

SELECTED EASTERN SHORE ROOM COLLECTIONS

Some collections are unprocessed, and not yet accessible to the public. All others are available to view by reservation only. Please call ahead.

Manuscript

George Frank Byrd Business Records, 1892-1936

The George Frank Byrd Business Records trace the varied and extensive dealings of a storekeeper, 1892-1936. Besides running a general store at the Hammocks on Messongo Creek and at nearby Sanford in upper Accomack County, Byrd operated sailing vessels, which carried fertilizer to farmers in both Accomack and Northampton counties and farm produce and seafood to market in Baltimore.

Records of George Frank Byrd (1868-1943), storekeeper at the Hammocks, 1892-1904, and at Sanford, March 15, 1904-c1936. Includes 3 ledgers, 1 cash book, 1 miscellaneous book, and 14 day books. The day book, 1912-1915 notes the sale of guano to neighboring farmers.

Covington Family Papers, 1834-1928

G. W. Covington (1848-1911) and Frank A. Covington (1863-1928) were carriagemakers and undertakers of New Church in upper Accomack County.

The Covington ledgers cover years 1834-1849, 1849-1850, 1852-1854, 1856-1859, 1869-1871, 1882-1901, 1882-1910, 1895-1899, 1899-1902, 1907-1919, 1920-1927, and 1927-1928.

Also includes Minute Book of the Ladies Aid Society, Berea M.P. Church, 1907-1914, and the Minute Book of the Ladies Temperance League of New Church, 1913-1914.

E. T. Crowson Papers, 1943-

Elmer Thomas Crowson (1916-1910), a native of Justisville (also known as Crowsontown) on the upper Accomack County bayside, taught history at Winthrop University in South Carolina from 1953 to 1983. Crowson published several books and articles on Eastern Shore of Virginia topics.

Includes vita, letters, photographs, postal cards, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous items.

Also includes business papers and genealogical correspondence of James Henry Crowson.

Edmonds Family Papers, 1881-2005

Papers of the Edmonds family, publishers of the Accomac C.H. Peninsula Enterprise, 1881-1964.

Includes correspondence, photographs, manuscripts of articles and speeches, and an account book, 1887-1888.

Includes "The Eastern Shore Historical Society" by George Oliver, "Memoranda for an article on the Eastern Shore of Virginia" by Griffin C. Callahan, "A Journal of my captivity" by Benjamin T. Gunter, and "An old man visits the scene of his childhood and youth" by James Egbert Mears.

Inland Waterway Papers, 1955-1976

Papers concerning proposed development of the intracoastal waterway on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Includes correspondence, maps, photographs, and resolutions.

Thomas R. Joynes Papers, 1844-1956

Papers of the Joynes family of Accomack County, Petersburg, and Baltimore.

Includes correspondence (9 folders), photographs, newspaper clippings (1 folder), legal papers (1 folder), and ledgers, 1855-1859 and 1857-1866 (1 folder).

Mapp Papers and Artifacts, 1782-1896

The Mapp Family Papers provide a remarkably detailed look at the lives of antebellum yeomen farmers. Historian Kirk C. Mariner used the Mapp Family Papers in researching free black farm laborers for his book [Slave and Free on Virginia's Eastern Shore from the Revolution to the Civil War](#).

Includes artifacts and manuscripts (letters, receipts, notebooks) of the Mapp family who lived on the lower Accomack County seaside. Also included is a farm register, 1804-1842, kept by Caleb and Thomas Harrison.

A guide to the collection is available.

Margaret Academy Papers, 1787-1982

Papers of the Margaret Academy at Bobtown in lower Accomack County. The Margaret Academy was the Eastern Shore of Virginia's foremost private school.

Collection includes Minute Book, 1787-1962 (see ES Microfilm 370.97551 Ma); Correspondence 1893-1972; Statements of Account, 1959-1970; bank statements; and petitions.

Marshall Family Papers

Includes ledgers of store kept at Messongo by Alex Marshall and James Edward Marshall, 1905-1908, 1909-1910; ledgers of store kept at Messongo by James Edward Marshall, 1909, 1916, 1916-1917, 1917-1918; ledger kept at store on Long Road by Albert Lee Marshall, 1915-1917; Florence Marshall Exercise Book; and Richard Talmedge Marshall Shorthand Exercise Book.

