

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room**

Ellison Family Papers 1838-1940

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Accession Number: 2013.08.26

Title: Ellison Family Papers 1838-1940

Physical Characteristics: 7 record storage boxes (10.25 linear feet)

Donated By: Beirne Ellison

Arrangement: The documents are arranged by series and further arranged chronologically within the series. There was no original order to the documents. They were sorted first chronologically, and then arranged by logical series according to types of materials. The arrangement follows the following order: Documents and Records; Manuscripts; Publications and Printed Materials; Charles L. Ellison Correspondence; Leona B. Ellison Correspondence; Beirne Ellison Personal Correspondence; Beirne Ellison Business and Professional Correspondence; Gracie Ellison Correspondence; Nannie Ellison Correspondence; and Miscellaneous Correspondence.

Creator: Beirne Ellison

Reproduction Restrictions: There are no known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

Processor: Robert Paustian, October 15, 2013.

Introduction:

This collection contains the correspondence of members of the Ellison family, as well as other documents, records, manuscripts, publications and printed materials related to and belonging to family members, friends and associates. Most of the letters in the collection are addressed to Beirne Ellison himself, but also significant parts of the correspondence belong to his father, Charles Ellison, his mother, Leona Ellison, and his wives, Gracie and Nannie Ellison, as well as other relatives, friends and associates.

Materials in the collection touch on education, business practices, and hotel management, as well as Southern mores, dating practices and courting in the late 19th and early 20th century. The collection extends about a hundred years, from the early mid-nineteenth century to the early mid-twentieth century. The bulk of the collection is from the 1880s to the early 1900s.

Biographical Note:

Mr. Beirne Ellison was born August 29, 1870 in the community of Forest Hills in Summers County, West Virginia. Ellison worked a teacher in the 1890s. He was often referred to as Professor Ellison. In 1900 he served as the principal of the Pembroke Grammar School in Kimbalton, Virginia. When Ellison was not teaching during the summers, he was employed in resort hotels. He managed the Mountain Lake Hotel in Giles County, Virginia for nearly 20 years. For a short while, Ellison also managed the Blue Ridge Springs Hotel in Botetourt

County, Virginia. Ellison was offered a position by Union Mutual Life Insurance Company in Richmond, Virginia in 1909, but only relocated to Roanoke, Virginia in 1920, where he was the district agent for Union Mutual Life Insurance Co. Ellison passed away at the age of 83 on February 27, 1954.

Charles L. Ellison and Leona B. Ellison (born Hobbs) were the parents of Beirne Ellison, as well as the parents of Beirne's siblings, sister Cora, and brothers Orley, Earl, Webb (Webbie), and Ira Ellison. Beirne Ellison was first married to Gracie (or Grace) Ellison, who died in September 1908. Beirne Ellison married his second wife Nannie (or Nancy, born Nannie M. Givens) Ellison in September 1910. Beirne had an Aunt Blane (also Blaine), but the exact family relationship was not determined.

Beirne Ellison's father Charles Ellison was a teacher, who acted as an attorney and served as the county superintendent of schools in 1875. Charles Ellison was designated as the administrator of the estate of Jordan Lively, who was a property owner and whiskey distiller. Beirne Ellison's mother Leona Ellison, who died in 1894, had three sisters, Jane, Lizzie and Belle, and two brothers, William and Benton Hobbs. Beirne's wife Nannie Ellison's mother was named Mertie A. (or Martha) Slusser (or Sluser or Schusser).

Apparently Beirne Ellison had four children, a son Marcus (or Mark) Ellison, and three daughters, Mary and Martha Ellison, twins, and Nancy Ellison. Marcus Ellison married De Lila Hayes in 1926.

Scope and Content:

This collection is arranged into four main series, and seven subseries, in seven record storage boxes for a total of 10.25 linear feet. The first series is documents and records, which includes official records, lists, receipts, summons, deeds, wills, certificates, financial documents, bank deposits, cancelled checks, and tax statements. The second series is miscellaneous manuscripts, such as notebooks, poems and other non-correspondence of a non-official nature. The third series is published and printed materials. The fourth series is Ellison family correspondence and other correspondence, which is further divided into subseries for the correspondence of Beirne Ellison's parents Charles L. and Leona B. Ellison, for Beirne Ellison himself, with separate subseries for personal and for business and professional correspondence, for the correspondence of his wives Gracie and Nannie, and finally for the miscellaneous correspondence of other relatives and associates.

