Feamster Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2010

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79020321

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010313

Prepared by A. G. Goodrich

Collection Summary

Title: Feamster Family Papers
Span Dates: 1794-1967
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1813-1946)
ID No.: MSS20321
Creator: Feamster family
Extent: 3,000 items
Extent: 5 containers
Extent: 2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79020321

Summary: Members of the Feamster (Feemster) family. Diaries, notebooks, correspondence, financial and legal papers, writings, and miscellaneous material illustrating the activities of four interrelated families from 1794 to 1967 whose members were engaged in farming, the law, medicine, the military, politics, religion, and other pursuits in Virginia, West Virginia, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Kansas, Iowa, and Maryland. The collection also contains genealogical information about the Cary (Carey), Mathews (Mathews), Alderson, and Feamster families.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Alderson family.
Alderson, J. D. (John Duffy), 1854-1910.
Carey family.
Cary, Charles William.
Cary, Cyrus, 1794-1832.
Cary, Ophelia Mathews.
Feamster, Felix Claudius, 1914-.
Feamster, Martha Alderson, 1797-1885.
Feamster, Robert Cantrell, 1916-.
Feamster, Thomas L., 1829-1906.
Feemster family.
Greene, Eliza Cary.
Harrison, William Henry, 1773-1841.
Lafayette, Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert Du Motier, marquis de, 1757-1834.
Lee, Robert E. (Robert Edward), 1807-1870--Correspondence.
Mathews, John, 1768-1849.
Matthews family.
Meade, William, 1789-1862--Correspondence.

Organizations
Confederate States of America. Army. Virginia Cavalry Regiment, 14th.
Episcopal Church.
James River and Kanawha Company (Richmond, Va.)
United States. Army--Military life.
United States. Army--Surgeons.

Subjects
Agriculture.
College students--United States--Social life and customs.
Education--Arkansas.
Education--Iowa.
Education--Kansas.
Education--Maryland.
Education--Missouri.
Education--Texas.
Education--Virginia.
Education--West Virginia.
Genealogy.
Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg, Pa., 1863.
Law.
Medical students--19th century.
Medicine.
Religion.
World War, 1939-1945--Europe.
World War, 1939-1945--Medical care.
World War, 1939-1945--United States.

**Places**
Arkansas--Economic conditions.
Arkansas--Geography.
Arkansas--Social conditions.
Arkansas--Social life and customs.
Germany--History--1918-1933.
Germany--History--1945-1955.
Iowa--Economic conditions.
Iowa--Geography.
Iowa--Social conditions.
Iowa--Social life and customs.
Kansas--Economic conditions.
Kansas--Geography.
Kansas--Social conditions.
Kansas--Social life and customs.
Maryland--Economic conditions.
Maryland--Geography.
Maryland--Social conditions.
Maryland--Social life and customs.
Missouri--Economic conditions.
Missouri--Geography.
Missouri--Social conditions.
Missouri--Social life and customs.
Ohio--History--War of 1812.
Pennsylvania--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.
Texas--Economic conditions.
Texas--Geography.
Texas--Social conditions.
Texas--Social life and customs.
United States--Armed Forces.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--History--War of 1812.
United States--Politics and government.
Virginia--Economic conditions.
Virginia--Geography.
Provenance

The papers of the Feamster Family were given to the Library of Congress by Claude Newman Feamster, 1964-1968.

Processing History

The papers of the Feamster Family were processed in 1970. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Additional Guides

Additions to the Feamster Family papers were reported, and partially described in the Library of Congress Information Bulletin 11, no. 45 (1952): 1; and 13 no. 50 (1954): 2.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Feamster family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Feamster family are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Feamster Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

John Mathews

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1768, Oct. 30</td>
<td>Born in Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1793</td>
<td>Moved to Greenbriar Co., Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1798</td>
<td>Lawyer, Lewisburg, Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1798-1802, 1804</td>
<td>Member, Virginia legislature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1813-1815; 1817</td>
<td>Member, Virginia legislature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1811</td>
<td>Married Catherine Pope Cary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1849, Nov. 10</td>
<td>Died, Lewisburg, Va.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feamster Family Papers
Cyrus Cary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1794, Oct. 18</td>
<td>Born</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820-1830</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>Moved to Lewisburg, Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1824</td>
<td>Married Mary Skiles Arbuckle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1832, Apr. 1</td>
<td>Died, Lewisburg, Va.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

