

Edmund Ruffin Diaries

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Washington, D.C.
2009

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010091>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78051839>

Prepared by Brian McGuire

Collection Summary

Title: Edmund Ruffin Diaries

Span Dates: 1856-1865

ID No.: MSS51839

Creator: Edmund Ruffin, 1794-1865

Extent: 14 volumes ; 14 containers ; 3.2 linear feet ; 7 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Plantation owner and publisher. Diaries detailing Ruffin's activities and opinions as an experimentalist in agriculture, anti-Unionist and slavery advocate, and describing plantation life in his Virginia estates.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Ruffin, Edmund, 1794-1865.

Subjects

Agriculture--Virginia--Societies, etc.

Agriculture--Virginia.

Agriculture.

Calvinism.

Plantations--Virginia.

Religion.

Slavery.

Theater--Virginia--Richmond.

Unitarianism.

Places

Amelia County (Va.)--Social life and customs.

Beechwood Plantation (Va.)

Charleston (S.C.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Confederate States of America--Politics and government.

Fort Sumter (Charleston, S.C.)--History.

Hanover County (Va.)--Social life and customs.

Manassas (Va.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Marlbourne Plantation (Va.)

Prince George County (Va.)--Social life and customs.

Richmond (Va.)--Social life and customs.

South Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States--Politics and government--1849-1877.

United States--Politics and government--1861-1865.

Virginia--Description and travel.

Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Virginia--Politics and government--1775-1865.

Virginia--Politics and government--1861-1865.

Virginia--Social life and customs.

Occupations

Plantation owners.
Publishers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The diaries of Edmund Ruffin were purchased in 1915.

Processing History

The Ruffin Diaries were microfilmed in 1967. The finding aid was created in 2009.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The diaries of Edmund Ruffin 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on seven microfilm reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning the availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Edmund Ruffin Diaries, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Event</i> |
|--------------|---|
| 1794, Jan. 5 | Born, Prince George Co., Va. |
| 1810-1812 | Student, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va. |
| 1812 | Served as private, War of 1812 |
| 1823-1826 | Representative, Virginia senate |
| 1832 | Published <i>An Essay on Calcareous Manures</i> . Petersburg, Va.: J. W. Campbell |
| 1833-1842 | Edited <i>Farmers' Register</i> |
| 1841 | Appointed member of the first Virginia State Board of Agriculture |
| 1842 | Became agricultural surveyor of South Carolina |
| 1853 | Published several pamphlets in defense of slavery |
| 1854 | Commissioner, Virginia State Agricultural Society |

- 1855 Published *Essays and Notes on Agriculture*. Richmond, Va.
- 1858 Assisted in the creation of the League of United Southerners
- 1860 Published *Anticipations of the Future, to Serve as Lessons for the Present Time*. Richmond, Va.: J. W. Randolph
- 1865, June 17 Died, “Redmoor” estate, Amelia County, Va.

Scope and Content Note

The diaries of Edmund Ruffin (1794-1865) span the years 1856-1865. The collection details Ruffin's activities and opinions as an experimentalist in agriculture, anti-Unionist and slavery advocate, and describes plantation life in his Virginia estates at Marlbourne and Beechwood. Other subjects include the activities of county and state agriculture societies; travels and social gossip relating to the area between Amelia County and Richmond, Virginia, as well as theatrical and other entertainments in Richmond; observations on religion, including Calvinism and Unitarianism; Ruffin's views on state, county, and Confederate and Union politics; and battles and skirmishes, particularly at Charleston and Fort Sumter, South Carolina, and Manassas, Virginia. Included in the diaries are copies of letters, holograph maps, pamphlets, clippings, and fragmentary essays.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,743

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| BOX 1 | 1856, Nov.-1858, May 30 |
| REEL 1 | |
| BOX 2 | 1858, June 3-1859, Oct. 4 |
| REEL 1 | |
| BOX 3 | 1859, Oct. 5-1860, Aug. 5 |
| REEL 2 | |
| BOX 4 | 1860, Aug. 6-1861, June 17 |
| REEL 2 | |
| BOX 5 | 1861, June 17-Dec. 19 |
| REEL 3 | |
| BOX 6 | 1861, Dec. 19-1862, July 3 |
| REEL 3 | |
| BOX 7 | 1862, July 3-Nov. 7 |
| REEL 4 | |
| BOX 8 | 1862, Nov. 7-1863, Mar. 3 |
| REEL 4 | |
| BOX 9 | 1863, Mar. 3-May 29 |
| REEL 5 | |
| BOX 10 | 1863, May 29-Oct. 11 |
| REEL 5 | |
| BOX 11 | 1863, Oct. 11-1864, Feb. 20 |
| REEL 6 | |
| BOX 12 | 1864, Feb. 20-July 19 |
| REEL 6 | |
| BOX 13 | 1864, July 19-1865, Jan. 23 |
| REEL 7 | |
| BOX 14 | 1865, Jan. 23-June 18 |
| REEL 7 | |