Apparently Beirne Ellison compiled or retained this collection himself, a collection which includes correspondence, cards, and miscellaneous documents from his family and friends and family associates. The bulk of the materials in the collection were gathered from the 1880s to the early 1900s. A few of the documents go back to the ante-bellum period of the nineteenth century, one dated as early as 1838.

Among the documents and records are various lists and certificates, including articles of agreement for teaching, teachers' certificates, church subscriptions, school term and monthly reports, and a wedding invitation for the marriage of Nannie Givens and Beirne Ellison on September 1, 1910. Other documents in the collection are receipts, bank statements, cancelled

checks, petitions, articles of financial agreement and copies of deeds, including a deed from Mary F. Huffman to C. A. Sanders. Also among the documents and records are bills of lading and shipping orders, payment agreement notes, a lottery list, a lumber price list, and a railway schedule and train order. There is a menu from the Mountain Lake Hotel, tailor's measurements for Floyd Snidow, school grades, reports and surveys, various summonses, and a packet of C.O. D. orders for Beirne Ellison. One ante-bellum tax receipt lists the tax paid on a slave.

Charles Ellison, Beirne's father, was a man of substance in West Virginia and Virginia. He was involved in many 19th century business deals and acted as the administrator of the estate of Jordan Lively, who was a property owner and whiskey distiller, whose last will and testament is among the documents. There is also a copy of the will of Samuel Huffman. Many of Charles Ellison's accounts and business and tax records are included in this collection, as are records from his associates, and some of his correspondence.

Manuscripts are varied and include ledger books, notebooks, notes, marginalia, school papers, tests and assignments, poems, and other writings. Many of the notebooks include numerous inserts of various sorts, but have not been disturbed and were left as discovered. Non-official documents and non-correspondence were all included in this category.

Publications and printed materials include a large run of church bulletins from 1932 to 1940, the bulk of which are from 1932 to 1938. There are several complete and incomplete books. School grammars, textbooks and atlases are among the publications in the collection. There are brochures, including promotional literature on Mountain Lake and Mountain Lake Hotel, booklets, political flyers, catalogs, a miniature almanac, and a cookbook.

Advertising is well represented, both as contents of letters (that is as "junk mail" and enclosures) in the correspondence series, and separate as printed matter in the published and printed materials series. Some of the advertising and promotional literature relates to publications of interest to teachers and educators, and other advertising is aimed at the business of hotel management, farming, or property management in general.

Beirne Ellison kept his father Charles Ellison's personal, professional and business correspondence, which extends from about the end of the civil war until the 1880's. Charles Ellison's correspondents included W.W. Adams, J.H. Alderson, F.B. Baber, W.W. Baker, R.G. Ballinger, C.E. Black, Richard Burke, John Casden, Jonathan M. Davis, J.W. Davis, R.L. Deeds, H.M. Dickinson, E.G. Duncan, E.L. Dunn, D.C. Gallaher, William W. Johnson, R.B. Lively, J.D. Logan, R.M. McClelland, John C. McNeer, C.L. and W.W. Rance, William M. Reynolds, Fleming Sanders, J.S. Schumate, A.G. Tabbetts, and C.L. Thompson.

Leona Ellison, Beirne Ellison's mother, maintained an extensive correspondence with relatives, friends, and various associates. She wrote many letters to and received many letters from her brothers Benton Hobbs and William Hobbs, and her sisters Lizzie and Jane. Leona also received numerous missives from Isaac M. Brogles, J.L. Broyles, Mary Crawford, E.L. Dunn (a cousin), Harriet D. Ellison, J.W. Francis, L.P. Hobbs (a nephew), Martha Johnston, A.L. Keadle (an uncle), J.D. Logan, Gracie Lowe (a cousin), Joshua Lowe, J.P. McNutt, E.H. Peck, Horace G. Peck (a nephew), A.J. Skaggs (a dentist), J.D. Thrasher (a physician), John Wanamaker, S. W. Willey, and Jennie Wilson.

