

Hurt, William W. Papers

William W. Hurt Papers

1860-1929



Title Statement

Hurt, William W. Papers William W. Hurt Papers 1860-1929 Ms.1992.025

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1992.025

Unit Date

1860-1929

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection consists of business and personal financial papers of William W. Hurt, of Smyth and Washington counties, Virginia. It includes deeds, leases and other business and legal documents pertaining to several businesses, particularly the Douglas Land Company.

Creator

Hurt, William W., b. abt. 1879

Extent

0.7 Cubic Feet

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

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Source of Acquisition

The William W. Hurt Papers were donated to the Special Collections and University Archives in 1992. The collection was accessioned as the Douglas Land Company Records and was known by that title until 2005, when it was processed and renamed.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement and description of the William W. Hurt Papers commenced and was completed in April 2005.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], William W. Hurt Papers, Ms1992-025, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

William W. Hurt was born in Virginia around 1879. He married Zula Kinzer, and the couple had two sons: William Whitmore (1905-1984) and Fred Kinzer (1910-2003). The family initially lived in Washington County, but some years after becoming general manager of the Douglas Land Company, Hurt moved with his family to Marion (Smyth County), where he maintained an active interest in local affairs.

Many of Hurt's activities centered on his role as manager of the Douglas Land Company and in developing the company's holdings. He supervised the planting and operation of a commercial apple orchard, undertook game and fish conservation measures and built roads. Hurt was also involved in other business enterprises, many of which were probably connected--either directly or indirectly--with the Douglas Land Company. He served on the board of directors of the National Bank of Chilhowie and the Colonial Manufacturing Company; was vice-president of the Damascus Telephone Association and the Elk Garden Company and was president of the Smyth County Fair. Hurt died between 1916 and 1932.

The Douglas Land Company was organized in New York in 1904 to manage the Douglas family estate of Washington, Smyth and Grayson counties, Virginia. Under the management of William W. Hurt, the company developed timber, engaged in mineral prospecting and leased to local farmers lands from the estate, known as "Laurel Farm." In 1910, the company sold 28,000 acres of timberland to the United States government as a forest reserve. Timber from other tracts of land was sold to lumber companies. W. L. Umbarger succeeded Hurt as manager upon the latter's death; Umbarger was later succeeded by H. P. Gills. The company had ceased operation by 1932.

Source:

Wilson, Goodridge, *Smyth County History and Its Traditions* ([S.l.]: The Author, 1932).

Scope and Content

This collection contains the business and personal financial papers of William W. Hurt, of Washington and Smyth counties, Virginia. Records of the Douglas Land Company, of which Hurt served as general manager, comprise the larger part of the collection. These records consist primarily of lease agreements and deeds, as well as other contracts and legal documents.

The collection also contains records of several other enterprises in which Hurt was involved; at least some of these--such as the Laurel River Farm--were directly connected to the Douglas Land Company. The collection also contains items relating to the Colonial Manufacturing Company, Damascus Telephone Association, Elk Garden Company, Helton Company, Laurel River Lumber Company, and the Smyth County Fair Association.

Of Hurt's personal financial and legal papers, the collection contains several deeds and contracts into which

he seems to have entered independent of his position with the Douglas Land Company.

The collection also contains a folder of documents--mostly receipts and doctor's prescriptions--belonging to J. B. Gilliam, a resident of Smyth County. Gilliam's connection to Hurt or the Douglas Land Company could not be determined while processing the collection.

A folder of general materials completes the collection and contains, among other items, various legal documents; 1922-1923 temperature and rainfall statistics for Marion, Virginia; a map showing a Douglas Land Company tract that was burned in a 1910 fire, and a copy of William Hurt's will.

Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
Douglas Land Company (1904-1932)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically by name of business, with Hurt's personal financial following the files devoted to specific businesses.

Description of Subordinate Components

Colonial Manufacturing Company

Unit Date 1905-1906, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Damascus Telephone Association

Unit Date 1904, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Douglas Land Company leases

Unit Date 1880-1893

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Unit Date 1894-1897

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Unit Date 1898-1903

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Unit Date 1904-1907

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Unit Date 1908-1910

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Unit Date 1911-1929

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Douglas Land Company deeds

Unit Date 1860-1907

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Unit Date 1908-1910

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Unit Date 1911-1919

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Douglas Land Company contracts

Unit Date 1885-1908

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Unit Date 1909-1923, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Douglas Land Company legal documents

Unit Date 1904-1905, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Douglas Land Company survey calls

Unit Date 1905-1909, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Elk Garden Company

Unit Date 1912

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Helton Company

Unit Date 1907, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Laurel Farm financial records

Unit Date 1921

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Unit Date 1922

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Laurel River Lumber Company

Unit Date 1904-1908

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Smyth County Fair Association**Unit Date** 1914**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**William W. Hurt personal deeds****Unit Date** 1908-1916**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**William W. Hurt personal contracts****Unit Date** 1907-1912**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**J. B. Gilliam papers****Unit Date** 1893-1912, n.d.**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Blank forms****Unit Date** 1907-1915, n.d.**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**General materials****Unit Date** 1873-1915, n.d.**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Scope and Contents note**

[see also Oversize Materials]

Oversize Materials**oversize** 1 (folder)**"Map of the Douglas Land Company's 10712 Acre Patent Showing ... the Area Burnt Over by Fire ..."****Unit Date** [1910]