# Feamster Family Papers

# A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by A. G. Goodrich



# Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

Contact information: <a href="http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact">http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact</a>

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2011

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# 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; 5 containers; 2 linear feet Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: 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 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

Alderson family.

Alderson, J. D. (John Duffy), 1854-1910.

Carey 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.

Matthews 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--Participation, American.

#### **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.

#### Administrative Information

#### 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

Date Event 1794, Oct. 18 Born

1820-1830 Lawyer

Moved to Lewisburg, Va.

1824 Married Mary Skiles Arbuckle

1832, Apr. 1 Died, Lewisburg, Va.

William Cary

Date Event

1798, July 23 Born, Georgetown, D.C.

Moved to Lewisburg, Va.

Moved to Lawyer

Lewisburg, Va.

1828 Married Ophelia Mathews

1833-1834 Member, Virginia legislature

1857, Apr. 1 Died, Lewisburg, Va.

Thomas L. Feamster

Date Event

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

Date Event

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 Antonia, 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.

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 <i>Date</i> 1916, Nov. 5	Feamster <i>Event</i> 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

## 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: <u>Diaries and Notebooks</u>, <u>Correspondence</u>, <u>Financial Papers</u>, and <u>Miscellany</u>.

Practiced medicine, Houston, Tex.

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 <u>correspondence</u> 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,

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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 <u>Diaries and Notebooks</u>, 1844-1961

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.

Arranged by family member.

BOX 1-4 <u>Correspondence</u>, 1794-1967

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.

Arranged by correspondents within family groupings and chronologically by day therein.

BOX 5 Financial Papers, 1819-1861

Bills and receipts of members of the Cary, Mathews, and Feamster families. Arranged by family and chronologically by year therein.

BOX 5 <u>Miscellany</u>, 1815-1967

Legal papers, trust agreements, newspaper clippings, circulars, certificates, tickets, genealogical material, and miscellaneous papers.

Arranged by type of material.

# Container List

Container	Contents
вох 1	Diaries and Notebooks, 1844-1961  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.  Arranged by family member.
вох 1	1844-1961
вох 1-4	Correspondence, 1794-1967  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.  Arranged by correspondents within family groupings and chronologically by day therein.
вох 1	Cary-Mathews family
BOX 1	1794-1830
BOX 2	1831-1879
BOX 2	Feamster-Alderson family, 1803-1893
вох 3	Feamster, Claudius Newman, 1894-1967
вох 3	Feamster, Felix Claudius, 1914-1953
BOX 4	Feamster, Robert Cantrell, 1929-1952
вох 5	Financial Papers, 1819-1861 Bills and receipts of members of the Cary, Mathews, and Feamster families. Arranged by family and chronologically by year therein.
вох 5	Cary-Mathews family, 1819-1858
BOX 5	Feamster family, 1849-1861
вох 5	Miscellany, 1815-1967  Legal papers, trust agreements, newspaper clippings, circulars, certificates, tickets, genealogical material, and miscellaneous papers.  Arranged by type of material.
вох 5	Genealogical material, legal papers, trust agreements, circulars, certificates, tickets, notes and essays, newspaper clippings, and other miscellaneous papers