

WIGHT, J. B. (JOHN BYRON)
Wight family papers, circa 1879-1995

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Wight, J. B. (John Byron)
Title: Wight family papers, circa 1879-1995
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1287
Extent: 2 linear feet (4 boxes) and 1 oversized papers box (OP)
Abstract: Papers of the Wight family, a noted farming family in South Georgia, including correspondence, photographs, genealogical research, and the schoolwork of John Byron Wight from his time at Emory College.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source

Gift, 1996

Custodial History

Originally received from the Tufts family by Emory professor Judson Ward and donated to Emory University Archives. Transferred from Emory University Archives to the manuscript collections in February 2014.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Wight family papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Unprocessed collection.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

John Byron White (1859-1936) was born in Sofkee, Georgia, George Alden Wight, proprietor of G. A. Wight and Sons general merchandise store, and Julia Florence Herring. George Wight John married Alice Slater in 1864, daughter of John G. and Susan (Cone) Slater. John and Alice had seven children: George Ward, John Slater, Robert Pratt, Laleah Adams, Warren Candler, Edward Allen and John Byron, Jr.

John graduated from Emory College in 1881 and from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1884 where he studied for the Methodist ministry. John returned to Cairo, Georgia, working as both a circuit rider and as a teacher. He became interested in farming and fruit growing, and in 1887 he planted his first nuts for the cultivation of pecans on a commercial scale, making him one of the very first to undertake pecan culture on a commercial basis.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists primarily of correspondence between the family along with genealogical notes on the correspondents. Included in the papers are class assignments and essays written by John Byron Wight during his time at Emory College as well as a small amount of printed material about the Wight nursery in Cairo, Georgia. There is a bound volume of transcripts of letters of the family, compiled by Helen Wight that also contains genealogical information about the family along with a number of identified photographs.

Arrangement Note

Unprocessed collection

Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	-	Essays and school work, John Byron Wight, 1879-1881
2	-	Correspondence, circa 1860-1890
3	-	Correspondence, circa 1880-1930
4	-	Correspondence, business records, printed materials, clippings, and genealogical/ letter transcriptions, circa 1926-1995
5	-	Photographs
OP1	1	Photographs
