

# Guide to the Nathaniel S. Way Manuscript business ledger 1872-1887 C0251

Nathaniel S. Way manuscript business ledger  
1872-1887



## Title Statement

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**Subtitle:** Nathaniel S. Way Manuscript business ledger

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

C0251

### Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/379

### Unit Date

1872-1887

### Mixed Materials

1 (box)

**Container**

1 (volume)

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

Ledger belonging to Nathaniel S. Way, a member of the Woodlawn farming community after the Civil War.

**Creator**

Way, Nathaniel S., 1843-1911

**Extent**

0.25 Linear Feet 1 volume

**Repository**

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

There are no access restrictions.

**Use Restrictions**

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**Acquisition Information**

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**Processing Information**

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**Preferred Citation**

Nathaniel S. Way manuscript business ledger, C0251, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries.

## Biographical and Historical Note

Nathaniel S. Way (1843-1911) was born in Pennsylvania. He married Mary H. Troth, the daughter of former Woodlawn mansion owner and Quaker farming community founder Paul Hillman Troth, in Fairfax, Virginia on January 1, 1873. He settled in the community, and his farming activities and business interactions with his neighbors from 1872-1887 are documented in his manuscript business ledger.

The Woodlawn farming community, founded in 1846 by New Jersey Quakers Chaulkley and Lucas Gillingham and Jacob and Paul Hillman Troth, was located on almost 2000 acres of land bought from the son of George Washington's nephew Lawrence Lewis. The land had formerly been part of Washington's Mount Vernon plantation before being given to Lewis upon his marriage. The community was pacifist and anti-slavery, in keeping with the religious beliefs of its members. Paul Hillman Troth lived in the Woodlawn mansion itself with his family before selling the house to John and Rebecca Mason in 1850. The house went through a series of owners from the late 1880s to the 1950s before the National Trust for Historic Preservation bought it in 1957. Woodlawn currently houses the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, continuing the socially conscious legacy of its former Quaker residents.

## Scope and Content

This collection consists of a manuscript business ledger dating from 1872-1887. It was maintained by Nathaniel S. Way, a member of the Woodlawn farming community in Northern Virginia, and it covers Way's transactions with his neighbors and local businesses, such as the Accotink, VA Post Office. The majority of the accounts listed are personal and include P.H. Troth, Way's father-in-law and a founder of the Woodlawn Quaker community, as well as John Mason, the owner of the Woodlawn mansion following Troth. Items bought and sold include household goods and food as well as farm supplies such as hay, corn, and expenses related to human and animal labor. There are approximately 25 loose pages added throughout the ledger, most of which include extra account lists and arithmetic. The ledger is 360 pages long (some of which are blank), and it contains an alphabetical index of names on the first few pages.

# Keywords

Account books

Agriculture -- Virginia

# Bibliography

'N.S. Way' In 'Virginia Marriages, 1785-1940.' Database. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org> : 7 January 2021. Index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City.

"Virginia, Marriages, 1785-1940," index, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1XP>) N.S. Way and Mary H. Troth, 01 Jan 1873.

Susan Hellmann, "A Brief History of Woodlawn and its Owners," The National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2012. <http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Woodlawn-Historical-Brochure-lowres.pdf>

Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, 'Site Overview,' [www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org), accessed February 23, 2021.

# Arrangement

The ledger is arranged chronologically within each personal account. An alphabetical index of names is located at the beginning of the ledger.

# Description of Subordinate Components

## **Manuscript business ledger**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/99296

**Unit Date** 1872-1887

**Text** 1 (box)