

# A Guide to the Manley Family Papers, 1707-1953 SC 0085

Manley Family papers  
1707-1953



## Title Statement

A Guide to the Manley Family Papers, 1707-1953 SC 0085

**Author:** Gabriel Walman and Tracy Harter

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820 Madison Drive  
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Telephone: (540) 568-3612  
library-special@jmu.edu  
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## Profile Description

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## Revision Description

<b>2017</b>	Collection renumbered.
<b>2020-04-01</b>	Minor revisions to finding aid.
<b>2022-12-01</b>	Oversize series was intellectually removed and items were arranged into other existing series.

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

SC 0085

**Unit ID**

/repositories/4/resources/393

**Unit Date**

1707-1953

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

The Manley Family Papers, 1707-1953, consist of various documents pertaining to the Manley family's personal, genealogical, and business activities, covering several Virginia and West Virginia counties. Included in the collection are letters written by family members and an assortment of legal papers detailing taxes and land deeds.

**Creator**

Manley family

**source**

Turner, Mary E.

**Extent**

1.2 cubic feet 2 boxes, 1 flat file

**Repository**

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

Collection is open to 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**

The copyright interests in this collection have been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collection Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk ([library-special@jmu.edu](mailto:library-special@jmu.edu)).

**Acquisition Information**

This collection was donated by Mrs. Mary E. Turner, heir to George Manley through Mrs. Ruth Beam of Planters Bank & Trust Co. in Staunton, Virginia, in September 1983.

**Processing Information**

This collection was minimally reprocessed in April 2017 and renamed Manley Family Papers, a change from the George W. Manley Collection. 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 2010.**

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], [box #, folder #], Manley Family Papers, 1707-1953, SC 0085, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

## Biographical / Historical

George W. Manley descended from a prominent family which owned property near George Washington's Mount Vernon and intermarried with the Washington and Harrison families. The collection also contains letters to Hugh W. Sheffey, who was the Augusta County representative to the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1850 and to the Virginia General Assembly in 1850s and 1860s.

## Scope and Contents

George W. Manley Collection, 1707-1953, contains about 300 items housed in two boxes and one flat file. The collection is composed largely of two kinds of materials: personal, business, and genealogical papers relating to the Manley family of Augusta County, Virginia and Marion County, formerly of Virginia and later West Virginia; and miscellaneous business and legal papers not directly related to the Manleys that document the functioning of law and government in what is now Franklin County, West Virginia, and Augusta County, Virginia, with scattered references to other Virginia counties and Marion County, West Virginia.

General correspondence comprises Manley family letters, which are genealogical in nature and discuss

family connections with the Righter family of West Virginia, the Bigler family, and family land transactions. Eight photographs of family members from Percy Manley's Aunt Jessie in DuPont, Washington, ca.1950s, are also included. Also notable in the collection is a 1933 letter from Percy C. Manley (George's father) to Lauretta K. Muir, an official in the Civil Works Administration, concerning a self-sufficiency homestead project for the poor of Mineral County, West Virginia. Also interesting are a 1774 character reference for a member of Cedar Creek Congregation, a 1777 letter from John Lowning (likely a Revolutionary War soldier), and other letters that offer glimpses of 19th Century life, mostly in Virginia.

Additionally, ten letters written to Hugh W. Sheffey, Augusta County representative to the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1850 and to the Virginia General Assembly in 1850s and 1860s are included. The relationship between Sheffey and Manley is unclear, but the correspondence is foldered separately due to Sheffey's political position. The transcript of a letter written to Sheffey by Kenton Harper, dated December 16, 1846, is also available in the collection.

Business and legal documents comprise the bulk of the collection and include general documents, court case documents, deeds and indentures, and tax papers. Many of the documents originated in Franklin County, in the late 18th and early 19th centuries; some materials are from other Virginia counties, particularly Marion County. The dominant concerns are land and debt.