James Egbert Mears Papers, 1934-1958

James Egbert Mears (1884-1975) was an historian of the Eastern Shore specializing in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Includes correspondence; notes for his books on Hack's Neck and Its People and the Virginia Eastern Shore in the War of Secession; and typescripts of his Shoreline columns on Eastern Shore legislators, Eastern Shore authors, the Civil War on the Eastern Shore, Luther Nottingham Hornsby, and Henry A. Wise.

Parksley Land and Improvement Company Papers, 1885-1971

The development of Parksley, a planned community laid out adjacent the railroad in 1885, is documented in the papers of the Parksley Land and Improvement Company. The staff of the ESPL used the Parksley Land and Improvement Company Papers in developing the website Genesis of a Railroad Town: Parksley, Virginia, 1884-1904, hosted by the ESPL at <https://espl.org/genealogy/digital-history/genesis-of-a-railroad-town-parksley-virginia-1884-1904/>. The company's papers are an essential source for continuing the town's story beyond 1904.

Includes correspondence (1922-1966), invoices (1929-1972), deeds (1930-1963), plats (1886-1930), stockholders meetings (1886-1960), State Corporation Commission Reports (1947-1968), and miscellaneous(1885-1971).

Zillah Mapp Winn Collection

Primarily personal letters, but also photographs, pamphlets and newspaper clippings. A few letters date prior to 1869, with some as late as the 1960's, but the bulk of materials date from 1884-1929. The majority of the collection is the correspondence of the nuclear

family of John Emory Mapp and Margaret LeCato Mapp, as well as some cousins, and covers the time period from when the children were attending school off the Eastern Shore of Virginia up until their adulthood and the beginning of their respective families, both on and off the Eastern Shore. According to the donor topics include agriculture, tenant farmers, schooling, religion, recreation, food ways, and the daily life of a prominent Eastern Shore family.

Unprocessed, not yet available for public viewing

Kirk C. Mariner Collection

Mariner was a Methodist minister, historian, and author of thirteen books on Eastern Shore of Virginia history and culture. The collection is composed in part of more than 300 linear feet of books, periodicals, photographs, postal cards, and binders; nine two-drawer file cabinets containing notes, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, brochures, and off-prints of articles and more than 150 framed and unframed maps, prints, and photographs. All are meticulously arranged and cataloged.

Offsite, not yet available for public viewing

Frances Bibbins Latimer Collection

Latimer was an historian and genealogist of African-Americans of the Eastern Shore. The Mariner and Latimer collections are among the finest collections of local history materials in existence and will be of interest not only to local researchers but also to those, both amateur and professional, living throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. The Mariner and Latimer troves are in temporary storage, pending the completion of the expanded facility.

Offsite, originals are not yet available for public viewing. View digitized collection here: <https://espl.pastperfectonline.com/>

Photograph

Alton Brooks Parker Barnes Collection

Parker Barnes was a newspaper writer and photographer. His collections consist principally of views of Eastern Shore scenes and people of the 1950s and 1960s. Some were published in the Eastern Shore News. Donated by the photographer.

Currently uncataloged.

Doran S. Callahan Collection, 1890-1900

Doran S. Callahan's collection of Eastern Shore scenes in the 1890s. The Callahan Collection features views of old houses and are frequently used by researchers involved in architectural history and preservation. However, a careful study of the photographs also rewards the student with insights into land use, agriculture, livestock, fencing, transportation, costume, social mores, and other aspects of daily life.

This collection may also be viewed online at the Library of Virginia here:
[http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/online photo collections](http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/online_photo_collections)

Eastern Shore News Photograph Collection

Photographs of Eastern Shore of Virginia scenes and people, principally from the 1950s through the 1970s.

Unprocessed, not yet available for public viewing

Genealogical

Jim Corbin Files -- *Unprocessed, not yet available for public viewing*

Louie Dean Hickman Files (A – B only)

Susie Warren Johnson Files -- Photographs of Eastern Shore of Virginia scenes and people, principally from the 1950s

Agnes Killough Files

Mark C. Lewis Files

Emma Smith McMath Files

Stratton Nottingham Files

Nora Miller Turman Files

Edward Spencer Wise Files

Last updated December 12, 2019