Beirne Ellison's earliest surviving letters were written to his mother and are located with the subseries for her correspondence. His personal correspondence begins with letters from the late nineteenth century and continues into the 1930s. Among his family and other associated correspondents are C.L. and Anna E. Boone, E.P. Buchanan, W.H. Buchanan, Julia W. Bullard, Blanche Carroll, Charles Carroll, Nancy A. Dun, Lora Epling, Clarence Fisher, J.H. Gillispie, Sam Gillispie, Emma B. Hale, Hugh Hodge Hill, J.B. Hobbs (Belle's husband), W.H. Jones, L.D. Keadle, C.L. King, Mrs. E.L. Landrum, Fay Martin, Julia F. May, Fannie A. McLaurey, C.E. Miller, F.C. Nunemacher, C.A. Peck, C.J. Peck, Duke Putney, Eva R. Robinson, Joseph and Mrs. J. Robinson, L.D. Shumate, George L. Smith, Floyd E. Snidow, Frank M. Snidow, Frank P. Snidow, L. B. Snidow, Ethel Snidow (Mrs. L.B. Snidow), Florence W. Thompson, W.B. Thompson, Florence Wells, Nannie S. White, C.A. Worley, Harvey B. Worley, and Mrs. L. Young.

There are times when Beirne Ellison's personal and business or professional letters overlap, so there is not always a clear distinction between these series. Beirne Ellison included business and professional matters in some personal correspondence, and vice versa.

Beirne Ellison collected his business and professional correspondence as a teacher, hotel manager and property owner. Among these letters is extensive correspondence about Mountain Lake Hotel with H.E. Dorland (circa 1899-1912), T. Gilbert Porterfield (circa 1900-1909) and others. Other business correspondents include J.D. Bolton, Walter H. Boude, Daisy Buchanan, G.L. and Mrs. G.L. Collins, J.E. Coalter, Lyman Denison, J.E. Dunklee, E.L. Dunn, Charles E. Eckerle, W.J. Finley, Frederic J. Haskin, Mrs. J.C. Heaberlin, Belle G. Hobbs (his aunt), S.F. Humphreys, A.P. Huffman, D.P. Hylton, B.F. Johnson, Nannie Keister, G. L. Kinsley, C.W. Lowe, Mrs. C.W. Lowe, M.E.C. Merriman, C. H. Pack, G.J. Porterfield, W.S. Rogers, L. B. Rowan, M.J. Sanders, M.A. Smythe, John Stickler, Bettie St. Clair, Paul S. Stonesifer, J. H. Walken, Charles Wilkerson, and J. W. Younger.

Gracie Ellison's collected correspondence is mostly addressed to her husband Beirne and spans the period from 1899 to 1902.

Nannie Ellison's correspondence goes back to her life before marrying Beirne Ellison. She has an extensive correspondence with her mother Mertie A. Slusser and other relatives and friends. Her correspondents include an old boyfriend, William J. (Willie) Shelburne, as well as others such as J.A. Campbell, Cora Harper, Lelia Hunter, Lotta McPherson, Hester Price, Mattie Pearle Shelburne, and Clara Warner. Her letters also include correspondence with her husband Beirne and their daughters Mary and Martha.

The miscellaneous correspondence includes general mailings to Mountain Lake Hotel as well as correspondence to and from relatives and associates such as Martha Ellison (daughter of Beirne), Webb Ellison (brother of Beirne), Haven Hoge, Jordan Lively, Calvin Moss, Fleming Sanders, and Joseph Patton.

Some of the other names that appear among the materials as subjects and correspondents, relatives, friends and associates include: F.E. Atkins, W.H. Ballard, W.S. Beasley, Phebe S. Bell, Lila Bridges, Phil F. Brown, Lacy Crawford, D. L. Duncan, P.B. Durham, J.B. Elkins, J. Taylor Ellyson, G.C. Foster, S.M. Goldsmith, Edward S. Green, Wallace G. Hale, H.H. Hawkins, W.C. Henderson, William Hinchman, G. Hinton, Samuel Hinton, Nancy Hitchens, S.P. Hobbs, Mrs.

