

# A Guide to the Dr. James Lewis Early Collection, 1891-1938

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A Collection in University Archives, McConnell Library, Radford University AC 031  
University Archives, McConnell Library, Radford University

## History

**Processed by:** Andy Bristol

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Dr. James Lewis Early Collection, 1891-1938

**Subtitle:**

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**Author:** Andy Bristol

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Kaitlin Scott, 5 July 2017

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Descriptive Summary

**Collection number**

AC 031

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

Contains various Newspaper clippings and numerous Letters to Miss Melita Rorer Wilson (fiance and later Wife). Also included are Photos & Miscellaneous material that came with the collection. For the full collection see the Radford Archive [website](#).

**Creator**

Dr. James Lewis Early

**Physical Characteristics**

1.0 Linear feet.

**Repository**

University Archives, McConnell Library, Radford University

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

An appointment is required for research. This collection is open to research. No interlibrary loan.

## Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

## Acquisition Information

### Preferred Citation

[identification of item], Dr. James Lewis Early Collection, Appalachian Collection, McConnell Library, Radford University, Radford, VA. Dr. James Lewis Early Collection, Accession # AC 031, University Archives, McConnell Library, Radford University

## Accruals

No accruals to the collection are expected.

## Biographical Information

Dr. James Lewis Early was a son of William K. Early and Miss Mary Louisa Belo. Dr. Early's father was a Veteran Confederate Soldier and served as a Private to Colonel A. C. Dunn and General W. E. Jones for about four years before being honorable discharged from Service. William K. Early also appears to be a close relative to General Jubal Early, Robert E Lee's "Bad Old Man." - information came from Ancestry.com and from the materials in this collection.

James Lewis Early was born about 1877 in Virginia. He Resided in Saltville, Smyth, Virginia and worked for Mathieson Alkali Works as an Assistant Surgeon. On the evening of June 30, 1910 at 8:00 PM Dr. J. L. Early and Miss Melita Rorer Wilson were married in Radford. The Couple soon moved back to Saltville where they had a home established. Mrs. Dr. James Lewis Early was the daughter of William A. Wilson and Miss Mary Miller Wilson.

James Lewis Early was not only a prominent physician in Saltville, but he was also a prominent shooter. He loved the sport and even held onto newspaper clippings that recorded how well he did. He was also a member of the Elk's Lodge and received a postcard from the Elk House in Jacksonville, Florida.

In 1922 at the annual convocation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia he was elected deputy grand master of the Free and Accepted Masons - information came from Virginia Medical Monthly volumes 47-48 page 727.

## Scope and Content

This collection contains letters from Dr. Early to Miss Melita Rorer Wilson spanning the years 1909-1910. Various newspaper clippings include, but are not limited to, the Early/Wilson marriage announcement, happenings in Saltville and food recipes. Miscellaneous items include a check of 15 dollars to the First National Bank in 1929 and a postcard from Jacksonville, Florida. Photographs of Dr. Early and various other people are also included.

## Arrangement

Box 1. Dr. Early Letters and Newspaper Clippings

University Archives, McConnell Library, Radford University