



Guide to the Leach Family papers, 1798-1994

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Summary

Collection Title:

Leach Family papers, 1798-1994

Creator:

Leach family

Abstract:

The Leach family of Randolph County traces its founding to Stephen Leach who appears in the records of provincial North Carolina in the mid-eighteenth century. The Leach family joined other white families in Randolph County to improve the local school, Brown's Schoolhouse, and continued to be involved with the school through to its development into Trinity College. This collection consists of materials regarding the family's history. Included are genealogy research files, correspondence, personal writings, photographs, scrapbook, autograph books, and clippings. Materials with known dates span 1798 to 1994.

Extent:

3 Linear Feet

Language:

Materials in English.

Collection ID:

UA.01.02.0003

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1t437>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Leach Family papers, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

This collection contains correspondence, writings, genealogy research files, and photographs of Leach family members and those connected to the family such as the Carr and Mendenhall family members. Includes James Leach's

daybook; a land deed and life insurance policy; a Leach family necrology; notes and correspondence about genealogy research; a letter written by O.W. Carr about the removal of Trinity College; autograph books; a scrapbook; and transcriptions of entries from O.W. Carr's journal. Also consists of photograph albums, prints, tintypes, and cased photographs of images of James Leach, Margaret (Mendenhall) Leach, Pattie (Lewis) Leach, and James Addison Leach.

This collection is divided into the following series: Family records, Genealogy, Printed material and miscellany, Albums, and Photographs. Materials with known dates span from 1798 to 1994.

Biographical/Historical

The Leach family traces its founding to Stephen Leach, who appears in the records of Rowan County in the mid eighteenth century. The family was connected to several other white families, like the Mendenhalls, Carrs, Elders, and Blairs, in Randolph County and the surrounding area. Members of the family held positions as farmers, merchants, politicians, postmasters, and teachers. Some members of the Leach family enslaved Black people before the end of the Civil War. The family played a role in establishing Brown's Schoolhouse and had close ties to Trinity College.

Margaret (Mendenhall) Leach taught her children and local children out of her home in Randolph County. Following this, Margaret's husband, James Leach, along with John Brown, Joseph Mendenhall, and Joseph Johnson, established the community school, Brown's Schoolhouse. In 1838, Brown's Schoolhouse was renamed Union Institute, and the Union Institute Educational Society was formed to manage the construction of a new school building. James, Lewis, Jabez, Hugh, and James Madison (Brown) Leach were members of the society and served on its examining and managing committees. James Madison Leach drafted the constitution for the Union Institute Educational Society along with two other society members. Following this, he was appointed secretary for the group. The new school was constructed on land owned by James Leach, Joseph Johnson, and Joseph Mendenhall, and the Union Institute subscription school opened in 1839.

Irene Leach, the daughter of James and Margaret Leach, was one of the first students, and the first female student, to graduate from the Union Institute. After graduating, Irene Leach remained at the Union Institute as a teacher and tutor. Union Institute became Union Institute Academy in 1841, with Lewis, Jabez and Martin Leach serving on its first board of trustees. Irene Leach worked as a teaching assistant for Braxton Craven, who became principal of the school in 1842. The two later married in 1844.

Once the school became Trinity College in 1859, James Madison, Lewis, Martin, and James Leach sat on the first board of trustees for the college. Obed William (O.W.) Carr, a graduate, trustee, and faculty member of Trinity College, married

Roxana Leach. Ella Jones Carr, the daughter of Roxana Leach and O.W. Carr, married Ethelred (Dred) Frank Scott, a professor at Trinity College.

James Addison Leach, the son of James and Margaret Leach, was a tobacco manufacturer and politician who resided in Davidson County. In 1865, he and Lavinia Dodson married. After Lavinia died in 1874, James Addison married Pattie Lewis in 1877.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

Copyright for official university records is held by Duke University; all other copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

Acquisition Information

The Leach Family papers were received by Duke University Archives as a gift in 2018.

Processing Information

Processed by April Blevins, May 2022

Accessions described in this collection guide: UA2018-0002

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Related Materials

Related Material

Dred and Ella Carr Peacock Scrapbooks, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

Craven-Pegram Family papers, Duke University Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Names and Subjects

- Tintypes (prints)
- Daguerreotypes (photographs)
- Prints
- Scrapbooks
- Randolph County (N.C.)
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Veterans
- Education -- North Carolina -- History -- 19th century
- Ambrotypes
- Leach family
- Trinity College (Randolph County, N.C.)
- Leach, James, 1798-1881
- Leach, Margaret, 1800-1870
- Leach, Pattie (Martha Ann Catherine), 1842-1921
- Carr, O.W. (Obad William), 1833-1905

Collection Inventory

Family records

L.M. Leach Bible family records page,
1798-1866

Box 1

Obed William Carr journal transcriptions,
1855-1867 Box 1

Scope and Contents

Consists of typewritten copies of excerpts from Obed William Carr's journal.

