Form of material and dates: Correspondence of Cyrus Rosser James (1855-1937), Methodist minister in Virginia (on the Buckingham, Heathsville, North Mecklenburg and Whitestone charges), with his family members. Focusing on letters with his children and wife, Annie (Shield) James, family matters and personal details of the lives of the family are revealed. Also included are receipts and accounts of James family members, 1826-1914; photographs; account books of Cyrus Rosser James's charges; scrapbooks; printed books; and postcards.

Acc. no.; Number of items; Date Received; Source
81-27; 2 record storage boxes; Dec. 8, 1981; Gift of the family in memory of Cyrus Rosser James and Annie Elwood Shield James.
82-17: daguerreotypes; April 26, 1982; Gift of Leah James, Chattanooga, Tenn. one copy of picture of members of the James family;
82-55; The New Testament; Dec. 17, 1982; Gift of Leah James, Chattanooga, Tenn. with inscription by Cyrus B. James;
85-26; 3 scrapbooks of Arthur James; May 23, 1985; Gift of Leah James, Chattanooga, Tenn.
86-26; 1 item; June 3, 1986; Gift of Leah James, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Copyright information:
Microforms available:
Other remarks: OCLC # 23610937

For background information see: Elizabeth Hogg Ironmonger, Thomas James... (CS71 J25 1961) and Methodism in York County, Virginia (V73 M56 Ir 6).
Folder 1. October 1885-October 1886 & n.d. Correspondence between Harriet Ann James and her son Cyrus Rosser James concerning family news, health, taxes, and money; poor health of Harriet and Ann James emphasized. (See also oversize file.) 14 items.


Folder 3. 1892-1902. Correspondence of the Reverend Cyrus Rosser James and wife Annie Shield James with each other; R.N. Crooks, insurance agent, Anna Crowther describes her trip to Germany; Zeriah Gillion's reaction to sermons by Reverend James, citing several specifically; Rev. W.R. Smithy; and Arthur James, son of Cyrus Rosser and Annie James; includes Cyrus Rosser James' certificate as Elder in Methodist Episcopal Church, South. 13 items.

Folder 4. 1903. Family correspondence of Cyrus Rosser James and wife Annie Shield James with their children Arthur, Alfred, and Clara and cousin Sue Errors [?] concerning family health, gardening, money, Methodist conferences, sermons, schooling, especially Randolph Macon College. 23 items.

Folder 5. 1904. Family correspondence of Cyrus Rosser James and wife Annie Shield James and daughters Annie and Clara to Alfred James at Randolph Macon College; topics emphasized are the scarcity of money, James family, temperance movement, conference (Methodist) news, family social news, Rhodes scholarship, personal news. 35 items.

Folder 6. 1905. Correspondence to and from Alfred James at Randolph Macon College; mostly from Cyrus Rosser and Annie Shield James, his parents; also his sisters Lillie and Clara; family news mostly with talk of the whiskey problems, church conferences, money, gardening, social life, football, and religion. 48 items.

Folder 7. 1906. Correspondence between Alfred James and his mother and father, sisters Clara and Annie, brother Arthur, Aunt Tizzle [?], Emmet B. Faison, L.E. Mumford, H.M. Breech, Harry Gavey; mostly family news and Alfred's school and work, his debate at school, money, conferences, salary of father, Rhodes scholarship, religion, parents moving to Petersburg, Va. 50 items.
Box II.

Folder 1. 1907. Correspondence of the James family mostly between Alfred and his parents Annie and Cyrus James, brother Arthur, sisters Lillie and Annie and cousin E. Marshall [?], concerning family and local news, Rhodes scholarship, the actual application process and congratulations, CR moved to Petersburg, Va.; change in payment -- now paid weekly. 37 items.

Folder 2. 1908. Correspondence from Europe of Alfred P. James to his family in Virginia; Alfred was at Oxford for the Rhodes Scholarship; tells of touring England, France and Italy, scholarly achievements, health -- he was very ill for a few months; lengthy letters, some are incomplete; also letters to Alfred James from Grandmother Matilda Collins Shield. 11 Items.

Folder 3. 1909. Correspondence from Alfred P. James in Europe to family in Virginia; describes daily scholarly routine in Oxford as well as trips in England, France, Switzerland and Italy; trips are described in great detail, Bruges, Florence, Ghent, Brussels, Milan, Rome, Mt. Vesuvius, Pisa, Genoa, Paris; also letters from Lillie James to Alfred about her music and voice lessons Alfred paid for. 12 Items.

Folder 4. 1910-1914. Correspondence of James family; Alfred returned from England and entered school in Chicago; Arthur worked on Panama Canal; Clara tells of money problems; and Annie Shield James gave Christmas news to her mother Matilda Shield and also to Alfred James. 13 Items.

Folder 5. 1915. Family correspondence of James family, Alfred James traveled around in Wisconsin; Lillie wrote about family news and how she likes the Concord, Va. home better than Batesville, Va.; Arthur James needed money to pay expenses so he could get out of Chicago; Benjamin Rosser James needed money to pay for schooling at the College of William and Mary, and Annie Shield James writes about family news from Concord, Va. 8 Items.