Ray H. Jester, James Jowett, Ruth Jowett, Mary D. Long, Fleming Lowe, Joshua Lowe, L.C. Lucas, John Lynn, Helen Mason, J.P. McNutt, Thomas Miller, Horace G. Peck, Alice Lemon Price, G.B. Price, C. H. Pritchard, Louise M. Schmidt, Lilia Smith, L.W. Snidow, Alex Turnstall, and Jennie Wilson.

There was no order to the materials, as they were received. All of the items in the collection were individually arranged chronologically, from 1938 to 1940. Letters in envelopes were left folded in the envelopes. Letters without envelopes were flattened. Each item was sorted into categories based on the following schema:

Arrangement (Series)

Series I: Documents and Records

Series II: Miscellaneous Manuscripts

Series III: Publications and Printed Materials

Series IV: Ellison Family Correspondence

Subseries: Charles L. Ellison Correspondence

Leona B. Ellison Correspondence

Beirne Ellison Correspondence

Subseries: Personal Correspondence

Business and Professional Correspondence (including Mt. Lake Hotel, schools etc.)

Gracie Ellison Correspondence

Nannie Ellison Correspondence

Miscellaneous Correspondence: relatives, friends and associates

Subject Headings:

Education, Rural

Business Enterprises—United States—History

Hotels -- Management

Container List:

Box 1 (of 7)

Documents and Records 1843-1928

- Folder 1: James and Ruth Jowett Indenture, Estate of Samuel Hinton, 1843.
- Folder 2: Hinchman and Hinton Deed, 1849.
- Folder 3: Jordan Lively, Indenture, 1851.
- Folder 4: Jordan Lively, Deeds, 1852-1854.
- Folder 5: Jordan Lively, Deed, 1856.
- Folder 6: Charles Ellison, Receipt, Deed, 1860-1861.
- Folder 7: Charles Ellison, Receipts, Jordan Lively, 1865.
- Folder 8: Charles Ellison, Receipts, Jordan Lively, Deeds, 1866-1867.
- Folder 9: Charles Ellison, Receipts, Jordan Lively, 1868-1869.
- Folder 10: Charles Ellison, Certificate, Receipts, Jordan Lively, 1870.
- Folder 11: Charles Ellison, Receipts, Jordan Lively, 1871-1874.
- Folder 12: Charles Ellison, Lists, Receipts, 1875.
- Folder 13: Charles Ellison, Lists, Jordan Lively, 1876-1878.
- Folder 14: Charles Ellison, Lists, Receipts, 1879.
- Folder 15: Charles Ellison, Lists, Jordan Lively Estate, 1880-1881.
- Folder 16: Summonses, 1883.
- Folder 17: Lists, Agreements, 1887-1888.
- Folder 18: Receipts, Lists, Accounts, Deed, Petition, Certificate, 1889-1892.
- Folder 19: Orders, Receipt, Reports, Survey, Tailor, Grades, 1893-1897.
- Folder 20: Lumber Price List, Railway Schedule, Cancelled Checks, 1898-1899.

- Folder 21: Teaching Certificate, Agreement, List, Cancelled Checks, 1901.
- Folder 22: Menu, Receipts, Ledgers, Payment Note, Cancelled Checks, 1902-1903.
- Folder 23: Bill of Lading, Shipping Order, and Cancelled Checks, 1904.
- Folder 24: Cancelled Checks, 1905.
- Folder 25: Cancelled Checks, 1906.
- Folder 26: Deeds, Receipts, and Cancelled Checks, 1907.
- Folder 27: Teaching, Deed, Deposit and Cancelled Checks, 1908.
- Folder 28: Receipts and Cancelled Checks, 1909.
- Folder 29: Teaching, Church, Deposits, Receipts, and Cancelled Checks, 1910.
- Folder 30: Receipts, 1911.
- Folder 31: Receipts, 1911-1915.
- Folder 32: Deposits and Receipts, 1924.
- Folder 33: Deposits and Receipts, 1925.
- Folder 34: Deposits, Receipts, and Cancelled Checks, 1927.
- Folder 35: Deposits and Receipts, 1927.
- Folder 36: Deposits, Receipts, and Cancelled Checks, 1928.
- Folder 37: Deposits, Receipts, and Cancelled Checks, 1928.

