

A Guide to the Rupp Family Papers, 1831-1973 SC 0342

Rupp Family papers
1831-1973



Title Statement

A Guide to the Rupp Family Papers, 1831-1973 SC 0342

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Publication Statement

Publisher: James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

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Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807
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URL: <https://www.lib.jmu.edu/special/>



September 2023

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-10-08 07:07:36 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0342

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/679

Unit Date

1831-1973

Language

English German

Abstract

The collection documents the Rupp family of New Market, Virginia and includes correspondence, photographs, financial documents, account books, legal documents, and pencil drawings.

source

Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates

Creator

Rupp, William F., 1834-1908

Creator

Rupp family

Extent

1.39 cubic feet 4 boxes

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection 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 not been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

Acquired at Jeffrey S. Evans's 37th Semi-Annual Americana/Fine Antiques auction on November 16, 2019.

Processing Information

Papers were removed from non-archival document sleeves. Several leather document cases were discarded due to lack of research value and overall condition.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Rupp Family Papers, 1831-1973, SC 0342, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Biographical / Historical

William F. Rupp (1834-1908) was a German-born frescoer, plain and ornamental painter, and paperhanger from New Market, Virginia. While a youth in Germany, Rupp attended design school. He immigrated from Heilbronn, Germany and arrived in New York on July 17, 1854. Rupp resided in Luray for approximately one year and moved to New Market permanently in July 1855. He married Mary Catherine Spitzer (1837-1900) in 1862. Her father, Charles Spitzer, was a New Market gunsmith. In 1866, Rupp purchased what is now known as the Spitzer-Rupp House (located at 9295 Congress Street, New Market) from members of the Spitzer family. William and Mary Rupp had three sons, Charles E. (1863-1930), William "Willie" H. (1866-1925), and Joseph H. (1869-1923), all of whom are documented in the collection. While William F. Rupp worked primarily in the Shenandoah Valley, documentary evidence confirms that he also frescoed and painted in North Carolina and Pennsylvania. His fresco painting included churches, public buildings, and private residences, some of which are still extant.

Many members of the immediate and extended Rupp family are buried in New Market's St. Matthew's Cemetery.

Researchers should reference the "Rupp family obituaries" file for additional and more complete biographical information.

Scope and Contents

The collection documents the Rupp family of New Market, Virginia and includes correspondence, photographs, financial documents, account books, legal documents, and pencil drawings.

Most notably, the collection documents the work of William F. Rupp, a German-born frescoer, plain and ornamental painter, and paperhanger from New Market, Virginia. Rupp's account books list the name and place of buildings he painted, frescoed, and wallpapered including frescoing Rader's Lutheran Church in Timberville and the Shenandoah County Courthouse courtroom in Woodstock. Bound accounts also

document his work painting signs and gilding. One book is devoted to Rupp's sketches, including a birds-eye view of Luray, Virginia, but his pencil drawings are also scattered throughout the bound account books.

The collection also comprises photographs, financial documents, tax receipts, correspondence, and photographs related to William Rupp's immediate family including his wife Mary; sons Charles E., William "Willie" H., and Joseph H. Rupp, wife Rose, and their daughter Mary E., as well as others.

Separated Materials

Two printed volumes were separated and cataloged individually.

Related Material

Charles E. Rupp. Papers, 1869-1942. Accession 36719, Personal papers collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Keywords

Legal documents
Financial Records
Letters (correspondence)
Photographs
Account books
Pencil drawings
Autograph albums
Mural painting and decoration
Pencil drawing
New Market (Va.) -- History
Luray (Va.) -- History
Shenandoah River Valley (Va. and W. Va.) -- History
Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates

Appraisal

A small wooden box of pencils and sketching implements was not retained. Two leather wallets were not retained.

Provenance

The materials descended through the Fritz and Loretta Orebaugh family of New Market, Virginia. Fritz's mother, Mary Rupp Orebaugh, was the granddaughter of William F. Rupp.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in two series:

- Personal papers, 1831-1940
- Photographs, 1840-1973

Description of Subordinate Components

Personal papers

Unit ID 1

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28926

Unit Date 1831-1940

Scope and Contents

Series 1: Personal Papers, 1831-1940, includes correspondence, financial and legal documents, account

books, and pencil drawings and sketches. The materials primarily document William F. Rupp and his immediate family. Documents also relate to the Spitzer family.

Of note are the materials documenting William F. Rupp's profession as a fresco painter and paperhanger. These materials include business letterhead, account books, sketches, his apprentice certificate, and invoices and financial records. Rupp's sketchbook includes a bird's-eye view of Luray, Virginia that is featured in the Shenandoah Valley Folklore Society's publication *Folk and Decorative Art of the Shenandoah Valley*, pg. 16, fig. 220. Rupp's account book dated 1867-1930 records the work he did for private individuals as well as work in public buildings. These include Rader's Lutheran Church in Timberville, the Shenandoah County Court House court room, the Methodist Church in Edinburg, the United Brethren Church in Hawkinstown, the New Market Bank of Virginia, and many others. An 1856 document outlines Rupp's plan for providing drawing lessons to the pupils at the New Market Female Seminary and associated charges.

Additional William F. Rupp materials include his 1858 citizenship certificate, two 1866 deeds documenting the purchase of his New Market house (now known as the Spitzer-Rupp House) from the Spitzer family, and his July 1865 oath of allegiance to the United States. Correspondence from R.C. Rupp, William's brother in New York, is written in German.

In addition to bound accounts, the financial documents primarily comprise annual tax receipts.

Charles E. Rupp's diary documents a trip from New Market to the Pacific coast and back with his three companions.