William Cary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1798, July 23</td>
<td>Born, Georgetown, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>Moved to Lewisburg, Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1828</td>
<td>Married Ophelia Mathews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1833-1834</td>
<td>Member, Virginia legislature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1857, Apr. 1</td>
<td>Died, Lewisburg, Va.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thomas L. Feamster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1829-1906</td>
<td>Resided in Lewisburg, Va. (became part of West Virginia after the Civil War)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861-1865</td>
<td>Fought with 14th Virginia Cavalry, Confederate States of America, in Civil War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Married Louisa Madden Cary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Appointed postmaster, Lewisburg, W. Va.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Claudius Newman Feamster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1876, Apr. 25</td>
<td>Born, Lewisburg, W. Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896-1897</td>
<td>Graduate student, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Attended law school, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Moved to Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901-1902</td>
<td>Teacher, West Texas Military Academy, San Antonio, Tex.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Admitted to Texas bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Commissioned second lieutenant, United States Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903-1904</td>
<td>Served in Philippine Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>Retired from army for medical disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907-1910</td>
<td>Practiced law, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Married Maude Inez Simmons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>Moved to Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911-1913</td>
<td>Employed, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Reentered United States Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918-1922</td>
<td>With army of occupation, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Retired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Moved to St. Petersburg, Fla.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Died, St. Petersburg, Fla.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Felix Claudius Feamster

Date            Event
1914, Apr. 15   Born, Washington, D.C.
1918            Moved with family to Germany
1920-1922       Resided in Germany
1930-1934       Attended Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.
1935-1940       Attended Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Va.
1941            Married Helen Ellet
1941            Commissioned first lieutenant, United States Army
1943            Promoted to lieutenant colonel, United States Army
1944-1945       Served in European Theatre of Operations in command of 327th Medical Battalion, 102nd Infantry Division, 9th Army, and later as Division Surgeon, 4th Armored Division
1945-1947       With army of occupation in Germany
1948-1954       Medical Officer, Fort Benning, Ga.
1954            Resigned from United States Army
1954            Practiced medicine, Chambersburg, Pa.

Robert Cantrell Feamster

Date            Event
1916, Nov. 5    Born, Lewisburg, W. Va.
1913            Moved with family to Germany
1920-1922       Resided in Germany
1934-1936       Attended University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
1936-1938       Attended University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
1938-1942       Attended University of Texas Medical School, Galveston, Tex.
1943            Commissioned first lieutenant, United States Army
1944            Served in European Theatre of Operations, wounded and returned to United States
1947            Resigned from United States Army
1952            Practiced medicine, Houston, Tex.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Feamster family consist of diaries and notebooks, correspondence, financial papers, legal papers, trust agreements, notes and essays, circulars, certificates, tickets, newspaper clippings, genealogical material, and miscellaneous items. The collection is organized in four series: Diaries and Notebooks, Correspondence, Financial Papers, and Miscellany.

The papers span the years 1794-1967, with the bulk of the material originating between 1813-1946. Within this period the papers illustrate the activities of four interrelated families, whose members were engaged in farming, the law, medicine, the military, politics, religion, and other pursuits. The correspondence is replete with descriptions—physical, social, economic, and educational—of various areas and states in which members of the family visited or resided: Virginia, West Virginia, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Kansas, Iowa, and Maryland. The collection also contains genealogical information about the Cary (Carey), Mathews (Matthews), Alderson, and Feamster families.

