

**The Finding Aid for the
George Washington Varner
Papers (1867-1994)**

Center for Restoration Studies
Manuscripts # 295

Callie Faye Milliken Special Collections
Brown Library
Abilene Christian University
Abilene, TX 79699-9208

27 October 2014

About this collection

Title: George Washington Varner Papers

Creator: Mary Louise Meifner Durham

Identifier/Call Number: Center for Restoration Studies Manuscripts # 295

Physical Description: 1 filing box

Dates (Inclusive): 1867-1994

Dates (Bulk): 1891-1919

Location: Center for Restoration Studies

Language of Materials: English

Scope and Content Note: This collection includes records of George Washington Varner's ministry and business career. The collection consists of personal correspondence between Varner and his family, family-written poems, deeds of property, and photographs. Of special note are two ledgers filled with records of Varner's business transactions with handwritten marginal notes and articles of personal interest to Varner pasted onto the pages. Another feature of this collection are fragments from *The Christian Leader*, 1906-1919, containing articles submitted by George Washington Varner, and the obituary of his wife, Angela Varner.

Biographical Note: George Washington Varner was born to William and Letitia Varner in 1839. He served in the Civil War and received an honorable discharge due to blindness in one eye. He married Angela Virginia Daniel and settled in Pleasants County, West Virginia in 1867. They successfully operated a farm in Cloverdale for many years where the Cloverdale Church of Christ was founded in 1891. In addition to farming Varner managed a lumber business supplying his own lumber. Oil discovered on his property provided for Varner in his last days. Considered among the pioneering preachers in the Churches of Christ in West Virginia, he submitted many articles to religious journals throughout the West Virginia and Ohio area, *The Christian Leader* among them. Varner also served as a traveling preacher in the northwestern part of West Virginia.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition: May Louise Meifner Durham

Date of Acquisition: October 1994

Accession Number: R 2014.111

Date of Accession: 22 October 2014

Accessioned by: Sarah Dannemiller

Processor and Date of Processing: Sarah Dannemiller, 22 October 2014

Finding Aid Creator and Date: Sarah Dannemiller, 27 October 2014

Using this collection

Processing Status: Processed

Conditions Governing Access: Materials are housed in Callie Faye Milliken Special Collections, Brown Library, Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas and are non-circulating. Access is available during normal business hours; prior appointments are preferred.

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Arrangement of Materials:

Separated Materials: none

Subjects

Varner, Angela Virginia Daniel
Varner, George Washington
Varner, Oliver
Varner, William
Varner family
Churches of Christ -- History -- 19th century
Churches of Christ -- History -- 20th century
Churches of Christ -- Periodicals
Churches of Christ -- Sermons
Churches of Christ -- West Virginia
Cloverdale Church of Christ
The Christian Leader
Genealogy
Clippings
Correspondence
Deeds
Ephemera
Leases, Oil
Manuscripts
Marriage certificates
Obituaries

Periodicals
Poems
Receipts, Tax
Sermons

Inventory

[First Folder] Finding Aid

Series I. Personal Items

Folder 1- Introduction to the Collection: letter introducing the collection and its origin, hand-written outline of what is included within the collection 1994

Folder 2- Genealogy: two typed accounts of George Washington Varner's family and life, one hand-written family tree 1931

Folder 3- Marriage Certificates: George Washington Varner and Angela Virginia Daniel's marriage certificate, hand-written marriage certificate for one of Varner's daughters 1867-1888

Folder 4- Family Poems: two hand-written poems

Folder 5- Personal Correspondence: letter written by William Varner explaining the death of Oliver Varner to George Washington Varner, letter from George Washington Varner during Civil War 1871-1896

Folder 6- Letters of Recommendation: letters George Washington Varner would use when traveling to various congregations in the area to preach 1883-1895

Series II. Legal Documents

Folder 1- Deeds: deeds for various properties connected with the Varner business and farm 1869-1896

Folder 2- Oil Leases 1896

Folder 3- Tax Receipts 1899-1919

Series III. Ledgers

Ledger 1- small, payment accounts in the front, the back was used as a diary

Ledger 2- long, payment accounts throughout, articles of personal interest to Varner are pasted throughout the ledger

Ledger 3- booklet that held important legal documents such as oil leases and tax receipts

Series IV. Clippings

Folder 1- Articles from *The Christian Leader* (copies): 1892-1908
three copies of three different articles

Folder 2- *The Christian Leader* Fragments: of note is 1906-1919
one article written by George Washington Varner,
and the obituary of Angela Varner

Series V. Photographs

Folder 1- pictures of George Washington Varner, Angela Varner, and their family members, pictures of the Cloverdale Church of Christ and the congregation