Manuscripts 1854-1931

- Folder 38: Ledger Book, circa 1854-1872.
- Folder 39: Note, William Hinton, 1859.
- Folder 40: Notebook, C.L. Ellison, 1861.
- Folder 41: Note, circa 1861.
- Folder 42: Notebook, 1862-1865.
- Folder 43: Notes, Poem, C.L. Ellison, circa 1866.
- Folder 44: School Papers, 1869.

Folder 45: Notebook, 1870.

Box 2 (of 7)

Folder 1: Ledger Book, 1871.

Folder 2: School Papers, 1871.

Folder 3: School Papers, Notebook, 1873.

Folder 4: School Papers, 1874.

Folder 5: School Papers, Notebooks, circa 1875-1887.

Folder 6: Notebook, 1889.

Folder 7: School Papers, Notebook, 1893-1894.

Folder 8: Notebooks, 1895-1896.

Folder 9: School Papers, 1896.

Folder 10: School Papers, "Beirne Ellison Manuscripts", 1897.

Folder 11: Notebooks, 1898.

Folder 12: School Papers, 1899.

Folder 13: School Papers, Notebook, circa 1900.

Folder 14: "To Hymen's Altar", circa 1912.

Folder 15: "Roll of Young People", 1931

Publications 1838-1940

Folder 16: Advertising, 1838.

Folder 17: Grammar, 1859.

Folder 18: Newspaper Clipping, 1867.

Folder 19: Atlas, 1874.

Folder 20: Orthography Textbook, Including Inserts, 1875.

Folder 21: Advertising, "Star List of Grapes", 1878-1881.

Folder 22: Incomplete Booklet, Advertising, circa 1883.

- Folder 23: Small Incomplete Book, Brochure, Clipping, 1887.
- Folder 24: Commencement Program, 1893.
- Folder 25: Mountain Lake Brochure, Advertising, 1895-1896.
- Folder 26: Catalogs, Brochures, Advertising, Booklets, Map, 1897.
- Folder 27: Catalogs, Brochures, Advertising, Booklets, 1898.
- Folder 28: Catalogs, Brochures, Advertising, Booklets, 1899.
- Folder 29: Mountain Lake Hotel Prospectus, Brochures, Advertising, Booklets, 1900.
- Folder 30: Political Flyer, Brochure, 1901.
- Folder 31: Miniature Almanac, Political Flyer, Advertising, 1902-1903.
- Folder 32: Nursery Price List, Booklet, Maps, 1904-1909.
- Folder 33: Cookbook, Advertising, Brochures, 1911-1915.
- Folder 34: Photo of Duxbury Bay, Massachusetts, circa 1926.
- Folder 35: Church Bulletins, 1932.
- Folder 36: Church Bulletins, 1933.
- Folder 37: Church Bulletins, 1934.
- Folder 38: Church Bulletins, 1935.
- Folder 39: Church Bulletins, 1936.
- Folder 40: Church Bulletins, 1937.
- Folder 41: Church Bulletins, 1938.
- Folder 42: Church Bulletins, 1940.

Box 3 (of 7)

Charles Ellison Correspondence 1865-1883

- Folder 1: 1865-1876
- Folder 2: 1877-1883

Leona Ellison Correspondence 1871-1893

Folder 3: 1871-1880
Folder 4: 1881
Folder 5: 1882
Folder 6: 1883
Folder 7: 1884
Folder 8: 1885
Folder 9: 1886-1887
Folder 10: 1888
Folder 11: 1889
Folder 12: 1890
Folder 13: 1891
Folder 14: 1892
Folder 15: 1893