Pattie Lewis Leach letters (incoming),
1861-1897 Box 1

James Leach daybook, 1865-1881 Box 1

Scope and Contents

Contains James Leach's record of expenses and daily activities. Mentions transactions with Braxton Craven, O.W. Carr, and Leach family members as well as construction and events at Trinity College. Includes an index.

Land deed- John Thomas, John W. Lewis, and
John T. Hambrick, 1867-1901 Box 1

Obed William Carr letter, 1899 June 13 Box 1

Charles Carr Leach life insurance policy,
1904-1905 Box 1

William F. Mendenhall SAR Application, 1968
December 13 Box 1

James Leach necrology, 1859 Box 6

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Genealogy

Scope and Contents

Includes correspondence from Evelyn (Leach) Hoover, J.R. Peacock, and Jessie Jay Edison about genealogy research and the histories of the Blair, Carr, Leach, Leach-Elder, and Mendenhall families and members. Also contains an annotated copy of *The Johnsons and Their Kin of Randolph* by Jessie Owen Shaw.

Blair and Carr, 1942-1960 Box 1

Leach, 1938-1957 Box 1

Physical Description: 4 folders

Leach, James Madison, 1957 Box 1

Leach-Elder, 1955	Box 1
Mendenhall, 1924	Box 1
Cross reference sheets, 1953	Box 1
The Johnsons and Their Kin of Randolph (book), 1955	Box 2
Announcement and supplement for The Johnsons and Their Kin of Randolph, 1959	Box 2

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Printed material and miscellany

Clippings, 1858-1994	Box 1
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Clippings (photocopies), 1943-1961	Box 1
Miscellaneous, 1894 and undated	Box 1
Scope and Contents	
Includes floorplan of Braxton Craven's house, a cigarette box manufactured by J.A.Leach & Co., and a Capital Club invitation.	
"The Old Spring House" (at James Leach Place), 1950 and undated	Box 1
Scope and Contents	
Includes drafts of an article, correspondence, and a photograph of the Old Spring House.	
DAR magazine, 1952	Box 1
Programs, 1984-1987	Box 1
Composition books, undated	Box 1
Scope and Contents	
Includes two WriteRight composition books with handwritten notes and transcriptions of entries from the journals of Obed William Carr and Numa Fletcher Reid. Also contains notes and transcriptions from the autobiography of Charles F. Deems. Several pages are missing from both composition books.	

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Albums

Autograph books, 1886-1890 Box 1

Scrapbook, undated Box 3

Scope and Contents

Contains photographs, clippings, and genealogies. Some loose items located between pages.

Album, undated Box 5

Scope and Contents

Originally belonged to Lavinia "Lou" Dodson (Leach). Includes images of James Addison Leach, Margaret Mendenhall Leach, Braxton Craven, Charity Leach Shaw, O.W. Carr, and J.M. Dodson. Contains labeled prints and tintypes with some loose items between pages.

Mental Photographs album, 1873 Box 6

Scope and Contents

Originally belonged to Pattie Lewis Leach. Contains portraits and questionnaires of family and friends.

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Photographs

Scope and Contents

Includes tintypes, cased photographs, prints, albums, and negatives of mostly portraits of Leach family members and friends. Prints are mostly black and white while some are hand-colored.

Prints, 1848-1943 and undated Box 4

Physical Description: 7 folders

Scope and Contents

Includes pictures of James Addison Leach, Pattie Lewis Leach, Lavinia Dodson Leach, Margaret Mendenhall Leach, John Leach, J. Frank Leach, Lewis Morgan Leach, Evelyn (Leach) Hoover, Charlie Leach, Charles Hoover, Minnie Lee Guyer, John Westley Lewis, and Nell Swain.

Duplicate prints, undated Box 4

Scope and Contents

Contains duplicates of pictures of Pattie Lewis Leach, James Addison Leach, Margaret Mendenhall Leach, John Leach, Minnie Lee Guyer, and J. Frank Leach.

Tintypes, 1875-1886 Box 4
Box 7

Scope and Contents

Includes three tintype portraits of Lavinia Dodson (Leach), Charles M. Hoover, and James Addison Leach.

Negatives, undated Box 4

Scope and Contents

Includes two negatives of portraits of Gypsie Lloyd Darnell and Elinor (Eleanor) Lloyd Leach.

Cased photographs, undated Box 7

Scope and Contents

Consists of 8 cased photographs, primarily ambrotypes and daguerreotypes. Includes images of Pattie Lewis Leach, James Addison Leach, Eveline Teresa Lewis, Louisa Hoover Brummell, Patsy Edwards Reid, Charles Reid, and Mattie Bowers.

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