

Wysor, Henry C., Family Papers

Henry C. Wysor Family Papers

1869-1918



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2023.012

Unit Date

1869-1918

Language

Materials in this collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection includes three series of papers of Henry C. Wysor and his family members. The first series comprises personal correspondence sent to Henry C. Wysor, his wife Mary E. Wysor who is sometimes referred to as Mrs. Henry C. Wysor, and his daughter Mary S. Wysor. The second series consists of papers regarding Henry C. Wysor's two businesses, his Apple Orchard and Life Insurance Branch. The Apple Orchard papers include correspondences and ledger paper sheets. The Life Insurance Branch consists of correspondences from the insurance company and clients inquiring about their policy or making payments. The third series consists of personal papers from Henry C. Wysor and his son Henry Wysor. There are two handwritten agreements between Henry C. Wysor and others. Henry C. Wysor Writings contains letters written by him and short stories. His personal invoices and receipts are also included in this series.

Creator

Wysor, Henry C., 1847-1927

Extent

2 Cubic Feet 5 boxes

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 collection was purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 2018 and 2019.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Henry C. Wysor Family Papers were completed in May 2023.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Henry C. Wysor Family Papers, 1869-1918, Ms2023-012, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Family History

Henry C. Wysor was born in October 21, 1847, in Washington County, Virginia, to George Washington and Margaret Ann Wysor. During the American Civil War, he enlisted with the Confederate Army at the age of 16 in 1864 with the 45th Infantry. He primarily worked as a Life Insurance Agent who ran his own branch of the New-York Life Insurance Company in southwestern Virginia. He also owned an apple orchard and sold apples to people throughout southwestern Virginia and West Virginia. He passed away on August 7, 1927, in Dublin, Pulaski County, Virginia.

Wysor married Mary Elizabeth Shipp in 1873. She was born on October 24, 1846, in North Carolina. She married Henry C. Wysor in 1873. She passed away on August 21, 1922 in Dublin, Pulaski County, Virginia.

The two had six children, Mary S., William W., Henry, Cora R., Rufus J., and Davidson C. Wysor. Mary S. was born in May 1876 in Dublin, Virginia, William W. in March 1878, Henry in April 1880, Cora R. in July 1881, Rufus J. in December 1885, and Davidson C. in November 1888. William later resided in West Virginia working for a coal company, and Henry resided in Pennsylvania as a professor.

Sources:

U.S. Federal Censuses, 1900-1910

Henry Crockett Wysor, Findagrave.com, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38066024/henry-crockett-wysor>, accessed May 01, 2023.

"Mary Elizabeth Shipp Wysor", Findagrave.com, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38064279/mary-elizabeth-wysor>, accessed May 01, 2023.

"Henry C Wysor" in the U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/676433:1555>, accessed May 01, 2023.

Scope and Content

This collection includes three series of papers of Henry C. Wysor and his family members. The first series comprises personal correspondence sent to Henry C. Wysor, his wife Mary E. Wysor who is sometimes referred to as Mrs. Henry C. Wysor, and his daughter Mary S. Wysor. The second series consists of papers regarding Henry C. Wysor's two businesses, his Apple Orchard and Life Insurance Branch. The Apple Orchard

papers include correspondences and ledger paper sheets. The Life Insurance Branch consists of correspondences from the insurance company and clients inquiring about their policy or making payments. The third series consists of personal papers from Henry C. Wysor and his son Henry Wysor. There are two handwritten agreements between Henry C. Wysor and others. Henry C. Wysor Writings contains letters written by him and short stories. His personal invoices and receipts are also included in this series.

In Series I: Personal Correspondence, there are three subseries of correspondence. These letters contain details that are personal to the family members, rather than focusing on the business endeavors of Henry C. Wysor.

The collection contains many letters addressed to Henry C. Wysor from his wife, sons while they attended Virginia Tech, his daughter Mary S. Wysor, family members, and friends. Some letters briefly discuss business and job opportunities, such as one letter explaining, "I have secured a job with Mr. Janney in the Wells Branch Coal Co. 3 miles above Dunlow [West Virginia]." Others discuss family health concerns, such as "Mary's illness. I know you are anxious about her. She will soon be her usual self." Another letter contains information on Henry purchasing a train ticket with Southern Railway Company. He also received letters from his son Henry Wysor who worked as a professor at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. One letter discusses the apple orchard, and he inquires about "the news in last nights and today's papers of the Hillsville affair. Judge Massie is the only one of the victims whose name I recognize as one of our old citizens of Pulaski. I trust ... speedy arrest and punishments of these murderers." Later letters inform from Henry to his father discuss how his children Henry and Elizabeth have the whooping cough.

There are many letters addressed to Mary E. Wysor, or Mrs. Henry C. Wysor. Many of these come from her children. Many letters arrive from her son Henry Wysor in Duquesne, Pennsylvania. She often received letters from her husband during his travels. With one letter, he included a short story titled, "Little Corners." Throughout 1905, she received many letters from Henry during his travels, and he sent newspaper clippings to her. The subseries includes a wedding invitation and a graduation invitation.

