Collection Number: 01912

Collection Title: Blackford Family Papers, 1742-1953

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Collection Overview

Size
6.5 feet of linear shelf space (approximately 4,000 items)

Abstract
Blackford family members lived in Fredericksburg, Lynchburg, and Alexandria, Va. This collection chiefly contains correspondence of three generations of the Blackford family. Included are letters relating to the involvement of Mary Berkeley (Minor) Blackford (1802-1896) in the American Colonization Society; diaries, 1842-1844, kept by William Matthews Blackford (1801-1864) while serving as United States chargé d'affaires in Bogota, New Granada (now Colombia); Civil War letters from Launcelot Minor Blackford (1837-1914) and his brothers; scattered correspondence from missionaries and former slaves in Liberia; three issues of a newspaper, 1854, published in Cavalla, West Africa; Blackford family history information (typed transcriptions), including microfilm of a scrapbook of Launcelot Minor Blackford containing genealogical sketches of the Blackford, Minor, Byrd, Willis, Washington, Ambler, Mason, Jacquelin, and Gray families.

Creator
Blackford family.

Language
English

Information For Users

Restrictions to Access
No restrictions. Open for research.

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Preferred Citation
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Acquisitions Information

**Sensitive Materials Statement**

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**Subject Headings**

The following terms from Library of Congress Subject Headings suggest topics, persons, geography, etc. interspersed through the entire collection; the terms do not usually represent discrete and easily identifiable portions of the collection--such as folders or items.

Clicking on a subject heading below will take you into the University Library's online catalog.

African Americans--Colonization--Africa.
African newspapers--History--19th century.
Ambler family.
American Colonization Society.
Blackford family.
Blackford, Launcelot Minor, 1837-1914.
Blackford, Mary Berkeley Minor, 1802-1896.
Blackford, William M., 1801-1864.
Bogota (Colombia)--Social life and customs.
Byrd family.
Colombia--Foreign relations--United States--History--19th century.
Diaries.
Families--Virginia--Social life and customs.
Gray family.
Jacquelin family.
Liberia--Social conditions.
Mason family.
Minor family.
Soldiers--Confederate States of America--Correspondence.
United States--Foreign relations--Colombia--History--19th century.
Virginia--Genealogy.
Washington family.
Willis family.
Biographical Information

Mary Berkeley Minor was born 2 December 1802, the oldest daughter and second child of Gen. John Minor (1761-1816), and Lucy Landon (Carter) Minor (1776-1855). The Minors were a prominent, if not wealthy, Virginia family. They tended to be active in politics and in reform movements, such as temperance and antislavery.

Mary had five brothers, all of whom appear in the papers: John Minor (1791-1862), Fredericksburg, Virginia; Lieutenant Charles Landon Carter Minor (1805-1833); Dr. Lewis Willis Minor (1808-1872); Lucius Horatio Minor (1810-1863), Edgewood, Hanover County, Virginia; Reverend Lancelot Byrd Minor (1813-1843); and Dr. James Monroe Minor (1815-1879), Brooklyn, N.Y. The Reverend Lancelot Byrd Minor, an Episcopal minister, went to Liberia as a missionary in 1837. In 1840, while visiting the United States, he married Mary Stewart of Baltimore, Md. He returned to Liberia, where he died in 1843. They had no children.

Mary and her husband, William Matthews Blackford, corresponded frequently with her cousins, including John Barbee Minor, law professor at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.; Lucian Minor, temperance crusader, Louisa Court House, Virginia; Ann (Minor) Truehart, Galveston, Tex.; Richard Maury; and his son, Matthew Fontaine Maury. Mary was also close to Elizabeth G. "Cousin Betty" Hill, Mount Airy, Caroline County, Va., who was the stepdaughter of Mary's aunt, Eliza (Minor) Hill.

William Matthews Blackford was born 19 August 1801, the third son of Benjamin Blackford (1767-1855), and Isabella (Arthur) Blackford (1765-1837). There is very infrequent correspondence from William's father, Benjamin, and his two brothers, Thomas and John. William's sister, Jane Agnes, married William Leeper and their child, Mary Caroline (b. 1820) remained close to the Blackford family. William Matthews Blackford, a lawyer, newspaper editor, diplomat, and banker, took an active interest in Whig politics, although he never ran for office.

Mary Berkeley Minor married William Matthews Blackford 12 October 1825. Most of the material in the collection dates after their marriage. From 1825 until 1846, the Blackfords lived with Mary's mother and brother John in Fredericksburg, Va., where William edited the Fredericksburg Arena. Mary opposed slavery and favored colonization of emancipated slaves in Africa. Through the 1830s, much of the correspondence deals with activities of the American Colonization Society and settlement in Liberia.

The Blackfords always depended on William's father for financial assistance. When in the early 1840s, Benjamin Blackford ran into financial difficulties himself, William was forced to find a job that would pay him enough to support his family adequately. He used his political connections in an unsuccessful attempt to secure the appointment as naval agent in Washington, D.C. Instead, he was appointed charge d'affaires in Bogota, New Granada. He left Fredericksburg in June 1842, taking his oldest son William Willis with him. They arrived in Bogota in September.

At the time of his departure, Blackford expected his wife and other children to follow him soon. Mary, however, kept delaying the journey because of her poor health. (She complained of ill health until her death at the age of 94.) According to one source, while in New Granada, Blackford "at least did the spade-work" for the United States' 1846 treaty with New Granada, known as the Bidlack Treaty. The treaty provided that the United States would protect New Granada's sovereignty over Panama in exchange for "free and open transit" across the isthmus.
Blackford left Bogota in December 1844, arriving in Fredericksburg in February 1845. He spent the next year looking for a job, eventually accepting a position as editor of the Lynchburg Virginian. He moved to Lynchburg in April 1846, and was joined by his family in July. In 1850, he was appointed Lynchburg's postmaster. In 1853, he became cashier of the newly-organized Office of Exchange Bank, the position he retained until his death in 1864. Mary Blackford stayed in Lynchburg until 1870, when she went to live with her son, Launcelot, at the Episcopal High School, Alexandria, Va. She died in 1896.

The Blackfords had seven children who lived to adulthood: Lucy Landon, William Willis, Charles Minor, Benjamin Lewis, Launcelot Minor, Eugene, and Mary Isabella.

Born 6 November 1826, Lucy Landon was always her father's favorite. Although she is mentioned frequently, there are only a few of her letters in the collection. Lucy married Dr. John Staige Davis of Charlottesville, Va., on 10 July 1847, and they had three children: William Blackford, born 1848, who married Kentie Howland in 1871; Mary Jane, born 1851, who married James p. Harrison in 1879; and Lucy Landon, who died in infancy. Lucy (Blackford) Davis died 18 February 1859. Although John Staige Davis later remarried, he remained a close friend of the Blackford family.

