**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                 1994

the collection and its origin, hand-written outline of

what is included within the collection

Folder 2- Genealogy: two typed accounts of                     1931

George Washington Varner’s family and life,

one hand-written family tree

Folder 3- Marriage Certificates: George Washington             1867-1888

Varner and Angela Virginia Daniel’s marriage certificate,

hand-written marriage certificate for one of Varner’s daughters

Folder 4- Family Poems: two hand-written poems

Folder 5- Personal Correspondence: letter written                 1871-1896

by William Varner explaining the death of Oliver Varner

to George Washington Varner, letter from George

Washington Varner during Civil War

Folder 6- Letters of Recommendation: letters                 1883-1895

George Washington Varner would use when

traveling to various congregations in the area

to preach

**Series II. Legal Documents**

Folder 1- Deeds: deeds for various properties                 1869-1896

connected with the Varner business and farm

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