Rayner Brothers Incorporated records
2.25 linear feet; 1 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize box

Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland
Finding aid written by John Plinke, May 2013, with edits made by Regina Miller, January 2015.

Accession Number: 2013.021
Creator: Rayner Brothers Inc.
Acquisition: The Rayner Brothers Incorporated records were donated to the Nabb Research Center by Jane Rayner Massey, August 2011.
Language: Material entirely in English.
Use: Records are open for research. Copyright, including literary rights, belongs to the author(s) or their legal heirs.
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John Thomas Parker Farmers' Bulletin Pamphlet collection, 2006.162
Separated Materials: Three-dimensional objects have been housed in object storage at Blackwell Library.
**Administrative History:** The Rayner Family of Wicomico County owned and operated two agricultural businesses for approximately 70 years from the 1920s to the mid-1990s, Rayner Farms Incorporated and Rayner Brothers Incorporated. Rayner Farms Inc. was located on Idlewild farm and specialized in growing strawberries. As the farm became more successful their business expanded to growing a number of other fruits including blueberries and cantaloupes. Rayner Brothers Inc., was a plant nursery which cultivated plantings for their sister company to harvest. With the success of both companies Rayner Brothers Inc. began to sell their plants to other local farms. In the 1980s the sister companies merged together and became known as Rayner Brothers Incorporated. With the decline of sales, Rayner Brothers Inc. went out of business in the mid-1990s.

**Scope and Content Note:** The Rayner Brothers Incorporated records documents the growth and development of both Rayner Farm Inc. and Rayner Brothers Inc. The materials date from 1909-1993 with the bulk of the material dating from 1956-1970. Records include meeting minutes which document the company’s by-laws, financial records and business concerns. These records also include stock certificates, land deeds, ledgers containing plant orders and expenses, and correspondence which include letters of recommendation for Hedley Rayner. Also included are a series of the Rayner’s Berry Book published from 1926-1992. Photographs document the development of the farm and the different treatments implemented to increase strawberry growth.
Arrangement Statement:

Folders are listed by their location in each box; any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entirety of the collection.

Subject Terms:

General Terms

Agricultural Laborers
Agriculture
Business Records
Business Records – Maryland
Farm Workers
Farms
Farmers
Ledgers
Photography
Stocks
Strawberries
Wicomico County (Md.)

Corporate Names

Rayner Brothers Incorporated
Rayner Farms Incorporated

Personal Names

Massey, P. Curtis
Rayner, Annis
Rayner, Gladys S.
Rayner, Hedley Jack
Rayner, Lola F.
Rayner, Stanley H.
Box 1

1. Land Deed, Kate and George A. Mathews to Hedley T. and Annis J. Rayner, 1920 April 30
2. Ledger, Idlewild Farm, 1925, July 31
3. Ledger, Day Book, 1918- 1934
4. Ledger, Plant Orders and Catalogues Sent, 1927-1978
5. Ledger, 1927-1932
10. Correspondence, From H. J. Jefferies & Co. To Hedley Jack Rayner, 1929-1931
11. Correspondence, Letters of Recommendation for H. T. Rayner, 1909-1912
12. Correspondence, From Various people To Annis and Hedley Rayner, 1916-1918
15. Photographs, Strawberries, undated
17. Photographs, People, 1960
18. Photographic Negatives, Strawberries, undated
20. Booklets, Rayner’s Berry Book, 1926-1939

Box 2

1. Account Book, Rayner Brothers Farm, 1933
2. Account Book, Rayner Brothers Farm, 1934
3. Account Book, Rayner Brothers Farm, 1935
4. Account Book, Rayner Brothers Farm, 1936
5. Account Book, Rayner Brothers Farm, 1937

Artifacts

1. Seal, Rayner Brothers Inc., 1955
2. Seal, Rayner Farms Inc., 1955