

A Guide to the Varner Family Papers, 1774-1933 SC 0129

Varner Family Papers
1774-1933



Title Statement

A Guide to the Varner Family Papers, 1774-1933 SC 0129

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0129

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/276

Unit Date

1774-1933

Language

English

Abstract

The Varner Family Papers, 1774-1933, documents the Varner family of Page County, Virginia with particular emphasis on correspondence, legal and financial documents, and documents relating to their distillery business.

Creator

Varner family

source

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society

Extent

0.4 cubic feet 1 box

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

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Acquisition Information

This collection is on deposit from the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society.

Processing Information

In order to streamline the process of applying collection numbers, Special Collections staff completed a large-scale renumbering campaign in the spring of 2017. **This collection was previously cataloged as SC 3035.**

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Varner Family Papers, 1774-1933, SC 0129, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

Bio/Historical Note

The Varner family of Page County, Virginia was of German descent, and their name appears as early as 1801 on records of the Antioch Christian Church near Stony Man Creek, Virginia.

Despite wide-spread anti-liquor sentiment in the Shenandoah Valley in the nineteenth century, the Varners operated a distillery. Documentary evidence of the business begins in 1869 and includes state permits to distill, Internal Revenue "Distillery Gauger" forms, and several orders for brandy.

Scope and Content

The Varner Family Papers, 1774-1933, document the Varner family of Page County, Virginia with particular emphasis on correspondence, legal and financial documents, and documents relating to their distillery business.

Series 1: Letters, 1816-1910, contains documents from relatives of the Varners in the Midwest and from other family members within Virginia. Most of these documents date from the latter half of the nineteenth century. In general these letters discuss health, the weather and farming; however, there are several accounts relating to the Civil War and its devastating effects on the family.

Series 2: Legal Documents, 1774-1931, contains a thorough collection of tax receipts dating from 1803-1930; several papers pertaining to John Varner's duties as an executor; a folder of receipts for various financial transactions; and, among other papers in the miscellaneous folder, a Confederate States of America Bond.

Series 3: Distillery Papers, 1869-1893, contains documents related to the Varner's distillery business in Luray, Virginia. Despite wide-spread anti-liquor sentiment in the Shenandoah Valley in the nineteenth century, the Varners operated a distillery. Documentary evidence of the business begins in 1869 and includes state permits to distill, Internal Revenue "Distillery Gauger" forms and several orders for brandy.

Keywords

Agriculture -- Virginia -- History -- 19th century
Distilleries -- Virginia -- Sources
Liquor laws -- Virginia
Liquor -- Selling
Financial statements -- Virginia
Estates (Law) -- Virginia -- Sources
Virginia -- Sources
Page County (Va.) -- Social life and customs -- Sources
Page County (Va.) -- Economic conditions
Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- History
Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- Social life and customs -- Sources
Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- Economic conditions -- Sources
Virginia -- History, Local
Virginia -- Social life and customs -- Sources
Virginia -- Economic conditions -- Sources
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives, Confederate
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Destruction and pillage
Family papers
Legal documents
Letters (correspondence)
Page County (Va.) -- History
Varner family
Varner family -- Correspondence
Varner, John
Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society

Bibliography

Lambert, Darwin S. *The Undying Past of Shenandoah National Park*. Boulder, CO: Roberts Rinehart, Inc., 1989. Strickler, Harry M. *A Short History of Page County Virginia*. Richmond, VA: Dietz Press, Inc., 1952.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series:

- Letters, 1816-1933
- Legal Documents, 1774-1931
- Distillery Papers, 1869-1893

Description of Subordinate Components

Letters

Unit ID 1

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1261

Unit Date 1816-1933

Letters from Virginia

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1264

Unit Date 1816-1865

Mixed Materials [1000886583] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Letters from Virginia

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1265

Unit Date 1866-1933, undated

Mixed Materials [1000886583] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Letters from the Midwest

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1266

Unit Date 1840-1869

Mixed Materials [1000886583] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Letters from the Midwest

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1267

Unit Date 1870-1910, undated

Mixed Materials [1000886583] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Legal Documents

Unit ID 2

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1262

Unit Date 1774-1931

Tax Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1268

Unit Date 1804-1930

Mixed Materials [1000886583] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Executor Documents

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1269

Unit Date 1822-1836

Mixed Materials [1000886583] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Financial Documents

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1270

Unit Date 1807-1931, undated

Mixed Materials [1000886583] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Miscellaneous Documents

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/1271

Unit Date 1774-1910

Mixed Materials [1000886583] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Distillery Papers**Unit ID** 3**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/1263**Unit Date** 1869-1893**Distillery Papers****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/1272**Unit Date** 1869-1893**Mixed Materials [1000886583]** 1 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)