865

Joshua Roberts in Asheville, North Carolina, to J. D. Wagg, with newspaper clipping

Unit Date February 24, 1865

J. D. Wagg, Bristol, Tennessee, to "Miss Laura"

Unit Date July 24, 1865

James R. Stringfield in Emory, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date September 21, 1865

A. D. Stewart in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date December 28, 1865

J. B. Johnson in Lynchburg, Virginia, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date February 15, 1866

Josie in Rose Valley, [Pennsylvania?], to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date May 1866

Correspondence

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

M. Tatum to J. D. Wagg, 3 letters

Unit Date n.d.

Anson W. Cummings at [Holston Conference] Female College, Asheville, North Carolina, to J. D. Wagg

Unit Date n.d.

J. D. Wagg to unknown person

Unit Date n.d.

Elva in Hillsville, Virginia, to Lavinia Wilkerson

Unit Date n.d.

Mollie to "My Dear Brother"

Unit Date n.d.

Correspondence of Bettie Wagg

Unit Date 1869, 1878-1879

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Bettie Wagg, Etowah Seminary, to "My Darling Pet"

Unit Date August 21, 1869

James Wagg, Jefferson, North Carolina, to Bettie Wagg

Unit Date March 11, 1878

James Wagg, Jefferson, North Carolina, to Bettie Wagg

Unit Date December 2, 1878

Florence W., Marion Female College, Marion, Virginia, to "Ever Dear Cousin"

Unit Date [1878?]

James Wagg, Jefferson, North Carolina, to Bettie Wagg

Unit Date February [4?], 1879

Correspondence of Bettie Wagg

Unit Date 1880-1894

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

James Wagg, Jefferson, North Carolina, to [Bettie Wagg]

Unit Date January 19, 1880

James Wagg, Jefferson, North Carolina, to [Bettie Wagg]

Unit Date July 22, 1880

Mattie, [Trinity?] Hall, to Bettie Wagg

Unit Date January 9, 1880

Mattie, [Trinity?] Hall, to Bettie Wagg

Unit Date June 2, 188[1?]

Annie Mustard, Wytheville, Virginia, to Bettie Wagg

Unit Date November 27, 1884

Eva Fugate, Martha Washington College, to Bettie Wagg

Unit Date January 28, 1885

Scope and Content

Includes short notes from "Mattie" and Lula [Umberger?].

L. R. [Inley?], Abingdon, Virginia, to Bettie Wagg

Unit Date February 23, 1885

Eva [Fugate?], Martha Washington College, to Bettie Wagg

Unit Date April 2[?], 1885

Eliza M., Martha Washington College, Virginia, to Bettie Wagg

Unit Date April 12, 1885

Mary N. Wagg, Saltville, Virginia, to Bettie Wagg

Unit Date June 28, 1886

Eliza F., Willow Spring, [North Carolina?], to Bettie Wagg

Unit Date January 3, 1887

Mrs. R. R. Crow, District Secretary, per Mrs. M. J. W., Newbern, Virginia, to Bettie Wagg

Unit Date March 7, 1889

Laura P. Wilkinson, Hillsville, Virginia, to Bettie Wagg

Unit Date June 19, 1889

Bettie Wagg, Weaverville, North Carolina, to Laura

Unit Date September 25, 1893

Mattie Maxon, Saint Louis, [Virginia?], to "Cousin Laura"

Unit Date January 25, 1894

Diary of J D. Wagg

Unit Date 1854-1858

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Pocket diary and almanac of J D. Wagg**Unit Date** 1865, 1882-1883**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Scope and Content**

Includes lock of hair and sheet with family data.

Notebook of sermons by J. D. Wagg**Unit Date** n.d.**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Sermons****Unit Date** 1865**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**"Trial of Faith" sermon by J. D. Wagg, preached on February 21, 1864, at Asheville, North Carolina, and on March 5, 1865, at Bristol, Virginia****Unit Date** February 21, 1864, March 5, 1865**"The Builders" sermon by J. D. Wagg, preached on February 19, 1865, at Bristol, Virginia, and on March 27, 1865, at Asheville, North Carolina****Unit Date** February 19, 1865, March 27, 1865**"Angels" sermon by J. D. Wagg, preached on March 15, 1865, at Asheville, North Carolina****Unit Date** March 15, 1865**"Faith" sermon by J. D. Wagg, preached on June 15, 1865, at Asheville, North Carolina, and on June 18, 1865, at Bristol, Virginia****Unit Date** June 15, 1865, June 18, 1865**Sermons****Unit Date** n.d.**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 12 (folder)**"God Seen in Nature" sermon by J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** n.d.**"What of the Night?" sermon by J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** n.d.**"Valedictory" sermon by J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** n.d.**"Aspiration of the Scriptures--External Evidence" sermon by J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** n.d.**"The Divinity of Christ" sermon by J. D. Wagg****Unit Date** n.d.

"The Fall of Man" sermon by J. D. Wagg

Unit Date n.d.

"A New Creature" sermon by J. D. Wagg

Unit Date n.d.

"Praise" sermon by J. D. Wagg

Unit Date n.d.

"The Water of Life" sermon by J. D. Wagg

Unit Date n.d.

"The Lord God and Death" sermon by J. D. Wagg

Unit Date n.d.

Notes for sermons

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Miscellaneous church documents and writings

Unit Date 1849, 1858, 1884, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Class book for Hillsville, Virginia, congregation of the Holston Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church South

Unit Date n.d.

Scope and Content

Compiled by J. M. McTeer and J. D. Wagg, this book includes names of church members.

Map of Hillsville, Virginia, circuit of the Holston Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church South

Unit Date n.d.

Church credentials of J. D. Wagg

Unit Date January 1, 1858

Church credentials of J. D. Wagg

Unit Date July 17, 1858

Poem signed by Lavinia Anderson

Unit Date March 15, 1849

"To Miss ____" poem by J. D. Wagg

Unit Date n.d.

"Mocking Bird" poem by J. D. Wagg

Unit Date n.d.

Poem by J. D. Wagg

Unit Date n.d.

Two essays by J. D. Wagg

Unit Date n.d.

History Examination, Bettie Wagg, Martha Washington College

Unit Date November 15, 1884