William F. Rupp apprentice certificate

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/26259

Unit Date 1852 February 6

Mixed Materials [1000885712] OV 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

William F. Rupp sketchbook

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28922

Unit Date 1852-1860

Mixed Materials [1000897408] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes bird's-eye view of Luray, Virginia, other scenes, people, and many fresco designs. The sketch of Luray is featured in the Shenandoah Valley Folklore Society's *Folk and Decorative Art of the Shenandoah Valley*, pg. 16, fig. 220.

William F. Rupp account book

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28945

Unit Date 1854-1857

Mixed Materials [1000897408] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

William F. Rupp correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28938

Unit Date 1856-1904

Mixed Materials [1000897408] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

William F. Rupp financial documents

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28939

Unit Date 1857-1908, undated

Mixed Materials [1000897408] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

William F. Rupp legal documents

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28947

Unit Date 1859-1881

Mixed Materials [1000897408] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

William F. Rupp account book with sketches

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28924

Unit Date 1861-1880

Mixed Materials [1000897408] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

William F. Rupp account book

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/26282

Unit Date 1867-1903

Mixed Materials [1000897408] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

William F. Rupp, Painter and Paper-Hanger, blank letterhead

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/26270

Unit Date 1870s

Mixed Materials [1000897408] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

William F. Rupp account book

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28937

Unit Date 1885-1902

Mixed Materials [1000897408] 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

William F. Rupp account book with sketches

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28925

Unit Date before 1908

Mixed Materials [1000897408] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Mary C. Spitzer Rupp correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28933

Unit Date 1856-1893

Mixed Materials [1000897408] 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Joseph H. Rupp autograph album

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28920

Unit Date 1884-1886

Mixed Materials [1000897409] 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

"Pete's Luck," short story by Joseph H. Rupp

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28923

Unit Date 1887 December 28

Mixed Materials [1000897409] 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Joseph H. Rupp correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28936

Unit Date 1888-1921

Mixed Materials [1000897409] 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Joseph H. Rupp estate documents

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28944

Unit Date 1923-1927

Mixed Materials [1000897409] 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Rose Neff Rupp correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28935

Unit Date 1916-1935

Mixed Materials [1000897409] 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Mary E. Rupp Orebaugh correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28934

Unit Date 1918-1932

Mixed Materials [1000897409] 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Charles E. Rupp correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/26261

Unit Date 1888-1915, undated

Mixed Materials [1000897409] 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Charles E. Rupp receipts

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28941

Unit Date 1890-1930

Mixed Materials [1000897409] 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Charles E. Rupp greeting cards (folder 1 of 2)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/26260

Unit Date 1913-1927

Mixed Materials [1000897409] 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Charles E. Rupp greeting cards (folder 2 of 2)

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28921

Unit Date 1913-1927

Mixed Materials [1000897409] 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Charles E. Rupp diary

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/26262

Unit Date June-August 1921

Mixed Materials [1000897409] 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Charles E. Rupp summonses

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28940

Unit Date 1930

Mixed Materials [1000897409] 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

William "Willie" H. Rupp financial documents

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28942

Unit Date 1890-1929

Mixed Materials [1000897409] 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

William "Willie" H. Rupp estate account book

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/26267

Unit Date 1925-1929

Mixed Materials [1000897410] 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Assorted Rupp family receipts

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28948

Unit Date 1886-1931

Mixed Materials [1000897410] 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Rupp family obituaries

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/26281

Unit Date 1900-1936

Mixed Materials [1000897410] 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Charles Spitzer receipts

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/28943

Unit Date 1831-1872

Mixed Materials [1000897410] 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Spitzer family correspondence**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/28932**Unit Date** 1865-1888**Mixed Materials [1000897410]** 3 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**German documents and notes****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/28949**Unit Date** 1852-1858, undated**Mixed Materials [1000897410]** 3 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Ephemera****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/28946**Unit Date** 1885-1940, undated**Mixed Materials [1000897410]** 3 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Photographs****Unit ID** 2**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/26279**Unit Date** 1840-1973**Scope and Contents**

Series 2: Photographs, 1840-1973, comprises photographs, cabinet cards, and a framed daguerreotype and ambrotype of the immediate William F. Rupp family. The photographs are largely identified with a subset of unidentified photographs grouped together. Images of Joseph H. and Rose Neff Rupp comprise the bulk of the photographs with several images featuring people posing with an obelisk-style Confederate memorial. More modern photographs document fresco works attributed to William F. Rupp and include a painted ceiling in the Charles Price home near Stanley, Virginia.

William F. Rupp daguerreotype**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/28927**Unit Date** circa 1855-1865**Mixed Materials [1000897410]** 3 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Mary C. Spitzer Rupp ambrotype****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/28955**Unit Date** circa 1855-1865**Mixed Materials [1000897410]** 3 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Joseph H. Rupp and Rose Neff Rupp****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/28928**Unit Date** circa 1880-1911**Mixed Materials [1000897410]** 3 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)

Mary C. Spitzer Rupp**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/28929**Unit Date** 1890**Mixed Materials [1000897410]** 3 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**Unidentified photographs****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/28930**Unit Date** 1891-1909, undated**Mixed Materials [1000897410]** 3 (box)**Container** 12 (folder)**William F. Rupp****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/28931**Unit Date** before 1908**Mixed Materials [1000897410]** 3 (box)**Container** 13 (folder)**Spitzer-Rupp House****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/26268**Unit Date** 1920s**Mixed Materials [1000897410]** 3 (box)**Container** 14 (folder)**Fresco paintings attributed to William F. Rupp****Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival_objects/26280**Unit Date** 1973**Mixed Materials [1000897410]** 3 (box)**Container** 15 (folder)