

Bear, Vivian Coleman, Papers

Vivian Coleman Bear Papers

1844-1916



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2009.086

Unit Date

1844-1916

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection contains the papers of Roanoke, Virginia resident Vivian Coleman Bear, including correspondence from E. Ferd Weigand and other suitors; family correspondence and financial documents relating to the Clemens and Staley families; Bible with genealogical notes and clippings; photographs; and ephemera.

Creator

Weigand, H. Ferd

Creator

Bear, Vivian Coleman, 1888-1984

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 Vivian Coleman Bear Papers were purchased by Special Collections in 1994. The collection was purchased under the title of "Clemmons / Coleman Family Papers."

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Vivian Coleman Bear Papers commenced in May 2009 and was completed in June 2009.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Vivian Coleman Bear Papers, Ms2009-086, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Vivian Clemens Coleman, the daughter of Harriet "Hattie" Staley and Lee Coleman, was born January 7, 1888. The family seems to have been living in Kentucky when Coleman was born, but by 1900, she was living with her aunt, Alma Staley Crouch, in Roanoke, Virginia. Coleman, continued to live in Roanoke after marrying Charles Edgar Bear (1883-1968), the son of John Henry and Lizzie Stephens Bear. Charles Bear, who attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Roanoke College, and the University of North Carolina, later worked in both the lumber and automobile business. The couple had no children. Vivian Coleman Bear died in Roanoke on October 17, 1984.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the papers of Vivian Coleman Bear, a resident of Roanoke, Virginia in the early twentieth century. The collection contains such materials as correspondence, financial documents, photos and ephemera relating to Bear and her ancestors.

The correspondence within the collection largely consists of letters written by H. Ferd Weigand, a Baltimore attorney and a suitor of Vivian Coleman. Weigand's letters, written between 1912 and 1914, relate mostly to personal matters. He seems to have overstepped the bounds of propriety while expressing his desires in a letter dated March 12, 1912; in his next letter, dated March 28, Weigand apologizes for the transgression. Another letter is accompanied by a poem and illustration. Weigand makes frequent promises to visit Roanoke but complains of an increasingly heavy workload. Other correspondents and apparent would-be suitors are C. O. Pugh of Newport News and Harry G. Holbrook. The collection also contains a few letters between other family members, including a letter from John Marshall Clemens to his aunt, Elizabeth Pollard, regarding Clemens family genealogy.

Included among the small set of financial documents are an 1844 receipt issued by E. Jackson to D. Staley for the payment of tuition for three students and an 1859 receipt for goods purchased by Captain Jack Pollard of Jones & Steptoe (Lynchburg, Virginia); as well as other receipts.

An 1882 New Testament Bible in the collection includes several genealogical notes and newspaper clippings. Several of these items relate to Mark Twain, Bear's cousin. Removed from the Bible and now housed in a separate folder are notes from various Bible lessons.

The collection also contains a few family photographs and a small set of ephemera, which includes business cards for H. Ferd Wiegand, a calling card for L. W. Coleman, an ink blotter for the Lumbermen's Credit

Association, and an unidentified lock of hair.

Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
Women -- History
Bear, Vivian Coleman, 1888-1984

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged by document type, then chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence to Vivian Coleman

Unit Date 1909-1914, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1-2 (folder)

Other family correspondence

Unit Date 1884-1892, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Financial documents

Unit Date 1844-1916

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

The New Testament of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: Translated Out of the Original Greek... (New York: American Bible Society)

Unit Date 1882

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Bible lesson notes

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Photographs

Unit Date 1907, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

T. G. Lavinder, Norma Price, M. G. Lavinder, and Vivian Coleman at Virginia Beach

Unit Date 1907

"Mammy Coleman," Vivian Coleman's paternal grandmother (A. H. Plecker studio, Lynchburg, Virginia)

Unit Date n.d.

Unidentified woman (R. F. Adams studio, St. Louis, Missouri)

Unit Date n.d.

General Physical Description note [tintype]

Unidentified young woman (Smith studio, Liberty, Virginia)

Unit Date n.d.

General Physical Description note [carte-de-visite]

Unidentified man

Unit Date n.d.

Ephemera

Unit Date 1909?, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

H. Ferd Wiegand business card

Unit Date n.d.

General Physical Description note [2 items]

L. W. Coleman calling card

Unit Date n.d.

Lumbermen's Credit Association ink blotter

Unit Date n.d.

Prank arrest warrant for Martha Ann Staley

Unit Date 1909?

Unidentified lock of hair, accompanied by poem "Despair"

Unit Date n.d.