Specific items include a memorandum book, 1844-1872, of Martha Alderson Feamster; account book of Company A of the 14th Regiment of Virginia Cavalry kept by her sons, Thomas L. Feamster and Samuel William Newman Feamster, during the Civil War; diary, 1864-1865, of Thomas L. Feamster; journal of the military career, 1901-1923, of his grandson, Claudius Newman Feamster; letters, 1914-1953, from his sons, Robert Cantrell Feamster and Felix Claudius Feamster, concerning their experiences at college and as army surgeons in World War II; diary, 1849-1851, of Charles William Cary as a medical student; and correspondence, 1794-1879, of the allied Mathews (Matthews) and Cary (Carey) families of Virginia and Maryland.
Of particular interest are letters that refer to the conduct of the War of 1812 in the West (Ohio), troop movements under General William Henry Harrison's command, and descriptions of camp life in the army of that period. Mention is made of Lafayette's visit to the United States in 1824, affairs of the Episcopal Church, the James River and Kanawha Company, local and national politics, and occurrences in the Virginia legislature in 1833-1834. Also of interest are letters and diaries that detail the movements and actions of a company of Virginia cavalry in the Civil War, especially an account and map of the Battle of Gettysburg. In later diaries and letters are descriptions of army life in the early 1900s and of occupied Germany after World War I. Still later groups of correspondence illustrate a college student's activities in the 1930s; detail conditions of life and events in the United States Army in Europe during World War II; and describe the American sector of occupied Germany immediately after the war. In the Miscellany is a typescript genealogy, written by the donor, of the Cary, Mathews, Alderson, and Feamster families, and biographical sketches of the more prominent members of the families.


**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged in four series:

- Diaries and Notebooks, 1844-1961
- Correspondence, 1794-1967
- Financial Papers, 1819-1861
- Miscellany, 1815-1967
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><strong>Diaries and Notebooks, 1844-1961</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diaries and notebooks of Martha Alderson Feamster, 1844-1856; Charles William Cary, 1849-1851; Thomas L. Feamster, 1864-1865; Orderly Book, Company A., 14th Virginia Cavalry, Confederate States of America; Claudius Newman Feamster, 1901-1961; and Maude I. Feamster, 1907-1917. Arranged by family member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-4</td>
<td><strong>Correspondence, 1794-1967</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters written by or to members of the Cary Mathews Family; the Feamster-Alderson Family; Claudius Newman Feamster; Felix Claudius Feamster; and Robert Cantrell Feamster. Arranged by correspondents within family groupings and chronologically by day therein.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td><strong>Financial Papers, 1819-1861</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bills and receipts of members of the Cary, Mathews, and Feamster families. Arranged by family and chronologically by year therein.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1815-1967</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal papers, trust agreements, newspaper clippings, circulars, certificates, tickets, genealogical material, and miscellaneous papers. Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</table>
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  Arranged by family member. |
| BOX 1     | 1844-1961 |
| BOX 1-4   | **Correspondence, 1794-1967**  
  Letters written by or to members of the Cary Mathews Family; the Feamster-Alderson Family; Claudius Newman Feamster; Felix Claudius Feamster; and Robert Cantrell Feamster.  
  Arranged by correspondents within family groupings and chronologically by day therein. |
| BOX 1     | Cary-Mathews family |
| BOX 1     | 1794-1830 |
| BOX 2     | 1831-1879 |
| BOX 2     | Feamster-Alderson family, 1803-1893 |
| BOX 3     | Feamster, Claudius Newman, 1894-1967 |
| BOX 3     | Feamster, Felix Claudius, 1914-1953 |
| BOX 4     | Feamster, Robert Cantrell, 1929-1952 |
| BOX 5     | **Financial Papers, 1819-1861**  
  Bills and receipts of members of the Cary, Mathews, and Feamster families.  
  Arranged by family and chronologically by year therein. |
| BOX 5     | Cary-Mathews family, 1819-1858 |
| BOX 5     | Feamster family, 1849-1861 |
| BOX 5     | **Miscellany, 1815-1967**  
  Legal papers, trust agreements, newspaper clippings, circulars, certificates, tickets, genealogical material, and miscellaneous papers.  
  Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 5     | Genealogical material, legal papers, trust agreements, circulars, certificates, tickets, notes and essays, newspaper clippings, and other miscellaneous papers |