

A Guide to the John L. Cochran Papers, 1879-1885

John L. Cochran Papers 1879-1885
1879-1885



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History

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Title Statement

A Guide to the John L. Cochran Papers, 1879-1885

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Collection number

mss 00025

Language

English

Physical Characteristics

The collection consists of 7 items.

Repository

Archives, Preston Library, Virginia Military Institute

Administrative Information

Access

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Preferred Citation

John L. Cochran Papers, mss 00025, Virginia Military Institute Archives, Lexington, Virginia.

Biographical/Historical Information

John Lynn Cochran was born at "Folly Farm" in Augusta County, Virginia on November 9, 1863. His parents were James C. Cochran and Elizabeth Brooke. He attended the Virginia Military Institute during the period 1879-1881, and subsequently attended Swarthmore College (Pennsylvania), from which he graduated in 1883. In the fall of 1883 he enrolled at the University of Virginia, where he became ill with typhoid fever. Cochran never regained his health and he died at "Folly Farm" on January 22, 1887.

Scope and Content Information

The John L. Cochran Papers consist of a report card (1879) from the secondary school Cochran attended before entering the Virginia Military Institute; one letter (September 4, 1880) from VMI Cadet Cochran to his mother; a diary, with sketches (1881), containing short and sporadic entries made while he was a student at the Virginia Military Institute and concerning various aspects of cadet life; and four volumes of class notes (1882-1885) taken while Cochran was a student at Swarthmore College and the University of Virginia, with some examples of poetry and sketches interspersed.

Contents List

Secondary school grade report, May 1, 1879

Scope and Content

From the private school held as his home, "Folly Farm." Lists marks in various subjects; "highest average in school"

Letter to "Dear Ma," 1880 September 4

Scope and Content

Written from the Virginia Military Institute. "I am very well satisfied....There are a good many rats [first year cadets] here and as you asked me not to I have not been treating them badly."

Diary, 1881

Scope and Content

Includes sporadic and brief entries, dating primarily from early 1881 when he was enrolled at the Virginia Military Institute. Mentions various school events; also includes small pen & ink sketches and doodles.

Class notes and exercises, 1882-1885

Extent

4 bound volumes and misc. unbound sheets.

Scope and Content

Dating from Cochran's years at Swarthmore and the University of Virginia. Subjects include philosophy, mineralogy, engineering. Some watercolor sketches and poetry interspersed.

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