William Willis "Willie" Blackford was born 23 March 1831. He accompanied his father to South America, and during this period he signed his letters William Wilberforce Blackford, apparently in admiration of the British statesman and abolitionist. He began working as a civil engineer in 1848, interrupting his career later for a year's study at the University of Virginia. In 1856, he married Mary Trigg Robertson (1835-1866), daughter of former Governor Wyndham Robertson. From June 1861-January 1863, he served in the Civil War with General Jeb Stuart, first as adjutant, later as chief engineer and staff member at headquarters. His memoirs, War Years with Jeb Stuart, were edited by Douglas Southall Freeman and published in 1945 by Charles Scribner's Sons.

After the war, William worked for the Lynchburg and Danville Railroad, then moved to a sugar plantation in Terrebonne Parish, La. When a flood in 1874 destroyed his crop and ruined him financially, he returned to Virginia, and in 1880 accepted a professorship of Mechanics and Drawing at the agricultural college, now Virginia Polytechnic Institute, in Blacksburg. After resigning in 1882, he went to work as a construction engineer for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. He retired in 1890 and purchased an oyster farm on Lynnhaven Bay, Princess Anne County, Va. He died of apoplexy 1 May 1905. William and Mary Trigg (Robertson) Blackford had four children: Lizzie Robertson (b. 1856); Wyndham; Pelham; and Gay Robertson (b. 1866?).

Charles Minor "Charley" Blackford was born 17 October 1833. As a child he lived for a while with Elizabeth G. "Cousin Betty" Hill, who ran a school at Mount Airy, Caroline County, Va. In the early 1850s, he attended the University of Virginia, and after graduation began practicing law in Lynchburg. He married Susan Leigh Colston in 1856, and they had three children: Nannie Colston, Charles Minor, and Raleigh Colston. Like his brothers, he served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War; a member of the Second Virginia Cavalry until 1863, when he became Judge Advocate of the Military Court of the Second Corps (Longstreet's) of the Army of Northern Virginia. In the 1890s, Susan Leigh (Colston) Blackford had her memoirs of the war (based largely on Charles's letters) privately printed. This was later published as Letters from Lee's Army (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1947). When the war ended Charles resumed his law practice in Lynchburg. He died in 1903.

Benjamin Lewis Blackford was born 5 August 1835, and as a child, was called "Benny." At some point, he began to be called Lewis. Lewis attended school at Mount Airy and at the University of Virginia. Before entering the Civil War as a private in Samuel Garland's
Launcelot Minor "Lanty" Blackford was born 23 February 1837. Named after his uncle, Lancelot Byrd Minor, as an adolescent Launcelot added the "u" to his name. He attended the University of Virginia and became a schoolteacher. During the Civil War, he served as a private in the Rockbridge Artillery, as a clerk of the Military Court of the Second Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia, and finally as Adjutant of the Twenty-Fourth Virginia Infantry, William R. Terry's brigade, Pickett's division. After the war, Launcelot resumed teaching and in 1870, he became principal of the Episcopal High School, Alexandria, Va., a position he held until his death in 1914. Launcelot married Eliza Chew Ambler (1856-1935), a descendant of Virginia patriot George Mason, in 1884. Many of her letters are in the collection, as well as some material relating to Mason and his descendants. Launcelot and Eliza had six children: John Minor (1887-1945), doctor in Seattle, Washington; Ambler (b. 1888), Episcopal minister in Virginia and South Carolina; Randolph Fairfax (b. 1890), Episcopal minister in North Dakota and Florida (the later papers in the collection are his); Anna Mason (1892-1893); Launcelot Minor (L. Minor, b. 1894), teacher of medicine at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia; and Staige Davis (1898-1949), teacher of medicine at the University of Virginia.

Eugene Blackford was born 11 April 1839. After attending the University of Virginia, he accepted a teaching position in Alabama and when the Civil War started, became a major in the Fifth Alabama Infantry. After the war, Eugene became a dairy farmer at Cleve, Pikesville, Md. He married Rebecca Chapman Gordon and they had three children: Emily Chapman, Eugene, and William Gordon. Eugene died in 1907.

The youngest of the Blackford children, Mary Isabella "Mabelle," was born in 1840. During the late 1850s, she attended the Southern Female Institute, Richmond, Va., and in 1865, married James Cooke, a farmer. They lived alternately at Dewberry and Foxleigh, both near Richmond. The Cookes had five children: Lucy Landon, James Churchill, Mary Minor, Eugene Blackford, and Edmonia Churchill. Mary Isabella died in 1928.


Scope and Content

The Blackford collection consists of correspondence and other papers of three generations of the Blackford family, a prominent, although not wealthy, Virginia family. Most of the material relates to Mary Berkeley Minor Blackford (1802-1896), and her husband, William Matthews Blackford (1801-1864), Fredericksburg, Va., Lynchburg, Va., and Alexandria, Va. Later correspondence is that of their son, Launcelot Minor Blackford (1837-1914), his wife, Eliza Chew Ambler Blackford (1856-1935), Alexandria, Va., and their son, Randolph Fairfax Blackford (b. 1890), Homestead, Fla. Most of the correspondence is personal, containing news of the activities of the Blackfords, and their relatives and friends.
Most of the material in the collection dates from 1824, when Mary Berkeley Minor and William Matthews Blackford became engaged. The few papers prior to 1824 are scattered legal documents, commissions, accounts, and an 1819 school girl's letter from George Town [D.C.].

The 1824-1841 correspondence deals primarily with the activities of the American Colonization Society and its counterpart in Great Britain. Most frequent are letters from Ralph Randolph Gurley, Washington, D.C., the Society's corresponding secretary, about American Colonization Society business and the anti-slavery movement. There are also letters from other American Colonization Society members in various locations, as well as a few letters from missionaries in Liberia. During the latter part of this period, American Colonization Society correspondence decreases and personal correspondence from the Blackfords' relatives and friends in Virginia giving news of themselves, their families, and their neighbors increases. There is also scattered correspondence of Mary Blackford's mother, Lucy Landon (Carter) Minor, of Fredericksburg, Va.

The majority of the 1842-1844 material relates to William Matthews Blackford's service as United States charge d'affaires in Bogota, New Granada (now Colombia). The correspondence is divided into two groups: letters between Blackford and other diplomats in South America relating to his official duties, and his "diary letters," addressed to Mrs. Blackford, Fredericksburg, Va., containing descriptions of his activities, his observations of South American customs, and comments on politics both in the United States and New Granada. During this period there is also scattered personal correspondence of Mary Blackford with friends and relatives in Virginia and elsewhere. William Blackford returned to Fredericksburg in 1845. However, he maintained his correspondence with diplomats in South America and American officials in Washington about his work in New Granada for a few years.

