

Goodwin, W. O., & Company Account Books

W. O. Goodwin & Company Account Books

1896-1920



Title Statement

Goodwin, W. O., & Company Account BooksW. O. Goodwin & Company Account Books, 1896-1920
Ms.1940.012

Author: John M. Jackson, Archivist

Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Business Number: 540-231-6308
specref@vt.edu
URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:35:17 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1940.012

Unit Date

1896-1920

Language

English .

Abstract

The collection contains account books that provide names of customers and descriptions of items purchased from W. O. Goodwin & Company, a general mercantile store in Glenvar (Roanoke County), Virginia, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Extent

0.3 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The W. O. Goodwin & Company Account Books were transferred to the University Libraries in 1939 or 1940 and transferred to Special Collections and University Archives in 1955.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the W. O. Goodwin & Company Account Books commenced in October 2011 and was completed in November 2011. Initial description was completed in or prior to May 1970.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], W. O. Goodwin & Company Account Books, Ms1940-012, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

William Oscar Goodwin, proprietor of the W. O. Goodwin & Company store at Glenvar (Roanoke County), Virginia, was born on January 14, 1873, the son of Thomas T. and Mattie Salome Coffman Goodwin.

An article in the September 23, 1893 edition of the *Roanoke Times* refers to W. O. Goodwin as an employee in the offices of the Norfolk & Western Railroad. An article in the October 6, 1895 issue of the same newspaper states that Goodwin had been previously living for some time in Roanoke, Illinois but had recently returned to Roanoke County to live. The 1910 census lists 37-year-old Roanoke County resident William O. Goodwin as a messenger. He is described as a merchant in the 1920 census, however. According to his obituary, Goodwin established his store in 1913; Deedie Kagey's *When Past is Prologue: a History of Roanoke County* states that Goodwin's store succeeded that of Frank P. Harmon in 1915. Evidence within the collection suggests that the former date is probably correct. Goodwin's obituary states that he operated the store until 1946.

Goodwin married Xie Gullett, and the couple had five children. William Goodwin died in Staunton, Virginia on May 17, 1955, and was buried at Sherwood Burial Park, Salem, Virginia.

Scope and Content

This collection contains two account books from W. O. Goodwin & Company, a general mercantile store in Glenvar (Roanoke County), Virginia, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Because the first account book seems to predate Goodwin's start in business by nearly two decades, it seems likely to have originated with his predecessor in business, Frank P. Harmon. This ledger records the names of individuals and other companies with whom business was transacted, together with dates and amounts of transactions. Purchases generally have not been itemized but described simply as "merchandise." Also recorded in brief detail are farm and family accounts. The account entries end in 1899, and are followed by what appears to be a list of Goodwin's expenditures for stock, beginning with his purchase of the store in 1913, and running through 1920. The second volume is a ledger detailing the transactions of a general mercantile business, with entries providing names of customers, itemized lists of purchases, prices, and dates.

Keywords

Account books
Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
Roanoke County (Va.)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Account book

Unit Date 1896-1920

box 1

Container 1 (item)

Account book

Unit Date 1913-1916

box 1

Container 2 (item)