

A Guide to the Hamlin/Mitchell Family Papers 1885-1960

The Hamlin/Mitchell Family Papers 1885-1960
1885-1960

A Collection in Special Collections and Archives 1979-11
Special Collections and Archives, Johnston Memorial Library
2002

History

Processed by: Lucious Edwards, Jr.
Funding: Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Title Statement

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Subtitle: Hamlin/Mitchell Family

Collection: 1979-11

Author: Lucious Edwards, Jr.

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Publication Statement

File size: 114 Kilobytes

Date: © 2002 By the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University.

Publisher: Johnston Memorial Library, Virginia State University

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word 2000 program, MS Word 6.0 Machine-readable finding aid created by Marlon B. Powell March 2002]

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

Feb 17, 2004 PUBLIC "-//Virginia State University::Johnston Memorial Library::Special Collections and Archives//TEXT (US::ViPetS::vipets00016::The Hamlin/Mitchell Family Papers)//EN" "vipets00016.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).
Feb 26, 2004 converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl
2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Collection number
1979-11

Language
English

Collector

The Hamlin/Mitchell Family

Abstract

37 items

Repository

Special Collections and Archives, Johnston Memorial Library, Virginia State University

Administrative Information

Access

No restrictions on access.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Preferred Citation

The Hamlin/Mitchell Family Papers, 1979-11, Special Collections and Archives, Johnston Memorial Library, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA.

Biographical/Historical Information

The Hamlin Family of Petersburg were members of a large antebellum free black community. At the conclusion of the civil war, The hamlin's became active in city politics and were quite involved in emerging African American Middle class.

One member of this family William Hamlin, A graduate of Hampton Institute became the first African American principal of a school in Petersburg. Hamlin later became Principal of Peabody. In addition, Mr. Hamlin was one of the corp of teachers selected to teach in the summer institute for "Colored" teachers sponsored by both the Peabody Reading Circle and the State of Virginia.

A number of individuals from this family were quite active during the era of Reconstruction and the Readjuster movement in Virginia. According to family history, members of the family, Cornelius Hamlin was assistant to the mayor of Petersburg. Edward Hamlin was clerk of the Court. According to family history, James Edward Hamlin was also associated with the Underground Railroad in Petersburg. A number of people from this family were associated with education. Sarah T. Byrd was one of the first African American teachers hired in the city.

Scope and Content Information

The Hamlin/Mitchell papers do contain a few letters most of which are related to Williams Hamlin activities with the Peabody Reading Circle. Other correspondence in the group was generated by Miss Wilhelmina Hamlin. Most of Miss Hamlin's correspondence document's her long career in education. Other documents found are circulars, invitations, and broadsides.

Series Description

Series I. Legal Indenture 1887

Series II. Correspondence Business correspondence, most of which concern educational matters.

Series III. Printed Circulars, Invitation, Flyers, Brochures, and programs

Series IV. Photographs A number of photograph documenting articles at Gillfield Baptist. There are several photographs of students and activities at the Motoaca Laboratory School located on the Campus of Virginia State University.

Series V. Literary A group of poems and other writings by William Hamlin.

Contents List

Series I: Legal Documents

Legal documents, Agreement Aug. 1887

Box-folder 1:1

Series II: Correspondence

Correspondence/Postcards 1885

Box-folder 1:2

Correspondence 1886

Box-folder 1:3

Correspondence 1887

Box-folder 1:4

Correspondence 1888-1889

Box-folder 1:5

Correspondence 1891

Box-folder 1:6

Correspondence/Postcards 1899

Box-folder 1:7

Correspondence 1928,1949-1953

Box-folder 1:8

Correspondence 1954-1955

Box-folder 1:9

Correspondence 1956,1973

Box-folder 1:10

Correspondence- Graduate School 1947,1949

Box-folder 1:11

Correspondence- meeting V.T.A. 1947,1953

Box-folder 1:12

Correspondence- T.V. Programs, American ED week 1956

Box-folder 1:13 (Folder)

Correspondence- Retirement 1950

Box-folder 1:14 (Folder)

Series III: Printed

Circular-Harrison Street 1904

Box-folder 1:15

Constitution- Young Ladies Social Club, Pilg, Va. 1893

Box-folder 1:16

Invitation- Knickerbockers- Athlete Association

Box-folder 1:17 (Folder)

Flyer- Oak Street A.M.E.Z. Church 1897

Box-folder 1:18

Supervising Bulletin 1940

Box-folder 1:19

Workshop School Principals 1953

Box-folder 1:20

Awards 1908-1909

Box-folder 1:21

Awards 1959

Box-folder 1:22

Certificate-Petersburg Normal 1882

Box-folder 1:23

Certificate- Staunton Normal 1883

Box-folder 1:24

Certificate Department of Public Institution 1915

Box-folder 1:25

Certificate- State Board of Education 1941

Box-folder 1:26

Speech- Thank You Peabody 1887

Box-folder 1:27

Political- Working means Union Republican Party Political- Election Ticket (A.W. Harris) 1871,1887

Box-folder 1:28

Broadside- Republican Appeal- Frederick Douglas 1887

Box-folder 1:29

Broadside- To The voter of Petersburg 1887

Box-folder 1:30

Broadside- A.P. Hill, Confederate Veteran

Box-folder 1:31

Report- Christian School Relation Committee, St. Stephens Church 1958

Box-folder 1:32

The Parish Bulliten, St. Stephens Church 1955

Box-folder 1:33

Series III: Printed

Collected Programs 1948-1957

Box-folder 2:1

Programs (V.N. & C.I. - V.S.C.) 1884-1964

Box-folder 2:2

News Clippings 1882

Box-folder 2:3

Program (peabody Alumni Shields) 1944

Box-folder 2:4

Series IV. Photographs

Unidentified Family n.d.

Box-folder 2:5

Gillsfield Baptist Church Group n.d.

Box-folder 2:6

Gillsfield Baptist Church Group n.d.

Box-folder 2:7

Gillsfield Baptist Church Group n.d.

Box-folder 2:8

Gillsfield Baptist Church Group n.d.

Box-folder 2:9

The Matoaca Laboratory School: n.d.

Box-folder 2:10

The Jones Street School n.d.

Box-folder 2:11

Photographs V.S.U. Workshops n.d.

Box-folder 2:12

Series V. Scrapbook

Poems by W.L. Hamlin n.d.

Box-folder 3:1

Newspaper Clippings n.d.

Box-folder 3:2