In 1846, the Blackfords moved to Lynchburg, Va. The 1845-1860 material is predominantly personal correspondence of William and Mary Blackford, especially with their seven children as they left home for school and careers. The five Blackford sons wrote frequently from the school run by their cousin, Elizabeth G. "Betty" Hill, at Mount Airy, Caroline County, Va.; the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.; and elsewhere. These letters deal with family matters and neighborhood news—births, deaths, marriages, illnesses, social activities, with occasional comments on contemporary politics. As the Civil War approached in the late 1850s, discussions of slavery, abolition, and the national political situation became more frequent.

During this period Mary Blackford continued to receive occasional correspondence about American Colonization Society activities, including a few letters from missionaries and former slaves in Liberia. From 1846-1848 there are scattered letters to William M. Blackford from United States army officers in Mexico and Texas about the Mexican War.

In early 1861, the Blackfords' correspondence reflected their concern about the worsening national crisis. When the war started, all five Blackford sons enlisted in the Confederate Army. All served throughout the war, mostly in Virginia, but also in North Carolina and Tennessee. The 1861 correspondence includes letters from all five sons to their parents and each other about life in the Confederate Army. Although letters written 1862-1865 have been preserved, many are faded and virtually illegible. Most of the later correspondence that is legible is from Benjamin Lewis Blackford, with the engineering corps in Wilmington, N.C., to his parents about his social activities and romantic entanglements. These letters shed little light on military affairs and war life. Occasional letters to Mr. and Mrs. Blackford from John Minor, Fredericksburg, Va.; John B. Minor, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia; and Mary Trigg Robertson Blackford, The Meadows, Abingdon, Va., give a few glimpses of life on the home front. The 1865 correspondence deals with the
Most of the material from 1866-1892 consists of letters to Mary Blackford, Lynchburg, Virginia, 1866-1870, and Episcopal High School, Alexandria, Va., 1870-1892, from her children, grandchildren, other relatives and friends in Virginia, Louisiana, Washington, D.C., Texas, and elsewhere. The letters are personal, dealing with daily activities and news of friends and family. Most frequent are letters from Mrs. Blackford's daughter, Mary Isabella (Blackford) Cooke, writing from her husband's plantations, Dewberry and Foxleigh, in Virginia, about her domestic routine and the activities of her husband and children.

There is also scattered correspondence of Launcelot M. Blackford, Alexandria, Va., both personal and related to his job as principal of the Episcopal High School in Alexandria.

From 1893 to 1932, the collection consists of the personal correspondence of Launcelot M. Blackford, his wife, Eliza Chew (Ambler) Blackford, and their son, Randolph Fairfax Blackford about their own activities and those of their relatives and friends. Between 1893 and 1905, Launcelot M. Blackford took several trips to Europe, visiting England, Switzerland and France. His letters to his wife in Alexandria describe his travels. After 1910, there are several letters from Ambler Blackford in Virginia, South Carolina, and Florida, and Randolph Blackford in North Dakota, Tennessee, and Florida, about their experiences as Episcopal ministers. In addition, there are a few letters from Randolph Blackford to his mother written while he served as a chaplain with the American Expeditionary Force in France, 1917-1919.

The last group of papers, 1936-1953, includes miscellaneous correspondence of Randolph Fairfax Blackford, Florida, principally concerned with Blackford genealogy and family papers.

Non-correspondence includes: four pamphlets (three dealing with the Confederacy and the Lost Cause, and one about the life of Liberian missionary Lancelot Byrd Minor); genealogical information and obituaries of the Blackford, Ambler, Mason, Minor, Carew (Carey), Johnston, Brewster, DeWolfe, Lloyd, Richardson, Robins, Tilghman, and Young families; miscellaneous belles-lettres by William W. Blackford, Randolph R. Blackford, and others; unidentified photographs; and letters and articles written by Launcelot M. Blackford for the Southern Churchman, 1888-1903.

The volumes include an account book, 1850-1855; a recipe book, 1852; a University of Virginia alumni bulletin, 1914; and a "Sample Book" from Saint John's Episcopal Church, Homestead, Fla., 1940.

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   1.6. 1848-1860.
   1.7. 1861-1865.
Series 1. Correspondence.

Subseries 1.1. 1743-1823.

8 items.

Miscellaneous letters and documents, including:

11 June 1743  Statement of debt owed by Thomas Barber to Benjamin Rush.

11 February 1790  Mary Lane to Robert Carter, asking permission to remove dead trees from his forest.


30 October 1798  Statement of account from December 1794-30 October 1798.

1814  Leigh's Recd Code . pa. 164c51 sec 32 extract from a state constitution about rights to freedom of speech for assemblymen and state legislators.

14 April 1819  Nannie Martin, George Towen [D.C.?] to Dear Cousin Ben, a schoolgirl's letter describing her activities.

1820  Copy of a prayer of dedication.

January 1823  Commission of John Mason, Jr. as secretary of U.S. Legation in Mexico, signed by James Monroe and John Quincy Adams.
Commission of John Mason, Jr. as secretary of U.S. Legation in Mexico, signed by President James Monroe and Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, 27 January 1823

Restriction to Access: The original item is not available for immediate or same day access. Please contact staff at wilsonlibrary@unc.edu to discuss options.

Subseries 1.2. 1824-1838.

About 90 items.

Correspondence of William Matthews Blackford and his wife Mary Berkeley (Minor) Blackford of Fredericksburg, Va., mostly dealing with the activities of the American Colonization Society and its counterpart in Great Britain. Most of the letters are addressed to Mrs. Blackford, who apparently attempted to organize a colonization society in Fredericksburg. Correspondents include Ralph Randolph Gurley, secretary of the American Colonization Society, Washington, D.C.; Beulah Sansom, Germantown, Pennsylvania, 1835-1837; Amelia Davidson, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1835-1837; Elliott Cresson, England and Scotland, 1833-1838; and others. Letters to William Matthews Blackford from Charles Fenton Mercer, James Barbour, John Mercer Patton, and others, and copies of Blackford's letters to Lucian Minor, discussing current political issues. Scattered correspondence from various relatives of the Blackfords, and a few letters between William and Mary, written on the infrequent occasions when they were apart.

11 October 1825
William Matthews Blackford to Major John Graham, Rose Hill (near Frederick, Md.), announcing his forthcoming marriage to Mary Berkeley Minor, and describing his fledgling law practice in Fredericksburg.

1828
Charles Fenton Mercer, Washington, D.C. to William M. Blackford, describing his role in sponsoring public education in the Virginia legislature, 1810-17

9 November 1831
Lieutenant Charles Landon Carter Minor, Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, to John Minor, Fredericksburg, Va., discussing fears of a large-scale slave insurrection in the slave states.

13 December 1831
S. Teague [?] Monrovia, Liberia, to Mary B. Blackford, discussing the problem of educating black women to be teachers and the life of missionaries in Liberia.
Address of James Murray Mason, U.S. Congressman from Virginia, to Cherokee Indians, Red Clay, E. Tennessee, advising them of the advantages of removal.

Folder 2 1830-1831
Folder 3 1832-1833
Folder 4 1834-1836
(digitized 96 scans)
Folder 5 1837-1839

Subseries 1.3. 1839-1841.
About 50 items.