Folder 6. 1916. Correspondence mostly to Alfred James from family members; Benjamin Rosser James wrote while attending the College of William and Mary mostly reporting good grades and need for money; Annie Shield James wrote her son on family news and congratulating for his marriage to Mabel Williams; Cyrus Rosser James who performed the ceremony wrote thank you letters; sisters Lillie, Leah, and Annie all wrote about the marriage; brother Arthur wrote from the army where he was in the cavalry stationed in Virginia and moving to Brownsville, Texas; Also included are letters from Albert Teaching Agency and Ohio Wesleyan University trying to get Alfred James a position; also lyrics to two songs, "Nora O'Neal" and "The Sun-Bright Clinic" sent by S.H. Johnson. 41 Items.

Folder 7. 1917. Family letters; Alfred James involved in two controversies; one, his job at Ohio Wesleyan was claimed by Albert Teaching Agency to be a result of their recommendation, and they wanted a commission, Alfred did not think they helped him get the
job; two, Alfred rented a house in Arkansas from Prof. David Thomas and had a dispute over rent, settled by arbitration; still awaiting news from draft; took over a life insurance policy; Arthur was in army and wrote of experience especially training with Negro units; relating family news were Lillie, Annie Shield James and a poem by Alfred. 24 items.
Box III.

Folder 1. 1918. Letters written during World War I from Arthur James, an artillery officer in France and Italy; tells of his combat experience, relationship with other officers and French people, Negro officers, peace and casualties; also letter of Benjamin Rosser James, Lieutenant of Infantry who was not in Europe but was training when war ended; also letters of Alfred James who was offered and accepted teaching job at the University of Pittsburgh for $1500. 10 items.

Folder 2. 1919. Letter of sympathy for loss of her son from F.B. Adams, Kensington, Md.; Benjamin Rosser James gets out of army and ends up in West Virginia working for United States Steel Corporation starting in coal mines, became shipping clerk; Mabel and Alfred James tell of experiences in Pittsburgh where money is tight but Alfred doing well as professor at University of Pittsburgh; they have a son, William; Mabel was taken care of by obstetrician, Dr. Zogler, and knew of the sex of the child before it was born; Annie Shield James writes to her mother Matilda Collins Shield. 13 items.

Folder 3. 1920-1922. Letters of James family; Arthur James writes from Richmond asking for family news; Benjamin Rosser James writes from West Virginia where he is working for Solvay Collieries Company, tells of woman, Julia Neal whom he marries in 1920; also tells of true religious conversion -- became a true believer in the Northern Methodist Church with Julia Neal; Alfred James and wife Mabel write of Alfred’s work as Professor of History at Pittsburg, hard time with small salary and high expenses such as housing and family health; also Christmas card of Clara James sent to her grandmother Shield and birth announcement of John Maxwell Hendrix, Jr., Lillie James Hendrix’s son; Annie Shield James writes to her mother Matilda Collins Shield. 13 items.

Folder 4. 1924-1929. Family correspondence mostly telling family news, such as health, visitation, and news of children; specific topics: William, son of Alfred and Mabel James was seriously ill; Mother’s Day cards; money, college loan at the College of William and Mary for Leah James; Alfred’s Insurance at Provident Mutual, Philadelphia, Pa.; Benjamin Rosser James was given a Methodist circuit at two churches, Ravenwood and Ripley in West Virginia; detailed description of the churches and town of Ravenwood as well as salary and housing; Clara James marries Golden Carruthers, 1926; wedding details and background of Golden, a deep sea fisherman who had been divorced; also a pamphlet on Charis clothiers - women’s lingerie; those writing were Reverend and Mrs. Cyrus Rosser James, Leah James, Julie Neal James, Annie James Apperson, Arthur James, Clara James Carruthers, Lillie James Hendrix, Benjamin Rosser James, Alfred James, Mabel Williams James, and William James. 24 items.

Folder 5. 1932-1937. Family correspondence; Annie Shields James writes her children about family news and their health and death of husband; Nellie James Land writes to Alfred James for missing big family event and needs clothes, hard times; Benjamin Rosser James is
happy in his life’s work of serving God; Clara James Carruthers writes from Florida in 1934 where her husband is physically and emotionally drained and in 1937 writes of a house they are going to rent in Virginia on the bay where they can fish. 9 items.

Folder 6. 1938. Family correspondence: Annie Shield James to Alfred telling him family news as how even a year after his death she misses her husband; she moved to North Carolina with daughter Leah; Arthur James writes of graduate school in University of Chicago Social Service Administrative; tells many of his ideas and qualifications as well as the work he is doing in the social service area; Arthur also writes his will leaving everything to sister Leah; Benjamin Rosser James writes about his Methodist Ministry career; Alfred James tells about his teaching and family -- learning how to drive a car; Nellie James Land bought a house for sister Clara Caruthers in Virginia; also family news; political news -- Hitler and Mussolini and a newspaper clipping of the death of Mrs. Irving Messick. 20 items.

