

Wood family letters

Descriptive Summary

Repository:	Georgia Historical Society
Creator:	Wood family.
Title:	Wood family letters
Dates:	1886-1953
Extent:	4.0 cubic feet (8 boxes)
Identification:	MS 1996

Biographical/Historical Note

The Wood family resided at 803 Whitaker Street in Savannah, Georgia. James Solomon Wood (1851-1927) was a cotton factor and commission merchant in Savannah, Georgia. He worked with the Davant and Wood Co. from 1880-1882 before branching out to become a partner with his brother, Charles Spurgeon Wood (1858-1941), in J. S. Wood and Bro from 1883-1914. From 1915-1919 and 1923-1925 he owned and operated the firm alone, while the interim years were spent as J. S. Wood and Son with his son Raiford James Wood as his partner.

James Solomon Wood was married to Mary S. Irwin Wood (1866-1954). Mary was born in Washington County, Georgia and after her marriage to James Solomon Wood became an active and enthusiastic leader of local women's activities in Savannah, Georgia. She was an active participant of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Federation of Women's Clubs, the Huntingdon Club, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Woman's Exchange, and the American Legion Auxiliary. The couple had four children: Augusta Wood Dubose (1887-1962), Rosalind Wood Chapman (b. 1891), Jared Irwin Wood (b. 1894), and Raiford James Wood (1896-1974).

Raiford J. Wood was born in 1896 in Savannah, Georgia and was an artist, historian, and World War I hero. He graduated from the Georgia Military Academy and the University of Georgia. During World War I, he was stationed in France where he earned both the Purple Heart and Silver Star Awards for his efforts and bravery. Following his service in the army, he became his father's partner in his cotton factor business, J. S. Wood and Son from 1919-1922. After this, he began his prize winning career as an artist and during the depression era he worked with the Historical Records Survey (WPA) in Georgia. Wood also directed the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences from 1944-1956, was president of the Savannah Arts Association, and was a member of the Board of Curators at the Georgia Historical Society. He died on 24 February 1974 in Savannah, Georgia.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains letters written to members of the Wood family of Savannah, Georgia from 1886 to 1953. Their correspondence with the Exley, Risley, Harris, and Wilson families throughout Georgia are also included in this collection. Majority of these letters are in their original envelopes and not arranged in any particular order.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into 8 boxes:

Box 1: Correspondence of Raiford J. Wood, Mary S. Irwin Wood, Rosalind Wood Chapman, and Augusta Wood Dubose, 1886-1953

Box 2: Correspondence of Raiford J. Wood, Rosalind Wood Chapman, Exley family, Risley family, Harris family, and Wilson family, 1913-1953

Box 3: Correspondence of Raiford J. Wood, Mary S. Irwin Wood, Rosalind Wood Chapmand, and Augusta Wood Dubose, 1910-1927

Box 4: Correspondence of Raiford J. Wood, and Mary S. Irwin Wood, 1914-1919

Box 5: Correspondence of Raiford J. Wood, Mary S. Irwin Wood, and Augusta Wood Dubose, 1919-1924

Box 6: Correspondence of Raiford J. Wood, Mary S. Irwin Wood, and Augusta Wood Dubose, 1916-1929

Box 7: Correspondence of James Solomon Wood, Mary S. Irwin Wood, and Augusta Wood Dubose, Rosalind Wood Chapman, 1905-1909

Box 8: Correspondence of James Solomon Wood, Mary S. Irwin Wood, Rosalind Wood Chapman, Jared Irwin Wood, Raiford J. Wood, 1909-1923

Index Terms

Chapman, Rosalind Wood, b. 1891.
Dubose, Augusta Wood, 1887-1962.
Exley family.
Harris family.
Letters (correspondence)
Risley family.
Wilson family.
Wood family.
Wood, James Solomon, 1851-1927.
Wood, Jared Irwin, b. 1894.
Wood, Mary S. Irwin, 1866-1957.
Wood, Raiford J.

Administrative Information

Processing Information

This collection is processed at the Basic Level (or collection level). There is no detailed inventory for this collection as it is not fully processed. To request that this collection be added to our priority list of collections to be fully processed as staffing and funding allow, please contact the Library and Archives staff.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2008 Archives-Basic Projects grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.