Miscellaneous business and personal correspondence of William Matthews Blackford and Mary Berkeley (Minor) Blackford, Fredericksburg, Va., including copies of Blackford's letters to Lucian Minor, Charlottesville, Va., about political news; scattered personal correspondence of Mary's mother, Lucy Landon (Carter) Minor, Fredericksburg, Va.; letters, 1841, from various national political office-holders, including Vice President John Tyler, to the secretary of the Navy recommending William M. Blackford for the post of naval agent at Washington, D.C.; and correspondence between Mrs. Blackford and E[izabeth] G. Hill and Charles Minor Blackford, Mount Airy, Caroline County, Va.

30 November 1839
Home Gazette, a newspaper compiled by the Blackford children, including poetry, family news, sketches.

5 December 1839
Home Gazette

7 January 1841
Mary B. Blackford to Lancelot B[yrd] Minor, Cape Palmas, West Africa [Liberia] about family news, freeing slaves to send to Liberia, the low state of the
Folder 6  1839-1840

Folder 7  1841

(digitized 87 scans)

(digitized 87 scans)

SEP-1912/2  Letter, Vice President John Tyler to the Secretary of the Navy recommending William M. Blackford for the post of naval agent at Washington, D.C., 12 March 1841

(digitized 2 scans)

(digitized 2 scans)

Restriction to Access: The original item is not available for immediate or same day access. Please contact staff at wilsonlibrary@unc.edu to discuss options.

Subseries 1.4. 1842-1844.

About 460 items.

Predominantly material relating to William Matthews Blackford's position as U.S. charge d'affaires in the Republic of New Granada (Colombia). Blackford and his oldest son, William Willis, lived in Bogota from September 1842 until December 1844, while Mrs. Blackford and the rest of the children remained in Fredericksburg, Va. Most of the correspondence is between Blackford and other diplomats, primarily Colombian, American, and British, in South America and is related to his official duties. Some of this material is in Spanish and has not been included in this description.

Also included, although filed separately from the diplomatic correspondence (see folder

list), are Blackford's detailed "diary letters" to his wife, June 1842-December 1843, containing descriptions of his activities in Bogota, his observations of South American customs, and comments on politics, both in the U.S. and New Granada. The letters from June to August 1842, describe his journey to Bogota, first aboard the USS Falmouth, and in July and August, by land. Blackford was especially interested in observing South American slavery, and included his observations in his letters to his wife, with some comparisons between slavery in South America and the United States.

There is also some personal correspondence to Mary B. Blackford from friends and relatives in Virginia and elsewhere.

28 February 1843  
Mary Stewart Minor, Tabbo River, Liberia, to Lucy Landon (Carter) Minor, Fredericksburg, Va., discussing the Reverend Lancelot Byrd Minor's work with a school in Liberia, his students, and a recent illness. Reverend Minor, Mary Blackford's brother, and his wife Mary were missionaries.

12 June 1843  
Diary letter. William M. Blackford, Bogota, New Granada, to Mary B. Blackford, comments on U.S. Whig party politics; election of new Episcopal bishop in Rhode Island; description of celebration of festival of Corpus Christi; discussion of his opposition to the Catholic Church and his detestation of persecution to Catholics in the United States.

31 March 1844  
E. Atkinson, Richmond, Va., to Lucy (Landon) Carter Minor, Fredericksburg, Va. News of neighborhood interlaced with her antislavery views; opposition to annexation of Texas as a proslavery plot to enable the South to secede.

30 April 1844  
Allen A. Hall, Caracas, Venezuela, to William M. Blackford. Summary of U.S. political news and highlights of international news. Hall, another American diplomat, wrote Blackford frequently and his letters are usually filled with news items of this sort, as well as his opinions on current issues.

1 June 1844  
Lucius H. Minor, Edge Wood, Hanover County, Va., to My Dear Sister [Mary B. Blackford?] about outfitting Abram, a slave the Blackfords manumitted, with tools of his trade, including an itemized list of what he would need and the cost.

1 July 1844  
John B. Minor, Charlottesville, Va., to Mary B. Blackford. Comments on decline of temperance organization in Fredericksburg.

20 July 1844  
William M. Blackford to Lucian Minor [location?]. Comments on U.S. politics; comparison of English and American literacy and scientific achievement.

Folder 8-9  1842

Folder 10  1842

Diary letters

Folder 11-22  1843
Subseries 1.5. 1845-1847.

About 200 items.


Most of the correspondence is between William, Mary, and their children, especially Charles Minor Blackford, Benjamin Lewis Blackford, and Launcelot Minor Blackford, all of whom spent some time at the home of their cousin, Elizabeth G. "Betty" Hill, Mount Airy, Caroline County, Va., and deals with family matters and neighborhood news. In April 1846, William M. Blackford moved to Lynchburg, Va. The rest of the family remained in Fredericksburg until July, so there are some letters from Mary B. Blackford and the children to William M. Blackford. After July 1846, the group contains letters from Mrs. Blackford and the children to her mother, Lucy Landon (Carter) Minor, Fredericksburg, Va., and a few letters to the Blackfords, from Mrs. Minor. Because Mrs. Minor was blind, her servant, Maria West, wrote for her, and occasionally included personal notes of her own.

Other correspondents include:

Benjamin Blackford, Lynchburg, Va.
Thomas T. Blackford, Lynchburg, Va.
Lucy Byars, Woodlands, Tennessee
Julius P. Garesche [Gausche?], with the army in Mexico
P. S. Herron, Washington, D.C.
E. G. Hill, Mount Airy, Caroline County, Va.
L. M. Kean, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
Mary Caroline Leeper, Mount Airy
C. L. C. Minor, Edgewood, Hanover County, Va.
Thomas C. Nelson, Mount Airy
J. P. Phelps, Mexico

There are also copies of William M. Blackford's letters to Lucian Minor, Louisa Court House, Va., that include discussions of contemporary politics as well as personal news.


28 May 1845  John B. Minor, Charlottesville, Va., to William M. Blackford. Possibility of a job at University of Virginia; writing of a biographical sketch of the Reverend Lancelot Byrd Minor.

11 July 1845  John B. Minor, to William M. Blackford. Objections raised to his appointment as professor of law at the University of Virginia.

29 July 1845  John B. Minor to William M. Blackford, announcing his appointment to chair of law at University of Virginia.

20 November 1845  J[ohn] Payne, Cavalla Station, Near Cape Palmas, West Africa, to Mary B. Blackford. Reply to her request for a memoir of Lancelot Byrd Minor; description of Minor's work; his dying words.


20 January 1847  J. C. Phelps, Camargo, Mexico, to William M. Blackford. Report on Mexican War: the weather, army life, the scenery, the Mexican people. Army life away from the fighting. Phelps and Garesche were in the army, and also served as correspondents for Blackford's paper, the Lynchburg Virginian.

