

John E. McDonald VPI Cadet Blouse

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c.1920s



Title Statement

John E. McDonald VPI Cadet BlouseJohn E. McDonald VPI Cadet Blouse, c.1920s Textile.1993.009

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Textile.1993.009

Unit Date

c.1920s

Language

English .

Abstract

This cadet blouse is navy blue with black lining, and sleeves lined with off white. It is possibly made of wool and cotton. The blouse has a black stripe trim with plastic black buttons on the right, and hooks on the left. There are two gold pins on the collar of the blouse. One pin has "VPI" with guns crossing above. The other pin has "ROTC" with flames between "RO" and "TC." There is a five pointed star on the lower right sleeve and three thin black stripes above, a wide black stripe on lower sleeve. Labels on inside of blouse state "Mr. John E. McDonald," "Date {34}-{31?}-{39}," and numbers "27 1/2, 18 1/2." The coat was manufactured by Virginia Polytechnic Institute Uniform Dept. V.E. Kelsey, Supt. The condition is fair, some stains, missing top hook, worn on back.

Creator

Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Corps of Cadets (1944-1970)

Extent

3.1 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection was acquired by Special Collections and University Archives in January 1975.

Processing Information

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Preferred Citation

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Biographical Note

John E. McDonald was born on February 23, 1905 in Montgomery County, Virginia, and passed on May 9th, 1975 in Petersburg, Virginia. He was a part of the class of 1927 and Private Company E. The five pointed star on the sleeve may be a gold bullion, which would signify VPI had the status of "distinguished military college" by the War Department. He later served in the US Army and World War Two.

His parents were Harvey B. McDonald and Annie L. McDonald, and his sister was Annie V. McDonald.

Under his photo in the 1927 Bugle on page 155 it reads " "MAC" What is said of most Scotchmen is not true of "Mac," for we know of no more liberal-hearted man than he. ""Mac" is a true friend to us all: loyal to Tech in every way. He is blessed with a magnetic personality, good judgement, lots of wit, and an abundance of energy. He always looks on the bright side of life; never grumbling, always cheerful. For the past two years we have seen "Mac" only on Wednesdays, for he is in Staunton the rest of the time. We often wonder how he does it, but he has been successful in both love and studies. Tech will not be the same when "Mac" leaves, for he will be missed as only a classmate and friend can be missed. We wish him the success in the future that he has had in the past, and it is with true regret that we bid him goodbye. Buisness Administartion 1923-24- Private Company "E"; Company Football; Rifle Club. 1924-25- Private Company "E"; Company Football; Rifle Club. 1925-26- Private Company "E"; Company Football; Company Baseball 4-H club; Commerce Club; Rifle Club. 1926-27- Private Company "E"; Company Football; Company Baseball; Commerce Club; Roanoke Club; "Skippers"; Blasting

Society; "Virginia Tech Minstrels."

Source:

"John E. McDonald." Find a Grave. Accessed June 9, 2025. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/254363525/john-early-mcdonald>

John Early McDonald in the Virginia, U.S., Birth Records, 1912-2015, Delayed Birth Records, 1721-1920." Ancestry. Accessed June 9, 2025.

https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/search/collections/9277/records/8288799?tid=&pid=&queryId=2b558ef9-ae97-4d3a-ac43db07fc03302f&_phsrc=zWF11&_phstart=successSource&_gl=1*1bso4ky*_up*MQ..*_ga*NzA3NzU1NDE4LjE3NDk0ODE5MjU.*_ga_4QT8FMEX30*czdiNTRkNWfMlWRhMzitNG

Temple, Harry Downing, "Donning the Blue and Gray", Richmond, VA: William Byrd Press, 1992, p.62

"VPI Bugle 1927", Lynchburg, Virginia: J.P.Bell Company INC., 1992, p.155

Scope and Content

This cadet blouse is navy blue with black lining, and sleeves lined with off white. It is possibly made of wool and cotton. The blouse has a black stripe trim with plastic black buttons on the right, and hooks on the left. There are two gold pins on the collar of the blouse. One pin has "VPI" with guns crossing above. The other pin has "ROTC" with flames between "RO" and "TC." There is a five pointed star on the lower right sleeve and three thin black stripes above, a wide black stripe on lower sleeve. Labels on inside of blouse state "Mr. John E. McDonald," "Date {34}-{31?}-{39}," and numbers "27 1/2, 18 1/2." The coat was manufactured by Virginia Polytechnic Institute Uniform Dept. V.E. Kelsey, Supt. The condition is fair, some stains, missing top hook, worn on back.

Keywords

University History

University Archives

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute. Corps of Cadets (1896-1944)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Corps of Cadets

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (1896-1944)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944-1970)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1970-)

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Description of Subordinate Components

John E. McDonald VPI Cadet Blouse

Unit Date c. 1920s

box 1