

**Rogers and Clarke Family Papers**  
**1326-1987**

*Processed by:*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Rogers and Clarke Family Papers (1326-1987) are centered around the Rogers and Clarke families of North Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Maryland. The Rogers and Clarke Family Papers are a gift of Joseph Sheppard Rogers, Landover, Maryland. The collection occupies .42 cubic feet of shelf space, and numbers approximately 200 items.

Single photocopies of unpublished material in the Rogers and Clarke Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Rogers and Clarke Family Papers span the period 1326-1987, although the collection is concentrated in the years 1822-1987. The collection consists of announcements, Bible records, cards, correspondence, financial documents, genealogy, an identification badge, invitations, newspaper clippings, photographs, poems, printed materials, programs, a report, a school paper, a biographical sketch, and a transcript, although the bulk consists of photographs and various publications received and written by the Rogers family. The Rogers and Clarke families are related by marriage.

The collection is centered around the Rogers family, originally from North Carolina, then later Mississippi, Tennessee, and eventually settling in Maryland. A couple of gentlemen are of significance in the Rogers family. One of them is James Webb Rogers (1822-1896), who served as Chaplain of the 1st Corps, Army of the Mississippi, C.S.A., on the staff of Leonidas Polk. James Webb Rogers was present at the battle of Shiloh. Also of note in the Rogers family is James Harris Rogers (1850-1929), a famous inventor, who was responsible for the invention of a wireless communications system used by the United States during the First World War.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

### James Harris Rogers

- 1850 July 13, born Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee, son of James Webb Rogers and Cornelia Ann (Harris) Rogers. Received early education under private tutors and at St. Charles College, London, England.
- 1872 Received patent for collaboration with his brother, John Whitson Rogers, in inventing a system of embossed telegraphy.
- 1877-1883 Chief Electrician at the U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C.
- 1893 Perfected method of telegraphic printing or visual synchronism.
- 1895 Settled at Hyattsville, Maryland.
- 1895 First printed telegraph letters transmitted between Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.
- 1908 Began experiments in underground and underwater wireless communication.
- 1909 Devised an airplane with better stability than machines currently used.
- 1910 Patented a method of producing a high frequency oscillating current, adapted for the generation of electro-magnetic waves for use in radio-telegraphy.
- 1916 Resumed experiments for wireless communication, erected a station and perfected what became known as the Rogers system.
- 1917 Overcome by monoxide gas in a cave in East Hyattsville while conducting experiments, resulting in declining health.
- 1919 Awarded the degree of Doctor of Science by Georgetown University and the Maryland State College of Agriculture
- 1919 General Assembly of Maryland honored him by resolution for

work on wireless communication system.

## Biographical Sketch, continued:

1929 December 12, died of a heart attack at his home, Firwood, Hyattsville, Maryland. Interment at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Nashville, Tennessee.

### CONTAINER LIST

Folder #	Description	Dates
1	Announcements-- Miscellaneous	1964
2	Bible Records-- Rogers family Baptismal records 1867-1869	
3	Cards-- Christmas, Greeting	1961-1983
4	Correspondence-- Mae Harris Clarke - James Webb Rogers	1868-1976
5	Financial Documents-- Checks--J. Harris Rogers	1924-1925
6	Genealogy-- Ashe Family	1326-1978
7	Genealogy-- Clarke Family	
8	Genealogy-- Harris Family	1556-1979
9	Genealogy-- Phillips Family	1800-
10	Genealogy-- Rogers Family	1822-1930
11	Genealogy-- Turner Family	1952-
12	Identification Badge-- Mrs. James Rogers	
13	Invitations	1984
14	Newspaper Clippings-- Miscellaneous	1896-1983
15	Photographs-- Miscellaneous	1901-1987
16	Poems	1903-1985
17	Printed Material-- <u>An Enigmatic Charmer</u>	
18	Printed Material-- <u>Devotions in Honor of Saint Anthony</u>	1952
19	Printed Material-- <u>The Great Mug-Wump</u>	1886
20	Printed Material-- <u>William Mercer Green</u>	1822
21	Printed Material-- <u>Historic Bladensburg</u>	
22	Printed Material-- <u>The Impossible Made Possible Mail Art Show</u>	1984
23	Printed Material-- <u>In the Matter of Friendship</u>	1919
24	Printed Material-- <u>Madame Surratt</u>	1926
25	Printed Material-- <u>Mystery at Beall's Pleasure</u>	
26	Printed Material-- <u>Parthenon 1st Part, Spring</u>	
27	Printed Material-- <u>Rapid Printing Telegraphy</u>	
28	Printed Material-- <u>James Harris Rogers</u>	
29	Printed Material-- <u>The Sacred Heart Review</u>	1896



**Container List, continued;**

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|----|--|-----------|
| 31 | Printed Material-- <u>St. Lazarus Memorial Church, America</u> |           |
| 32 | Printed Material-- <u>The Spirit of Maryland</u>               | 1919      |
| 33 | Printed Material-- <u>Wheeler's Reminiscences</u>              |           |
| 34 | Program-- <u>Mary, Mary</u>                                    | 1963      |
| 35 | Program-- Mass of Thanksgiving                                 | 1977      |
| 36 | Report-- Archaeology at Hillsborough Society                   |           |
| 37 | School Paper-- Mae Harris Clarke                               | 1928      |
| 38 | Sketch-- Biographical-- Rogers Family                          | 1812-1919 |
| 39 | Transcript-- Memorial for James C. Rogers                      | 1941      |