

**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://lcn.loc.gov/mm79020321>

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

Prepared by A. G. Goodrich

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2011

## 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.

Cary family.

Cary, Charles William.

Cary, Cyrus, 1794-1832.

Cary, Ophelia Mathews.

Cary, William, 1798-1857.

Feamster, Claudius Newman, 1876-1966.

Feamster, Felix Claudius, 1914-

Feamster, Martha Alderson, 1797-1885.

Feamster, Robert Cantrell, 1916-

Feamster, Samuel William Newman, 1836-1915.

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.

Mathews 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.

Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
Virginia--Social conditions.  
Virginia--Social life and customs.  
West Virginia--Economic conditions.  
West Virginia--Geography.  
West Virginia--Social conditions.  
West Virginia--Social life and customs.

## 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

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

### **Cyrus Cary**

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

### **William Cary**

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

### **Thomas L. Feamster**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1829, Nov. 12	Born, "The Meadows," Lewisburg, Va.
1829-1906	Resided in Lewisburg, Va. (became part of West Virginia after the Civil War)
1861-1865	Fought with 14th Virginia Cavalry, Confederate States of America, in Civil War
1868	Married Louisa Madden Cary
1893	Appointed postmaster, Lewisburg, W. Va.
1906, Dec. 31	Died, Lewisburg, W. Va.

### **Claudius Newman Feamster**

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

## 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.

Correspondents include J. D. Alderson, Cyrus Cary, Ophelia Mathews Cary, William Cary, Thomas L. Feamster, Eliza Cary Greene, Robert E. Lee, John Mathews, and Bishop William Meade.

## 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

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><b><u>Diaries and Notebooks, 1844-1961</u></b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Arranged by family member.</p>
BOX 1-4	<p><b><u>Correspondence, 1794-1967</u></b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Arranged by correspondents within family groupings and chronologically by day therein.</p>
BOX 5	<p><b><u>Financial Papers, 1819-1861</u></b></p> <p>Bills and receipts of members of the Cary, Mathews, and Feamster families.</p> <p>Arranged by family and chronologically by year therein.</p>
BOX 5	<p><b><u>Miscellany, 1815-1967</u></b></p> <p>Legal papers, trust agreements, newspaper clippings, circulars, certificates, tickets, genealogical material, and miscellaneous papers.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>



# Container List

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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	<b>Financial Papers, 1819-1861</b> 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	<b>Miscellany, 1815-1967</b> 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