General documents contain Franklin, Bath, Marion, and Shenandoah County legal and business documents, dating from 1785-1909, such as lists of goods and services rendered, agreements, payment receipts, cancelled checks, and promissory notes. Several of the promissory notes and other interesting items are in a sixteen page account ledger, marked "Bill of Injunction in Franklin Court, March 1800," which itemizes merchandise sold to John Hook by D.W. Thomas Osbourne, 1795-1800, and Dr. George Cunningham's list of visits to the slave-owning J.W. Moore family, 1834-1835. Also included are miscellaneous documents such as the estate of Samuel Beam of Shenandoah County, 1978; marriage licenses/documents (1822: Cyrus Ross to Sarah Righter, 1830: Joseph Stump to Susan Mansen, 1853: George W. Manley to Harriet B. Righter); an 1839 contract for Mary C. Moore for her teaching in Bath County; an 1855 share certificate for the Howardsville and Rockfish Turnpike; and 1880s liquor licenses for George W. Manley at the Continental Hotel in Fairmont.

Court case documents contain judgements, summonses, depositions, complaints, lawsuits, etc., pertaining to Franklin, Augusta, and Marion Counties, 1707-1855. Several summonses carry the note: "kept off by force of arms." Materials include two statements by unwed mothers naming the fathers and declaring need for financial assistance from them (1804, 1805); one summons for illegal slavery (1805); two orders to pay court witnesses (1840); a 1786 Augusta County seal; and several complaints of assault.

The deeds and indentures consist of numerous deeds from Marion County relevant to the Manley and Righter family. Other deeds pertain to Franklin County, with a few from Augusta, Shenandoah, and Hardy Counties. An 1834 land plat dividing Henry Gochenour's land in Hardy County is also present. Materials that are oversized and housed separately include materials such as a 1774 indenture of John Haynes of Bedford County for sale of slaves to William McDonald, deeds and indentures relating to the Saunders family of Franklin County, deeds granting land in Augusta County to John Archer, signed by Lord Dinwiddie (1759), to Gabriel Fox of Hampshire County, England, signed by Lord Fairfax (1780), an 1847 indenture documenting the sale of land in Illinois from Carlos Enos to William Tams, as well as deeds relevant to the Manley Family.

Tax papers include an 1812 list of lands not found in Franklin County after division of the county in 1786, and 1856-1862 Manley family receipts for personal and property taxes in Marion County.

Family memorabilia and genealogical notes consist of three folders relating to the Manley family, including poetry of P.C. Manley and typed excerpts ostensibly from George Washington's diary mentioning Harrison Manley; family memorabilia such as documents and certificates and two small publications, entitled "The Naval Career of Captain John Manley of Marblehead" (1909) and "Hand Book of Pohick Church" (undated with postcard; Fairfax County); and twelve photographs, seven of which are identified as various Manley family members and taken by various photographers from Fairmont, West Virginia.

Civil War papers consist of a small number of materials related to the Civil War. Documents include an 1863 C.S.A. mail contract, two reports of deserters, documents relating to Peter Righter, including documentation regarding his Presidential pardon (the pardon, which is signed by Andrew Johnson is housed with the oversized materials). Also included are two unsigned, undated notes that may have been from Confederate spies. When the collection was originally recieved in Special Collections, it included an envelope labled "Trial and hanging of John Righter, Confederate Spy," the envelope was empty, and nothing concerning John Righter was found in the collection.

Native American data documents a 1932 excavation of an Indian Mound near Lewis Creek in Augusta County, Virginia, including an anonymous typescript describing the excavation (likely written by Percy Cyrus Manley, who assisted with the excavation), photocopied newspaper clippings, photocopied drawings of relics, and transcript from Augusta County Deed Book No. 22. Six photoprgraphs of the excavation are housed here also. An undated oversized map entitled "Indian Tribes of North America," and compiled by Driver, Cooper, Kirchhoff, Libby, Massey, and Spier is housed separately.

Miscellaneous Virginia history consists of two folders of material: documents and images. Documents include anonymous notes regarding the Beverley Patent, copies of newspaper clippings regarding stage coaches, and notes regarding stage lines and businesses along stage line routes in Virginia in the 1800s. (An 1870 broadside advertising the sale of stage coach horses in Bath County is housed with oversized materials.) The Images folder includes one poor-quality engraving of the Hotel Altemonte in Staunton, Virginia likely removed from a publication. Also included are eleven postcards of various scenes and structures in Harpers Ferry and Charles Town, West Virginia, particularly of sites relating to the execution of John Brown, the abolitionist who led an unsuccessful slave rebellion at Harpers Ferry in 1859.