Folder 32-35 1845

Folder 36-37 1846

Folder 38-39 1847

Subseries 1.6. 1848-1860.

About 950 items.

Personal correspondence of the Blackford family as the children grew up and moved away from home. Lucy Landon Blackford married Dr. John Staige Davis in 1847 and moved to Charlottesville, Va., but there are no letters from her in the collection. William Willis Blackford began working as a civil engineer in 1848. His frequent letters to his family from various places in Virginia describe his work, social life, and living conditions. He also wrote often while he was a student at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, fall 1849-June 1851. Charles Minor Blackford attended school at Minor's Folly, Louisa Court House, Va., in the spring of 1850, then attended the University of Virginia from the fall of 1850 through 1854. His letters deal with his health, studies, and extracurricular activities, especially his work with the Sons of Temperance. Charles' correspondence becomes more infrequent after he begins practicing law in Lynchburg. Launcelot Minor Blackford remained in Lynchburg until 1854, when he accepted a teaching job at Powhatan Court House, Va. He entered the
University of Virginia in 1856, and remained there until June 1860. Letters to and from Benjamin Lewis Blackford and Eugene Blackford are infrequent. Lewis was in Jonesborough, Tennessee in 1854 and at the University of Virginia 1856-June 1857. He returned to Lynchburg when he left the University. Eugene attended school at Edgehill, in Albemarle County, Va., in 1854-1855, and the University of Virginia 1857-1859. Mary Isabella Blackford spent time at Mount Airy, Caroline County, Va.; Edgewood, Hanover County; she attended Southern Female Institute, Richmond, Va., 1857-1858. Mary B. Blackford made annual visits to friends and relatives in Charlottesville, Edgewood, Mount Airy, and Fredericksburg. In addition, she made longer trips to Philadelphia (October 1853-August 1854) and Florence Water Cure, Northampton, Massachusetts (December 1859-August 1860) for her health.

There are also letters to and from the Blackfords and other relatives and friends, including Lucy Landon (Carter) Minor, Fredericksburg, Va., until her death in December 1855; Julian P. Garesh, Camargo, Mexico, 1848, and Port Isabel, Texas, 1851; L. M. Kean, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.; Lucian Minor, Louisa Court House, Va., on temperance activities; John B. Minor, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va., on university life, contemporary politics; E. G. Hill, Mount Airy, Caroline County, Va.; Mary Caroline Leeper, Woodstock, Va.; Helen Guinan, Fredericksburg, Va.; Thomas C. Nelson, Frederick, Md.; V. M. Randolph, USS Albany, Penscola, Fla., 1849, and Folkland, Alabama, 1858-1859; John Minor, Fredericksburg, Va.; Benjamin Blackford, Lynchburg, Va.; James Cephas Minor, Monrovia, Liberia; Lucy Byars, Brenham, Texas, Columbus, Texas, and Hopkinsville, Kentucky; H. R. Scott, Cavalla West Africa; Charles Mercer, Paris, France; John Knott, Eastwood, Va.; James Minor, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Mary Trigg (Robertson) Blackford, The Meadows, Abingdon, Va., and Richmond, Va.; C. L. C. Minor, Edgewood, Hanover County, Va.; W. C. Rives, Castle Hill, Va.; and Alexander H. H. Stuart, Richmond, Va.

Most of the correspondence deals with family news and neighborhood events—births, deaths, marriages, illnesses, social activities—with some discussion of contemporary politics. As the Civil War approached in the late 1850s, comments on slavery, abolition, and the national political situation became more frequent.

29 February 1848
Julius P. Garesche, Camargo, Mexico, to Mary S. Blackford. Disparaging comments on the Mexican people; moral debasement of Americans in Mexico; description of trips through countryside; climate; rumors of peace.

4 January 1849
E. G. Hill, Mount Airy, Caroline County, Va., to Mary B. Blackford. Personal, family, and neighborhood news; description of degenerates who converted to Christianity and took the temperance pledge in the local Methodist chapel.

24 February 1849
Charles D. Drake, Washington, D.C., to William M. Blackford. Speculations on Zachary Taylor's choices for his cabinet. Drake was an employee of Indiana Congressman Caleb W. Smith.

12 March 1849
Helen Guinan, Fredericksburg, Va., to Mary B. Blackford. News of work for colonization in Fredericksburg and nationally; opposition to abolitionists.

18 July 1849
W[illiam] C[abell] Rives, Cobham, Va., to William M. Blackford. His appointment as junior minister to France; problems of negotiating a treaty with the French; portions of this letter are missing.

1850
John B. Minor, University of Virginia, to William M. Blackford. His views on
1 February 1850 Ramon Leon Sanches, Cartagena, to William M. Blackford. Descriptions of new charge d'affaires, Thomas M. Foote; domestic politics in New Granada; cholera epidemic; apprehension over slavery extension as a divisive issue in the United States.

7 February 1850 Mary B. Blackford to William M. Blackford, Washington, D.C. News of herself and the children; her support of Blackford's proposed move to Cincinnati: Virginia is a great place to be born in, but not to live in.


23 August 1850 John B. Minor, University of Virginia to William M. Blackford. University news; comments on sectionalism and his fears of civil strife.

1 December 1850 Lucian Minor, Lochaven, Va., to William M. Blackford. Organization of the Sons of Temperance; opinion on slavery and the Compromise of 1850.

7 January 1851 Mary B. Blackford to Matthew Maury. Rough draft of her response to his plan to send slaves to the Amazon Valley.

3 October 1851 Benjamin Blackford, Lynchburg, to John A. Blackford, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Description of riots in Lynchburg by Irishmen working on the railroad and canal.

17 October 1851 James C[ephas] Minor, Monrovia, Liberia, to Mary B. Blackford. Personal and family news of Minor, a former slave of the Minor family, who was freed and sent to Liberia.

1852 John Payne, Port Conway, Va., to Launcelot M. Blackford, Lynchburg. His work as missionary in Liberia.

May, June 1852 Several Compositions by Launcelot M. Blackford on varied topics, including health, mathematics, and poetry. Also letters from William M. Blackford at Washington D.C.; Baltimore, Md.; Brooklyn, N.Y.; Batavia, N.Y.; and Niagara Falls, N.Y.; describing places he visited and people he met on travels.

1852 James Cephas Minor, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. Description of a shipwreck; comments on Liberian relations with Great Britain and Brazil; and on African Natives.

January 1853

Charles M. Blackford, University of Virginia, to Mary B. Blackford. Possibility of his moving to a free state.

4 May 1853

Charles M. Blackford to Mary B. Blackford. His opinion of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

11 October 1853


1854


25 January 1854


December 1854

Letters concerning the death of Lucy Landon (Carter) Minor.

5 November 1855

John B. Minor, University of Virginia, to Willaim M. Blackford. Comments on Democrats, Fillmore, Freemont; fear of dissolution of Union accompanied by civil war and anarchy.

