

Hicks Family Papers

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1856-1938



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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2020-08-19 Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags
2024-06-06 Kaitlynn Harless added classification, updated date formatting, and corrected typos.
LM Rozema made minor edits and added Students and alumni subject.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1987.050

Unit Date

1856-1938

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection includes bills and receipts relating to monetary transactions made by the R. W. Hicks family of Campbell County, Virginia. It also contains records of the family's business transactions, affiliations, and interests, as well as legal, business and personal correspondence.

Creator

Robert W. Hicks family (Campbell County, Va.)

Extent

0.5 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 Hicks Family Papers were donated to the Special Collections in 1987.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement and description of the Hicks Family Papers commenced and was completed in November 2004.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Hicks Family Papers, Ms1987-050, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Robert William Hicks was born on January 10, 1827. He enlisted in the Confederate Army on March 20, 1862 and served as a Sergeant in Company I, 34th Virginia Infantry. He died November 27, 1917 and was buried in Bedford County. Little biographical information could be found on Hicks. Within the collection's materials, evidence suggests he and his wife, Fanny A. Hicks, had at least four children: Edward J., John R., James M. and Lula. It appears that Fanny Hicks survived her husband, but was in poor health for a long time.

Various bonds and receipts within the collection indicate that Hicks was engaged in the tobacco business. He cultivated tobacco on large tracts of his land and sold it on a fairly large scale to individuals and cooperatives. He also owned livestock. Hicks served as a Justice of the Peace with the Campbell County Court, where he appraised property, inspected cattle and bore witness on cases, among other things. He also operated a business in Bedford County during the latter part of his life.

James Morris Hicks, son of R. W. Hicks, studied mechanical engineering at Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (VPI; now Virginia Tech), graduating in 1901. While at VPI, he held various positions of leadership, serving as class secretary, treasurer, vice-president and president; and belonged to the Maury Literary Society and the Engineering Club. After graduating, Hicks worked as a colliery superintendent at the Hudson Coal Company in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and also managed his father's tobacco farm.

Of R. W. Hicks' other children, only the briefest of information could be found: Lula Hicks married J. Edward Wilkinson of Evington, Virginia. John R. Hicks lived in various places, including Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Saint Louis, Missouri; and Clinton, Louisiana. John seems to have been a religious man, working for a school. The papers suggest that Edward J. Hicks lived in Evington and helped his father with his tobacco business.

Stephen Hicks lived in Bedford County, where he owned a large estate. The relationship of Stephen and J. H. Hicks to R. W. Hicks and his family is unclear.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the papers of Campbell County, Virginia tobacco farmer and businessman Robert W. Hicks and his family. The collection has been divided among the following broad categories: Personal correspondence, Farm and household transactions, Tax records, Memorandum books, Legal records, Other

family members, Printed material and Envelopes.

Personal family correspondence contains letters between John W. Sledd, R. W. Hicks' nephew, J. R. Hicks, J. M. Hicks, Edward Hicks, M. Irvine, S. J. Adams, L. J. Quinn, Fanie Hicks, Lula Wilkinson, R. W. Hicks, and Bessie Rawlings (Lula's tutor) among others.

Transactions of the Hicks farm and household are recorded in a set of folders containing various documents. Monetary transactions are also tracked through a large number of receipts for personal and household goods, such as groceries and hardware. Nearly all of the receipts are in the name of R. W. Hicks, though in later years, some bear the names of his children. The bills and receipts are complemented by a set of yearly accounts, summarizing the family's monetary transactions with individual businesses, as well as a group of shopping lists for personal goods. Also included are documents and receipts relating to bonds made primarily for business purposes.

Also relating to the Hicks family home and farm are tax records containing receipts for property taxes paid by the family in Campbell and Bedford counties.

The legal records folder contains materials relating to Hicks' service as Campbell County justice of the peace. The papers include summons issued by Hicks as well as summons for him to appear as a witness in other cases. There are also papers relating to his inspection of cattle for local farmers.

The collection also contains a small number of materials relating to other family members, including official letters and payment receipts in the name of John Morris Hicks who worked with the Hudson Coal Company. Lula and Edward Wilkinson's payment receipts and related correspondence are part of this folder. Tax records on the property of Stephen Hicks of Bedford County are available, and there is evidence of the subsequent sale of that land for non-payment of taxes.

The printed material folder contains various publications, most relating to Hicks family interests and affiliations. Included is the 10th Annual Report of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (1888) as well as printed advertisements for various medicines, beauty products, gardening material and insurance.

A set of empty envelopes completes the collection. The envelopes bear the names and addresses of various family members as well as miscellaneous notations.

Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
Students and alumni
Women -- History
Robert W. Hicks family (Campbell County, Va.)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged by type, then chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Personal family correspondence

Unit Date 1887-1938, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Personal loan and insurance receipts and bonds

Unit Date 1870-1916, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Receipts and bonds for farm-related sales and purchases

Unit Date 1873-1913, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Bills and receipts from vendors

Unit Date 1861-1917

Unit Date 1861-1865

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Unit Date 1886-1890

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Unit Date 1891-1897

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Unit Date 1898-1903

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Unit Date 1904-1917, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Annual accounts of Hicks family purchases

Unit Date 1856-1917

Unit Date 1856-1890

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Unit Date 1891-1917

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Household shopping lists

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Tax records of R. W. Hicks

Unit Date 1873-1917

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Memorandum books

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Justice of the peace - legal transactions

Unit Date 1881-1905

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Other family members (J. M. Hicks, Stephen Hicks, Edward and Lula Wilkinson)

Unit Date 1879-1931, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Miscellaneous printed material

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Envelopes

Unit Date 1899-1935, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)