Folder 7. 1939. Letters from Arthur James about graduation with M.A. degree in social science from University of Chicago; also letter about Arthur’s sm writings from Douglas S. Freeman, Richmond, Va.; Benjamin Rosser James writes from his new church in Clarksville, West Virginia. 6 items.

Folder 8. 1940-1965. Family letters from Annie Shield James to Alfred James; several letters for each year; usually at Christmas and February, Alfred’s birthday; family news as each letter tells about the activities of the family; Annie Shield James broke her shoulder and arm in 1942; moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee, circa 1946; one letter from Lillie James Hendrix. 21 items.


Folder 10. n.d. Correspondence, n.d., from Annie Shields James, Alfred P. James, Arthur James, Clara James, Annie James, and Mabel James; family news and daily activities; Alfred’s letters from England, Arthur from Harvard. 24 items.
Box IV.

Folder 1. n.d. Examination questions, District conference, unsigned, topics: arithmetic, grammar, English history, history of Greece, spelling, Roman history, history of United States, geography. 18 items.


Folder 3. 1850-1859. Receipts and accounts of Cyrus Basye James and Cyrus Wesley James; accounts dealing with personal needs, timber industry, slaves, land and taxes. 45 items.

Folder 4. 1860-1869. Receipts and accounts of Cyrus Wesley James; death of Cyrus Wesley James reported by Sabbath School Society of Zion Church in York District, Va., possibility of suicide yet he was a good man and Christian; subjects of receipts were medical bills, personal needs, livestock, taxes, and slavery. 24 items.

Folder 5. 1870-1879. Receipts and accounts of Harriet Anne James and Cyrus Rosser James; tax receipts from Grofton Township; Cyrus Rosser James certified teacher in York County, Va. 33 items.

Folder 6. 1883-1888. Receipts, deeds and bonds of Harriet Ann James and Cyrus Rosser James; deeds of land granted Cyrus Rosser James from R. W. Dawson and Victoria James Dawson; receipts for various items such as legal services, taxes, books, grave digging; certificate that Arthur Shiel was Confederate soldier and was permanently wounded; Cyrus Rosser James was certifed to teach in York Co., Va.; last will and testament as well as list of property of Harriet Ann James; other bonds and receipts included. 41 items.

Folder 7. 1891-1899. Receipts and accounts of Cyrus Rosser James, both personal and for management of property, of Harriet Ann James, his deceased mother; receipts from Singer Manufacturing Company, Albion [?] Simmons, Ogburn and Petty -- dealers in General Merchandise and Homier and Clark, artist and photographers, Richmond, Va. 12 items.

Folder 8. 1900-1914. Receipts and bills of Cyrus Rosser James, receipts from medical, dental, candy, clothing and deaprtment stores, a letter from White House in response to a letter by Cyrus Rosser James; Arthur James report from Chesapeake Male and Female Academy; billing information from Blackstone Female Institute. 19 item.

Folder 9. n.d. Receipts and accounts of Cyrus Wesley James, Harriet Ann James, Alfred James, Cyrus Rosser James. 13 items.

Folders 10-12. Envelopes.
Box V. Manuscript volumes.

1831-1864. Notebook on weather. Reports the weather with scattered entries, usually on monthly basis; written possibly by Cyrus Basye James. Includes family listings of Cyrus Basye James and Mary White James, birth dates of eight children and Thomas James and Betsy James -- birth dates of their 11 children. 42 pp. MsV. 1


Contains only this note in 3 p. pad: “August the 21st 1870. Bro. Bray at Buckingham Parsonage. Where will he be at next year this same.” 1 p. MsV. 3.


Box VI. Manuscript volumes.


Bov VII. Manuscript columns.


Box VIII. Photographs, postcards and document.

[ca. 1800]. Photographic print in frame, 3" x 4 1/4", black and white, of Cyrus Basye James and his wife Mary White James. 1 item. Ph. (P1)

[ca. 1860]. Photographic print in frame, 2 1/2" x 3 1/2", black and white, of Cyrus Rosser James and his older sister Victoria (James) Dawson as children. 1 item. Ph. (P2)

1860. Ambrotype in frame, 2 1/4" x 2 3/4", black and white, of Cyrus Rosser James at age 5. 1 item. Ph. (P3)

[ca. 1850]. Ambrotype in a frame, 1 3/4" x 2 1/4", black and white, of Cyrus Wesley James. 1 item. Ph. (P4)

[ca. 1860]. Ambrotype in a frame, 2" x 2 1/2", black and white, of Harriet Ann James holding a book. 1 item. Ph. (P5)

[ca. 1860]. Ambrotype in a frame, 1 1/2" x 2", black and white, of Arthur Henry Shield in Confederate uniform. 1 item. Ph. (P6)

n.d. Photographic print in frame, 2" x 2 1/2", black and white, of unidentified woman. 1 item. Ph. (P7)

Post cards, 1903-1954, mostly to or from Alfred Hoctor James. 120 items.