

African American Hugh Carr family, River View Farm and the Papers of the Ivy Creek Foundation

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1916-1988

Title Statement

African American Hugh Carr family, River View Farm and the Papers of the Ivy Creek Foundation
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Author: Ellen Welch

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Notes

This collection is a deposit and is related to MSS 10176. It cannot be combined with MSS 10176 until it is purchased from Ivy Creek.

Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 10770

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1556

Unit Date

1916-1988

Language

English

Extent

0.5 Cubic Feet

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was placed on deposit by the President of the Ivy Creek Foundation for the Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia Library on the 11 July 1988.

Preferred Citation

MSS 10770, African American Hugh Carr Family, River View Farm and the papers of the Ivy Creek Natural Area, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical / Historical

During the Reconstruction period of Virginia history, Hugh Carr (1843-1914), who was formerly enslaved by Richard Wingfield, began the long process of purchasing various tracts of land that eventually made up the model farm along Ivy Creek known as "Riverview" in the Union Ridge Hydraulic Mills community.

He and his wife, Texie Mae Hawkins,(1865-1899) raised seven children at River View Farm: Mary Louise Carr Greer, (1884-1973), Fannie Carr Washington (1887-?), Peachie Carr Jackson (1889-1977), Emma Clorinda Carr (1892-1974), Virginia Carr Brown (1893-1935), Ann Hazel Carr (1895-?), and one son Marshall Hubert Carr (1886-1916).The farm continued to grow and by 1890 it was over 125 acres making Carr among the largest African American landowner in Albemarle County.

In 1916, Mary Carr married Conly Greer, the first African American extension agent for Albemarle County and the last family member to farm at Riverview Farm. After his death in 1957, Mary Carr Greer continued to live there but the land was rented to local farmers to farm. When she died in 1973, she left the estate to her only child, Evangeline Greer Jones, who in turn sold it.

Following its sale, the farm was slated to become one of Charlottesville's newest subdivisions with a projected 200 homes. Elizabeth Conant, a biology teacher at the University of Virginia, realized that the land was ideal for a nature preserve. She contacted the Nature Conservancy who bought the farm and held it until the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County were able to buy the land. The Ivy Creek Foundation was incorporated on May 23, 1979, and the future management of the land lies with them. Paul Saunier, former University of Virginia administrator, was the first president of the Foundation.

The Ivy Creek Natural Area, which currently borders the South Rivanna Reservoir of the City of Charlottesville and consists of 215 acres of forest, field, and stream, was formed from several tracts of land. These include the original tract from the Mary Carr Greer Estate of eighty acres in 1975, a thirty-eight-acre tract from the City of Charlottesville in 1979, the James Fleming tract of eighty-acres in 1981, the Flamenco tract of sixteen acres in 1981, and four tenths of an acre from Bedford Moore in 1981. The Greer property was named the Rann Preserve when purchased by the Nature Conservancy and was renamed the Ivy Creek Natural Area. The organizers of the Ivy Creek Natural Area recognized the history of the Carr family and worked to save and preserve the land as well as the family documents that were found in the farmhouse.

Scope and Contents

The papers contain correspondence, legal documents (copies), clippings, articles, research material, maps, and photographs concerning the Ivy Creek Natural Area and its history as the River View Farm owned by the Carr family (African Americans in late nineteenth century), including the original purchase by the Nature Conservancy, the formation of the Ivy Creek Foundation, and its administration of the property.

Included among these is a notebook titled, Ivy Creek Natural Area History and Heritage by Price Smith, and "The Rann Preserve" by Elizabeth Conant; a local conservation case study" by Patricia Farrell; an article "Legacies: Nature and History at Ivy Creek" by Bernice Grohskopf; as well as legal and financial papers of former owners Conly and Mary Carr Greer. There are also photographs of the Hugh Carr family.

Related Materials

This collection is related to MSS 10176 Hugh Carr family papers and River View farm.

Keywords

African American families

Charlottesville (Va.) -- History -- 19th Century
Historic buildings -- Virginia -- Charlottesville.
Dwellings -- Virginia -- Albemarle County.

Description of Subordinate Components

Federal Assistance Application

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243695

Unit Date 1977-1978

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Ivy Creek Natural Area acquisition by the City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243696

Unit Date 1978-1986

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Ivy Creek Natural Area Project Committee- Elizabeth Conant and Susan Schmidt

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243697

Unit Date 1977

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Ivy Creek Natural Area History & Heritage (notebook)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243698

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Ivy Creek Natural Area History- personal conversations (Elizabeth Murray)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243699

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Rann Preserve Project

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243700

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Letters of Appreciation from Dr. Benjamin Whitten (grandson of Mary Greer) and Thomas C. Ritchie

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243701

Unit Date 1984

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 7 (Folder)

"Ivy Creek Natural Area: A Local Conservation Case Study" by Patricia Farrell for her UVA class on Master Planning Theory

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243705

Unit Date 1986

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Articles about the Ivy Creek Natural Area including "Legacies: Nature and History at Ivy Creek" by Bernice Grohskopf.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243706

Unit Date 1977-1988

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Grohskopf article in *Albemarle* Magazine "about how Hugh Carr rose out of slavery to create the farm that became our 'secret garden.'" Other articles include "Story of the Rann Preserve in Charlottesville," by Elizabeth Conant; "The Preservation of Ivy Creek" in *Albemarle* Magazine by David Field; and "Nature Preserve Ex-Slave's Legacy" by Robert Brickhouse, in *The Daily Progress*.

Newspaper clippings about the Ivy Creek Natural Area and its foundation

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243707

Unit Date 1975-1987

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

History of Ivy Creek Foundation- Carr family photographs

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243708

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Photographs of the Ivy Creek Natural Area

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243709

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Piedmont Environmental Council Award to the Ivy Creek Natural Area

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243710

Unit Date 1981

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Historical notes and title search of the Carr land (Riverview Farm and Ivy Creek Natural Area)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243711

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Legal and financial papers of Conly Greer and the Carr-Greer family

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/243712

Unit Date 1916-1932; 1954

Mixed Materials [X004985413] 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)