

Smyth, James Adger, Memoir

James Adger Smyth Memoir

1917, 2010



Title Statement

Smyth, James Adger, Memoir James Adger Smyth Memoir, 1917, 2010 Ms.2011.010

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2011.010

Unit Date

1917, 2010

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection contains an original typescript memoir of James Adger Smyth (1837-1920) of Charleston, SC, as well as a transcript of the memoir and an introduction/brief biography by a descendant.

Creator

Smyth, James Adger, 1837-1920

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

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 James Adger Smyth Memoir was donated to Special Collections and University Archives in 2010.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the James Adger Smyth Memoir was completed in February 2011.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], James Adger Smyth Memoir, Ms2011-010, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

This collection is signed by James Adger Smyth (1837-1920) of Charleston, South Carolina. His father, Thomas Smyth, served as pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Charleston from 1832 until 1873. His mother, Margaret Milligan Adger Smyth was the daughter of a Charleston shipping merchant, James Adger. James Adger Smyth was a successful business man throughout his life. Adger graduated from the College of Charleston in 1858 and began working at his uncles' wholesale hardware firm, J.E. Adger & Company. He married Annie Ransom Briggs, the daughter of Cedar Grove Plantation owner, Thomas Whitaker Briggs in March of 1860. He was present at the signing of the South Carolina Ordinance of Secession, December 1860. Early in 1862, at the age of 24, Adger enlisted and fought with Company A of the 25th Regiment of the South Carolina Volunteers until the end of the war in 1865. He witnessed many battles throughout his time in the Confederate Army such as, the fight to preserve the Weldon Railroad connection, the aftermath of the Battles of Hawe's Shop and the Battle of the Crater.

After the war he resumed work with his maternal uncles, Robert Adger and Joseph Ellison Adger, at J.E Adger & Company. During his ten years in the company he became an active member in the Chamber of Commerce. In 1875, Adger became an independent cotton broker, and along with his cousin, Andrew Moffett Adger, started the company Smyth and Adger, successfully brokering cotton from North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. Adger grew increasingly involved in local politics. He was member of the State and County Democratic Executive Committees (1876), City Council (1885), and mayor for two four-year terms (1896 to 1903). He retired in 1904.

Scope and Content

The collection contains an original typescript memoir by James Adger Smyth (1837-1920) of Charleston, South Carolina, as well as a transcript of the memoir and an introduction/brief biography by a descendant. The typescript begins when he at the end of his college career and continues throughout his life in Charleston, South Carolina. He writes about his experiences in the American Civil War, as a businessman, as a Chamber of Commerce member, as mayor, and other life events.

Keywords

Civil War

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged by material type.

Description of Subordinate Components

Memoir typescript

Unit Date 1917

folder 1

Transcript and biography

Unit Date 2010

folder 1