The daughter Mary S. Wysor received letters over the years. She often received letters from friends around the Pulaski area and from her brothers. Her brothers addressed her as "Sitta." One of her brother's letters discusses their father's apple orchard business where he explains how someone purchased the apples but did not have enough for apple butter.

In Series II: Business Papers, there are papers related to Henry C. Wysor's apple orchard business and life insurance branch business. The apple orchard business contains correspondences and individual ledger papers. Correspondences relate to the harvesting, seasons, and details of the orchard. The life insurance branch was part the New York Life Insurance Company, and Henry C. Wysor had a branch in southwestern Virginia. Many correspondences relate to policy payments and loans. Other correspondences discuss policy applicants for branch. Others discuss the policy options and promote the policies to individuals considering the work.

In Series III: Personal Papers, there are multiple types of papers such as handwritten agreements, short stories, and invoices. One agreement is between Henry C. Wysor and James M. Miller, and the other between Henry C. Wysor, James M. Miller, John B. Baskerville, and George W. Wysor. Henry Wysor wrote an outline for one of his classes at Virginia Tech. Henry C. Wysor's writings are placed together, including letters he wrote and short stories. Both of his short stories relate to the Bible. Some letters are written for his children and family, rather than individual family members which is why they are located with Henry C. Wysor's writings. The invoices and receipts deal with his personal purchases.

Box 5 also contains the original collection notes with brief 1-2 sentence descriptions of majority of the letters. Print outs from ancestry.com are also found in this folder.

Related Archival Materials

Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives maintains several related Wysor family papers:

Rufus J. Wysor Papers, Ms1968-008

James M. Wysor Letter, Ms2013-035

Henry Wysor Family Papers, Ms2015-026

Samuel D. Jones Letter to Henry C. Wysor, Ms2024-051

F. P. Miles Letter to Henry C. Wysor, Ms2024-052

John C. Wysor Letter, Ms2024-056

Robert E. Wysor Account Book, Ms2024-057

Keywords

Correspondence
Ledgers (account books)
Letters
Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
Pulaski County (Va.)
Receipts (financial records)
Virginia, Southwest
Henry Wysor family

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged into the following series and subseries:

Series I: Personal Correspondence, 1889-1918, is divided by correspondent

Subseries A: Henry C. Wysor, 1889-1913, is arranged by type and then chronologically with undated materials at the end.

Subseries B: Mary E. Wysor, 1899-1918, is arranged chronologically.

Subseries C: Mary S. Wysor, 1895-1905, is arranged chronologically with undated materials at the end.

Series II: Business Papers, 1869-1909, is divided based on subject.

Subseries A: Apple Orchard, 1869-1903, is arranged by material type then chronologically with undated materials at the end.

Subseries B: Life Insurance Branch, 1879-1909, is arranged chronologically.

Series III: Personal Papers, 1869-1916, is arranged by type of material.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Personal Correspondence

Unit Date 1889-1918

Subseries A: Henry C. Wysor

Unit Date 1889-1913

1889

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

1892

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

1893

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

1898

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

1899

1899

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

1900

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

1901

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

1902

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

1903

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

1904

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

1905

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

1906

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

1908

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

1909

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

1912

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

1913

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Undated Year

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Envelopes

Unit Date 1887-1906

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Subseries B: Mary E. Wysor

Unit Date 1899-1918

1899

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

1901

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

1902

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

1905

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

1906

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

1911

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

1916

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

1918

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Subseries C: Mary S. Wysor

Unit Date 1895-1905

1895

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

1901

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

1902

1902

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

1905

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Undated Year

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Series II: Business Papers

Unit Date 1869-1909

Subseries A: Apple Orchard

Unit Date 1869-1903

Correspondences

Unit Date 1877-1903

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Correspondences, Undated Year

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Ledger Papers

Unit Date 1869-1873

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

General

Folder is located in Box 5 rather than Box 4 due to the ledgers being oversized.

Subseries B: Life Insurance Branch

Unit Date 1879-1909

Correspondences

Unit Date 1879

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Correspondences

Unit Date 1887

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Correspondences

Unit Date 1889

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Correspondences

Unit Date 1890

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Correspondences

Unit Date 1892

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Correspondences

Unit Date 1893

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Correspondences

Unit Date 1897

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Correspondences

Unit Date 1898

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Correspondences

Unit Date 1900

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Correspondences

Unit Date 1901

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Correspondences

Unit Date 1904

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Correspondences

Unit Date 1905

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Correspondences

Unit Date 1906

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Correspondences**Unit Date** 1907**box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 16 (folder)**Correspondences****Unit Date** 1909**box-folder** 4 (box)**Container** 17 (folder)**Series III: Personal Papers****Unit Date** 1869-1916**Handwritten Agreements****Unit Date** 1878**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Henry Wysor Class Paper****Unit Date** 1900**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Henry C. Wysor Writings****Unit Date** 1902-1916**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Invoices and Receipts****Unit Date** 1869-1877**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Newspaper Clipping****box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)