8 July 1858

Copy of Charles Minor's letter to his brother John, containing an account of his brother Lucian's death in Williamsburg made by Mary B. Blackford for John Minor, Fredericksburg.

21 October 1858


1859

Launcelot M. Blackford, University of Virginia, to William M. Blackford, Lynchburg. Death of Lucy Landon (Blackford) Davis.

March-April 1859

Scattered correspondence from Whitelaw Reid, Zenia, Ohio; John Minor, Fredericksburg; and V. M. Randolph, Forkland, Alabama, to William M. Blackford, about the life, death, and philosophy of Richard Randolph, a Virginian who freed his slaves and moved to Ohio.

20 November 1859

W. C. Rives, Castle Hill, Va., to William M. Blackford. Comments on his recently published historical work (probably History of the Life and Times of James Madison, v. 1); response to criticism of historian Hugh Blair Grigsby.

25 November 1859

[William M. Blackford] to Launcelot M. Blackford, University of Virginia. Military spirit in Lynchburg; drills of Home Guard.
16 December 1859
Mary B. Blackford, Florence Water Cure, near Northampton, Massachusetts, to William M. Blackford, Lynchburg. Description of her journey from Virginia.

15 February 1860

Folder 40-43 1848
Folder 44-46 1849
Folder 47-50 1850
Folder 51-54 1851
Folder 55-58 1852
Folder 59-62 1853
Folder 63-65 1854
Folder 66-68 1855
Folder 69 1856
Folder 70-71 1857
Folder 72-73 1858
Folder 74-75 1859
Folder 76-78 1860

Subseries 1.7. 1861-1865.
About 225 items.

The papers for early 1861 are letters among John Minor, Fredericksburg, Va.; Launcelot M. Blackford, Staunton, Va.; William M. Blackford, Lynchburg, Va.; John B. Minor, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.; and V. M. Randolph, Montgomery, Alabama, about secession crisis and preparations for war. Subsequent correspondence for that year consists for the most part of letters from the Blackford sons to their parents and each other about life in the Confederate Army. After 1861, most of the letters are from Benjamin Lewis Blackford to his parents, and shed little light on military affairs and war life. William and
Lewis were in the engineering corps; William served from 1861-1863 on the staff of General Jeb. Stuart. Charles served as judge advocate with Longstreet's Corps. Launcelot served first with the Rockbridge Artillery then, after 1863, as clerk of the military court, Longstreet's Corps. Eugene was in the Fifth Alabama Regiment. All five spent most of the war in Virginia. Also occasional correspondence from John Minor, Fredericksburg; John B. Minor, University of Virginia; Mary Trigg (Robertson) Blackford, The Meadows, Abingdon, Va.

Many of the letters from 1862 are faded and virtually illegible.

16 April 1861
John B. Minor, University of Virginia, to Mary B. Blackford. On secession crisis; his aversion to both the cotton states and Lincoln; the role of women as moral exemplars in social crises.

April-June 1861
Benjamin Lewis Blackford, Richmond; Manassas Junction; Norfolk; to William M. Blackford, and Mary B. Blackford, on army life, rumor of military plans.

4 May 1861
H. Allen Johnson, New York, to William M. Blackford. Trip from Maryland to New York; problem of getting out of the South; troops and military preparations in New York; favorable description of Lincoln by a man from Illinois; mood and views of North regarding secession.

15 May 1861
George W. Bethune, New York, to Mary B. Blackford. Northern response to Ft. Sumter; why the North must fight to save the Union.

27 July 1861
William W. Blackford, Fairfax Courthouse, to John M. Minor, Fredericksburg, about the Battle of Manassas.

6, 9 December 1861
Launcelot M. Blackford, Martinsburg, Va., to William M. Blackford and Mary B. Blackford. Detailed description of troop movement and activities.

12 July 1862
Benjamin Lewis Blackford, Camp in Chesterfield [Va.?], to Mary B. Blackford. Describes Northern working class view of the war and slavery, based on a number of letters, apparently from Northern workers he came across while doing a survey. He was following in the wake of the carnage - immediately behind scenes of battle.

11 August 1862
Benjamin Lewis Blackford, Camp at Port Walthall Junction [Va.?], to William M. Blackford. Description of Jefferson Davis, who he had seen at church recently; army life (diet).

12 January 1863
Charles M. Blackford, Headquarters, First Corps, Army of Northern Virginia, to Mary B. Blackford. Excerpts from his diary, December 1862; description of Battle of Fredericksburg.

23 January 1863
William W. Blackford, near Orange Court House, Va., to William M. Blackford. His regrets at leaving Jeb Stuart's staff.
27 March 1863 John B. Minor, University of Virginia, to William M. Blackford. Life on the home front: price of tobacco, kerosene, bees' wax for candles; investments.

10 July 1863 John B. Minor, University of Virginia, to William M. Blackford. War news; conditions at the University.

5 October 1863 Benjamin Lewis Blackford, Wrightsville, N.C., to Mary B. Blackford. Comments on his work; North Carolina and its people; prices and scarcity.

17 December 1863 Benjamin Lewis Blackford, Camp on Topsail Sound, to Mary B. Blackford. His disgust with Wilmington residents, who have been demoralized by blockade running; description of Kidder family in Wilmington. Much of his subsequent wartime correspondence deals with his ill-fated courtship of Miss Kidder.

1864 Mostly personal letters from Benjamin Lewis Blackford, Wilmington, Fredericksburg, Richmond. A few letters from Charles M. Blackford, Greenville, Tennessee, and Richmond. Rare letters from Launcelot M. Blackford and William W. Blackford in Virginia. Undated poem, The Battle of the Cows: A True Story of the War, about Hunter's raid into Virginia during the summer of 1864; probably written by Mary Isabella Blackford.

1865 Mary Isabella Blackford married Churchill Cooke on 15 March 1865, and subsequently there are frequent letters from her at her husband's plantations, Dewberry and Foxleigh, to her mother in Lynchburg.

11 June 1865 Charles M. Blackford, Lynchburg, to Benjamin Lewis Blackford, Richmond. His financial losses because of the war.

15 June 1865 William W. Blackford, Abingdon, Va., to Mary B. Blackford. Description of his daily routine; problems with robbers and freed Negroes.

27 August 1865 Launcelot M. Blackford, Lynchburg, to Benjamin Lewis Blackford, Richmond, persuading him to emigrate to Brazil or Mexico.

1 November 1865 Maria (West) Campbell, Staunton, Va., to Mary B. Blackford. Personal; inquiry about Mrs. Blackford's sons. Mrs. Campbell was a former slave of Lucy Landon (Carter) Minor, freed long before the war.

14 November 1865 R. R. Gurley, York, Pennsylvania, to Mary B. Blackford. News of Liberia; hopes that emancipated slaves will go there.
Subseries 1.8. 1866-1892.

About 1050 items.