## Keywords

Debt -- Virginia  
Real property -- Virginia  
Indians of North America -- Virginia  
Coaching (Transportation) -- Virginia  
Miners -- West Virginia  
Marion County (W. Va.) -- History -- Sources  
Augusta County (Va.) -- Genealogy  
Marion County (W. Va.) -- Genealogy  
Virginia -- Genealogy  
West Virginia -- Genealogy  
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865  
Letters (correspondence)  
Promissory notes  
Financial Records  
Genealogies (histories)  
Indentures  
Legal documents  
Tax records  
Wills  
Family papers  
Augusta County (Va.) -- History  
Manley family -- Correspondence  
Sheffey, Hugh W. (Hugh White), 1815-1889 -- Correspondence  
Manley, John  
Righter, Peter B. (Peter Baker), 1804-1895  
Righter family  
Manley family  
Bigler family  
McCauley family  
Turner, Mary E.

## Bibliography

*Dictionary of American Biography*. New York: Charles Scribner, 1936. *The General Assembly of Virginia, 1619-1978*. Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1978. Peyton, J. Lewis. *History of Augusta County Virginia*, 2nd ed. Bridgewater, VA: C.J Carrier, 1953. Waddel, Joseph A. *Annals of Augusta County, Virginia, from 1726 to 1871*, 2nd ed. Staunton, VA: C. Russell Caldwell, 1902. Wingfield, Marshall. *Franklin County, a History*. Berryville, Virginia: Chesapeake Book Co., 1964.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### **General Correspondence**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2465

**Unit Date** 1774-1953

**Mixed Materials [1000886526]** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

### **Hugh W. Sheffey Correspondence**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2466

**Unit Date** 1846-1876

**Mixed Materials [1000886526]** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

### **Will of Thomas Stump of Maryland**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2483

**Unit Date** 1723

**Mixed Materials [1000898365]** OV 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

### **General business and legal documents**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2468

**Unit Date** 1785-1831

**Mixed Materials [1000886526]** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

### **General business and legal documents**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2469

**Unit Date** 1837-1909

**Mixed Materials [1000886526]** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

### **Court Cases**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2470

**Unit Date** 1707-1862

**Mixed Materials [1000886526]** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

### **Deeds and Indentures**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2471

**Unit Date** 1759-1905

**Mixed Materials [1000886526]** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

### **Tax Papers**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2472

**Unit Date** 1812-1893

**Mixed Materials [1000886526]** 1 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**Illinois indenture, Enos to Tams**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2484

**Unit Date** 1847

**Mixed Materials [1000898365]** OV 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Fairfax, Dinwiddie, and seven Manley family deeds and indentures**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2485

**Mixed Materials [1000898365]** OV 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Peter Righter pardon, signed by Andrew Johnson**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2486

**Mixed Materials [1000898365]** OV 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Writings and Notes**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2474

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials [1000886526]** 1 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

**Certificates and Printed Material**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2475

**Unit Date** 1870-1940s

**Mixed Materials [1000886526]** 1 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

**Photographs**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2476

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials [1000886526]** 1 (box)

**Container** 10 (folder)

**Civil War Papers**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2477

**Unit Date** 1861-1867

**Mixed Materials [1000886526]** 1 (box)

**Container** 11 (folder)

**Native American Data**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2478

**Unit Date** circa 1932

**Mixed Materials [1000886526]** 1 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

**Documents**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2480

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials [1000886526]** 1 (box)

**Container** 13 (folder)

**Images****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2481**Unit Date** undated**Mixed Materials [1000886526]** 1 (box)**Container** 14 (folder)**Bath County broadside****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2487**Unit Date** 1870**Mixed Materials [1000898365]** OV 1 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Map of Indian tribes of North America, compiled by Driver, Cooper Kirchhoff****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/2488**Unit Date** undated**Mixed Materials [1000898295]** 1 (Flat File)