Beirne Ellison Personal Correspondence 1885-1899

Folder 16: 1885-1893
Folder 17: 1894
Folder 18: 1894
Folder 19: 1895-1896
Folder 20: 1897-1898
Folder 21: 1898
Folder 22: 1898
Folder 23: 1898
Folder 24: 1898-1899

Beirne Ellison Personal Correspondence 1899-1902

Folder 25: 1899
Folder 26: 1899
Folder 27: 1899
Folder 28: 1899
Folder 29: 1899
Folder 30: 1899-1900

Box 4 (of 7)

Folder 1: 1900
Folder 2: 1900
Folder 3: 1900
Folder 4: 1900
Folder 5: 1900
Folder 6: 1900
Folder 7: 1900
Folder 8: 1901
Folder 9: 1901
Folder 10: 1901
Folder 11: 1901
Folder 12: 1901
Folder 13: 1902
Folder 14: 1902
Folder 15: 1902
Folder 16: 1902

Folder 17: 1902
Folder 18: 1903
Folder 19: 1903
Folder 20: 1903
Folder 21: 1903
Folder 22: 1903
Folder 23: 1903
Folder 24: 1903
Folder 25: 1903
Folder 26: 1903
Folder 27: 1903
Folder 28: 1903
Folder 29: 1903
Folder 30: 1903
Folder 31: 1903
Folder 32: 1903
Folder 33: 1904
Folder 34: 1904

Box 5 (of 7)

Folder 1: 1908
Folder 2: 1908
Folder 3: 1908
Folder 4: 1908
Folder 5: 1909
Folder 6: 1910

Beirne Ellison Personal Correspondence 1911-1938

Folder 7: 1911
Folder 8: 1911
Folder 9: 1912
Folder 10: 1912
Folder 11: 1920-1938

Beirne Ellison Business Correspondence 1889-1911

Folder 12: 1889-1890
Folder 13: 1892
Folder 14: 1894-1895
Folder 15: 1897
Folder 16: 1898
Folder 17: 1898
Folder 18: 1899
Folder 19: 1899
Folder 20: 1899
Folder 21: 1899
Folder 22: 1900
Folder 23: 1900
Folder 24: 1900
Folder 25: 1901
Folder 26: 1902
Folder 27: 1903
Folder 28: 1903

Folder 29: 1904

Folder 30: 1909

Folder 31: 1910

Folder 32: 1911

Box 6 (of 7)

Beirne Ellison Business Correspondence 1912-1936

Folder 1: 1912

Folder 2: 1912

Folder 3: 1912

Folder 4: 1912

Folder 5: 1912

Folder 6: 1926-1933

Folder 7: 1934-1936

Gracie Ellison Correspondence 1899-1902

Folder 8: 1899

Folder 9: 1899

Folder 10: 1899

Folder 11: 1899

Folder 12: 1900

Folder 13: 1900

Folder 14: 1900

Folder 15: 1900

Folder 16: 1901

Folder 17: 1901

Folder 18: 1902

Nannie Ellison Correspondence 1889-1899

Folder 19: 1889

Folder 20: 1890

Folder 21: 1890

Folder 22: 1890

Folder 23: 1891

Folder 24: 1892

Folder 25: 1893

Folder 26: 1893

Folder 27: 1894-1895

Folder 28: 1898

Folder 29: 1898

Folder 30: 1899

Nannie Ellison Correspondence 1908-1926

Folder 31: 1908-1909

Folder 32: 1910

Folder 33: 1910

Folder 34: 1910

Folder 35: 1910

Folder 36: 1911

Folder 37: 1911

Folder 38: 1911

Folder 39: 1911

Folder 40: 1911

Folder 41: 1911

Folder 42: 1911

Box 7 (of 7)

Folder 1: 1912

Folder 2: 1912

Folder 3: 1912

Folder 4: 1917

Folder 5: 1919-1926

Miscellaneous Correspondence 1864-1933

Folder 6: 1864-1885

Folder 7: 1890-1891

Folder 8: 1892-1894

Folder 9: 1895-1898

Folder 10: 1899

Folder 11: 1900-1902

Folder 12: 1903

Folder 13: 1903

Folder 14: 1908-1911

Folder 15: 1912

Folder 16: 1933-1935