Letters to Mary B. Blackford, Lynchburg, 1866-1870, and Episcopal High School, Alexandria, Va., 1871-1892, from her children, grandchildren, other relatives and friends. The correspondence is personal, dealing with daily activities, news of friends and family. Most frequent are letters from Mary Isabella (Blackford) Cooke, Dewberry and Foxleigh, writing of her domestic routine and news of her husband and children. Other correspondents include William Blackford, Somerset, Abingdon, Va., 1866-1870, and Powhatan, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, 1871-1874. These letters contain descriptions of his work as a planter and of agriculture in Louisiana. Subsequent scattered correspondence to Mary Blackford from William W. Blackford at various places in Virginia. There are also letters from Charles M. Blackford, Lynchburg; Benjamin Lewis Blackford, Alexandria, Va., and Lynchburg, 1866, and after 1872, Washington, D.C.; Launcelot M. Blackford, Norwood School, Nelson County, Va., 1866; Eugene Blackford, Alexandria, Va., 1866, and subsequently at Cleve, Pikesville, Md.; Mary Jane (Davis) Harrison, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, 1866-1878, and Danville, Va., after 1878; R. R. Gurley, Hartville, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.; E. G. Hill, University of Virginia; Lucy Byars, Columbus, Texas; John B. Minor, University of Virginia; Nannie C. Blackford, Lynchburg; E. E. Cooke, Dewberry, Va.; E. H. Craighill, Lynchburg; Gay Robertson Blackford, Abingdon, Va.; Ann Trueheart, Galveston, Texas; James Byars, Covington, Tennessee; Wyndham Blackford, Blacksburg, Va.; Rebecca C. Blackford, Cleve, Pikesville, Md.; C. L. C. Minor, Winchester, Va.; Kentie Howland Davis, Baltimore, Md., Ellen J. Minor, New York; James P. Harrison, Danville, Va.; Lancelot Minor, Briery Knoll, Amherst County, Va.; John Staige Davis, Jr., Fort Totten, Dakota Territory; Berkeley Minor, Staunton, Va. Scattered correspondence of Launcelot M. Blackford, Alexandria, Va., both personal and related to his job as principal of Episcopal High School, including letters from Col. L. Hoxton, Baltimore, Md., 1871; Richard L. Maury, Lexington, Va.; James C. Stansbury, Baltimore, Md., 1872-1873. Occasional letters to Eliza Chew (Ambler) Blackford, from relatives.
January 1866  William W. Blackford, Somerset, Abingdon, Va., to Mary B. Blackford, Lynchburg. Problems with obtaining house servants; idleness of freedmen; thievery among blacks and whites; personal and family news.


14 April 1873  William W. Blackford, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, to Sue Colston Blackford, Lynchburg. His experiments with white tenants as labor on his plantation.

19, 29 April 1874  William W. Blackford, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, to [?] and Mary B. Blackford. About the flood that ruined his plantation and sugar crop.


6 May 1879  M. Payne, Petersburg, Va., to Mary B. Blackford. Her experiences with teaching black children.


20 October 1881  J. M. Ambler to Edward Ambler. Copy of letter taken from the body of Dr. Ambler, the last survivor of the ill-fated Jeanette. Last messages to his family; description of the hardships he is suffering. Dr. Ambler was part of a polar expedition.

20 November 1881  Charles M. Blackford, Lynchburg, to his son, Charles. Explanation of the state debt.

1883  James P. Harrison, Danville, Va., to Mary B. Blackford. Description of Danville race riot.

Folder 89-90  1866
Folder 91  1867-1870
Folder 92  1871
Folder 93-94  1872
Folder 95-97  1873
Folder 98-99  1874
Subseries 1.9. 1893-1905.

About 350 items.

Correspondence of Launcelot M. Blackford and his wife, Eliza Chew (Ambler) Blackford. During this period Blackford went to Europe several times, visiting London; Mainz; Chavenna, Switzerland; Paris; Leamington Spa, England; Melrose, England; Edinburgh, Scotland; Durham, England; and York, England. He wrote descriptions of his travels to his wife, who remained in Virginia, at the Episcopal High School, Alexandria, and occasionally, Orkney Springs, and Parkersburg, West Virginia. Her infrequent letters to him describe events at home.

23 March 1896 Circular to descendants of George Mason asking for contributions to erect a monument on Mason's grave.

Folder 131 1893-1899

Folder 132 1901-1902

Folder 133 1903-1905
**Subseries 1.10. 1906-1932.**

About 350 items.

Correspondence of Launcelot Minor Blackford, Eliza Chew (Ambler) Blackford, and their son, Randolph Fairfax Blackford, containing personal news of family and friends.

**August, September 1908**  Letters from Launcelot M. Blackford and Eliza Chew (Ambler) Blackford on a trip to England, to their children, Episcopal High School, Alexandria, Va.

18 November 1908  Walter A. Montgomery, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va. Announcement of Blackford's election to Phi Beta Kappa.

28 December 1908  Invitation to a dance at the White House, addressed to Randolph Fairfax Blackford.

1909-1914  Primarily letters from Eliza Chew (Ambler) Blackford, Episcopal High School, Alexandria, Va., to Randolph Fairfax Blackford, Rockville, Md.; Ivy Depot, [Va.?]; and University of Virginia, Charlottesville, containing family news and news of life at the High School.

November, December 1910  Material relating to Randolph Fairfax Blackford's unsuccessful application for a Rhodes Scholarship.

1915-1916  Correspondence of Eliza C. A. Blackford, Charlottesville, Va.; Randolph F. Blackford, Fargo, North Dakota; Grand Forks, North Dakota; and Minnewauken, North Dakota; Ambler Blackford, Columbia, Va.; Virginia Mason, Charlottesville, Va.; and John Minor Blackford, Seattle, Washington. Both Randolph F. Blackford and Ambler Blackford were Episcopal ministers. A few of their letters to their mother, Eliza C. A. Blackford, and to each other, discuss their ministries, especially Ambler's work with a newly-formed Boy Scout troop.

7 February 1915  Harrold S. Shipps, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, to Eliza C. A. Blackford, praising evangelist Billy Sunday.

1917-1919  Correspondence of Eliza C. A. Blackford, Charlottesville, Va., including a few of Randolph F. Blackford's letters to her from France, where he served with the American Expeditionary Force.

8 March 1918  (illegible), Wuchang, China, to Eliza C. A. Blackford. Writer, a former Episcopal High School student, describes unsettled conditions in China.

1920-1932  Correspondence of Eliza C. A. Blackford, Charlottesville, Va., and Randolph F. Blackford, Hartsville, 1920; Sewanee, Tennessee, 1922; Panama City, Fla., 1926-1930; Leesburg, Fla., 1931-1932. Later correspondence, 1932, among Randolph F. Blackford and his brothers, Dr. Staige D. Blackford, University of...
Virginia, Charlottesville; Ambler M. Blackford, Tallahassee, Fla.; and L. Minor Blackford, about future living arrangements for their mother, Eliza C. A. Blackford.

