

Charles Minnigerode Letters

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1847-1848, 1879

Title Statement

Charles Minnigerode LettersGuide to the Charles Minnigerode Letters UA 6.097

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections Research Center

William & Mary Special Collections Research Center
Earl Gregg Swem Library
400 Landrum Dr
Williamsburg, Virginia
Business Number: 757-221-3090
spcoll@wm.edu
URL: <https://libraries.wm.edu/libraries-spaces/special-collections>

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-05-15 12:55:03 -0400.

Language Usage: English

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

UA 6.097

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/7726

Unit Date

1847-1848, 1879

Language

English

Creator

Minnigerode, Charles, 1814-1894

Extent

0.01 Linear Foot

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Biographical / Historical

Charles Frederick Ernest Minnigerode was imprisoned while a student at the University of Giessen in Germany because of his political activities. He emigrated to the United States in 1839 and was appointed Professor of Humanity at the College of William & Mary in 1842. He taught through 1848. He was friendly with the family of William & Mary Law Professor Nathaniel Beverley Tucker and at Christmas in 1842, he presented the Tucker family with the German custom of decorating a tree, the first Christmas tree in Williamsburg, Virginia. In 1847, Minnigerode became an Episcopal priest. After leaving William & Mary in 1848, he served several parishes before being called to St. Paul's Church in Richmond. During the Civil War, Jefferson Davis attended his church and the two men became friends. After the war, Minnigerode worked in various capacities for the Episcopal Church, serving on several councils. He served on the College of William & Mary's Board of Visitors from 1871-1893.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes three letters written by Charles Minnigerode. One letter was written to Robert McCandlish, Rector of the Board of Visitors and dated February 23, 1847. Minnigerode writes to ensure McCandlish and the Board don't misunderstand the faculty's view about an extension of the A.B. course and details his feelings on the matter. A second letter, written to an unknown person and dated August 31, 1848, appears to have been written after he left his professorship at W&M. He writes about various subjects, including his failure to be hired at the University of Georgia by a count of two votes, which he owes to his being a foreigner but also being the will of God. He states his desire is to "confine my labors to the Ministry." He discusses his accent at length, specifically as it relates to preaching. Minnigerode also writes that William & Mary "seems to be in a bad condition." He states "The injudicious action of the Visitors in forcing Mr. Peachy into the faculty, and his strange demeanor in raising points of personal variance with some of the Professors have resulted in an entire dismemberment of the Faculty. Mr. Peachy himself and Judge Tucker are the only remaining members of the Faculty. Mr. P is a novice as a Professor of that College; Prof. Tucker is unpopular and a man without administrative powers; so that the future looks necessarily gloomy." He continues with more information about the faculty. The letter ends with pleasantries towards the letter's recipient, who is in Alabama. A third letter, written to President Benjamin Ewell and dated July 9, 1879, concerns honorary degrees conferred by William & Mary and Minnigerode's desire for specific person to receive one.

Related Materials

University Archives Faculty-Alumni File Collection

Keywords

College of William and Mary--History--19th century

McCandlish, Robert

College of William and Mary--Faculty

General

These items were removed from the Faculty-Alumni File in 2016.

Description of Subordinate Components

Letters

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/268184

Unit Date 1847-1848, 1879

Mixed Materials UA Small Collections Box 3 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English