Folder 134 1906-1907
Folder 135 1908-1909
Folder 136-137 1910
Folder 138 1911-1914
Folder 139-141 1915
Folder 142-143 1916
Folder 144 1917-1919
Folder 145 1920-1926
Folder 146 1927-1931
Folder 147 1932

Subseries 1.11. 1936-1953.
About 25 items.
Miscellaneous correspondence of Randolph F. Blackford, Leesburg, Fla.; Homestead, Fla.; and Thomasville, Georgia. Primarily concerning Blackford genealogy and family papers.

November 1939
Several items relating to Randolph F. Blackford's taking an army extension course on Practical Duties of Chaplains.

Folder 148 1936-1953
Folder 149-153 Undated

Series 2. Pamphlets.
5 items.
7 November 1864  Message of the President to the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States of America.

30 May 1893  'He Comes Again' Lines by a daughter of Virginia, Upon the Arrival of the Remains of Jefferson Davis at Richmond, May 30, 1893, by Lucy Ambler Mason.


Undated  The Honor Roll. Names of Students Who Were Killed, Died, or Lost in Actual Military Service of the Confederacy. No place.

1850(?)-1855  Small account book, listing amounts of money Lucy Landon (Carter) Minor paid her grandchildren for memorizing Bible verses.

Folder 154  Pamphlets


10 items.

Genealogical information on the Blackford, Ambler, Carew (Carey), and Johnston families. Notes on genealogy of several original Massachusetts Bay families, including Brewster, DeWolfe, Lloyd, Richardson, Robins, Tilghman and Young. Handwritten obituary of Mrs. James M[urray] Mason, died 14 February 1874. Scrapbook is microfilm only (M-1912/1).

Folder 155  Genealogy


10 items.


Folder 156-157  Belles-Lettres

Series 5. Miscellaneous and Pictures.

About 25 items.

About 25 items.

Assorted clippings related to the Blackford, Minor, Mason, and Ambler families - obituaries, etc.

Series 7. Southern Churchman Letters.

Letters and articles written by Launcelot M. Blackford for the Southern Churchman, 1888-1903. Most are letters written from England and Europe describing his travels.

13 August 1888    London
16 August 1888    London
20 August 1888    Dorchester, Oxon
25 August 1888    New Quay, Cornwall
31 August 1888    London
14 August 1889    London
19 August 1889    London
26 August 1889    London
30 August 1889    London
6 August 1891     London
7 August 1891     London
11 August 1891    London
21 August 1891   London
15 August 1892   London
20 August 1892   The Hague
25 August 1892   Brussels
7 August 1899   London
8 August 1899   London
16 August 1899   London (3 letters)
1 August 1900   Antwerp
3 August 1900   Munich
6 August 1900   Munich
25 March 1901   (article)
5 August 1901   London
12 August 1901   Bellonzono, Switzerland
19 August 1901   Bale
28 September 1901   (article)
23 March 1903   Obituary for Charles M. Blackford
5 August 1903   Paris
2 August 1903   Paris
20 August 1903   London
21 August 1903   London

Folder 160-161  Southern Churchman Letters
Series 8. Volumes.

5 items.

Folder 162
(digitized 253 scans)


Handwritten. Illustrated. Described in the introduction as an "intellectual pantry," the book contains recipes for cakes, breads, meats, vegetables, and wines, interspersed with poems and sayings. Includes typescript transcription.

Folder 163
(digitized 31 scans)

**Volume 2: "Oblation," 1 September 1882-31 August 1882**

Launcelot M. Blackford's account book, listing debits and credits with notes about how money was spent, financial matters.

Folder 164
(digitized 132 scans)

**Volume 3: "Alumni Bulletin of the University of Virginia," Third Series, volume VII:2, October 1914**

Contains biographical sketch of Launcelot Minor Blackford.
Volume 4: "Sample Book of Saint John's Episcopal Church. Homestead, Fla. to assist he(sic) salesman in selling the Church to its members," 22 November 1940

Includes letter from Randolph F. Blackford, Rector; picture of the church; history of the church; information on marriages, confirmations, transfers, within the past year; picture of choir; future plans; 1941 budget. Typescript.

Volume 5: "Blackford Family History," 1661-1899, 1900

Family record compiled by William Willis Blackford (1831-1905). Contains genealogical data, along with biographical and personal data concerning members of the Blackford family. Typescript copy.


4 items.
Undated  Old Bar by George Kennedy: 22 typed pages: concerning Launcelot M. Blackford and other members of the family.

13 February 1948  Letter from Dr. L. M. Blackford to George Kennedy, c/o The Evening Star, Washington, D.C., concerning the above named article.


Undated  Clipping from Scientific American: communication from William W. Blackford on aerial navigation, undated.

Folder 167  Photocopies (miscellaneous items)

Additions after 1994.

Additions of 1994, 1844-1883.

7 items.

Folder 168  Volume 6  Typed transcription of letters of Lancelot Minor Blackford (1837-1914), chiefly to family members. Letters dated 1855-1860 are from Blackford while he was a student at the University of Virginia. The transcriptions were made by Blackford's son L. Minor Blackford, Jr., and bound into a volume called "Father's Letters, 1844-1859."

Folder 169-170  Volumes 7-8  Printed copies of travel letters of Lancelot Minor Blackford on trips to Great Britain, Europe, and Russia, 1880-1883. Some (perhaps all) of the clippings are from Southern Churchman of Richmond, Va.

Folder 171  "The True Gentleman"  Partial typed copy of essay on Episcopal High School of Virginia letterhead, L. M. Blackford, principal, 1890s.

Folder 172-176  Miscellaneous Blackford Documents  Photocopies of family documents, including writings by L. M. Blackford, letters to and from family members, pictures, clippings, and other items, compiled by the donor.
Addition of 1997, circa 1850.

5 items.

Two daguerrotypes and 3 photographs of the daguerrotypes of Mary Berkeley Minor Blackford (1802-1896).

Image P-1912

Photographic copies of miscellaneous family photographs (negatives on file).

Special Format Image SF-1912/1

Ambrotype of family member.

Addition of April 2003, 1798-1836.

6 items.

Photocopies and typed transcription of Blackford family records from the 1798 Bible of Benjamin Blackford. Recorded are places and dates of births or deaths of family members and of "Negro children belonging."

Folder 177  Addition of April 2003

Items Separated

OP-1912/3. Southern Churchman, Richmond, Va. 9 January 1863, front page only.
OP-1912/5. The Soldier's Paper, "Published Semi-monthly by the Soldiers' Tract Association, M. E. Church, South," Richmond, Va. 15 September 1863.
OP-1912/7. The Register of the American Church Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, N.Y. February 1875.

Separated folders (SEP-1912/1-2)

Processing Information

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Encoded by: Margaret Dickson, March 2006

Diacritics and other special characters have been omitted from this finding aid to facilitate keyword searching in web browsers.