

# Perry, Charles M. Papers

Charles M. Perry Papers

1891-1971



## Title Statement

Perry, Charles M. Papers Charles M. Perry Papers, 1891-1971 Ms.2020.002

**Author:** John M. Jackson

## 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>



2020 (CC0 1.0)

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:48:19 -0400.

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

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.2020.002

### Unit Date

1891-1971

### Language

Materials in this collection are in English.

### Abstract

Papers of Charles M. Perry, assistant general manager of Mathieson Alkali Works (Saltville, Virginia) from 1892 to 1898. Includes letter copy books of Perry's outgoing correspondence; incoming correspondence; printed materials; and a flash drive of electronic files, most relating to the history of Saltville, Virginia.

### Creator

Perry, Charles M.

### Extent

1.0 Cubic Feet 2 boxes

### Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

## Administrative Information

### **Conditions Governing Access**

Collection is open for research.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

Permission to publish material from the Charles M. Perry Papers must be obtained from Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

The Charles M. Perry Papers were donated to Special Collections and University Archives in August, 2019.

### **Processing Information**

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Charles M. Perry Papers commenced and was completed in March, 2020.

### **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Charles M. Perry Papers Ms2020-002, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

## **Biographical / Historical**

Charles Manchester Perry, son of Edward and Frances Edwards Perry, was born in Providence, Rhode Island on April 17, 1868. Soon after graduating from Brown University with a degree in chemistry, Perry was hired by the Mason, Chapin and Company of Providence. From 1892 to 1898, he served as assistant general superintendent of the Mathieson Alkali Works in Saltville, Virginia, his time there coinciding with the plant site's survey, construction, and the first two years of its operation. Leaving Saltville, Perry returned to Rhode Island in 1898. There he worked in the dye manufacturing industry. He married Bertha M. Tempest (1875-1946) the following year, and the couple would have three daughters. Perry continued to work in dye manufacturing until retiring at age 47. He served at least two terms in the Rhode Island General Assembly, representing Coventry in the House of Representatives (1919-1920) and State Senate (1921-1922). Charles Manchester Perry died on March 18, 1959 and was buried in Swan Point Cemetery, Providence, Rhode Island.

## **Content Description**

This collection contains the papers of Charles M. Perry, who served as assistant general superintendent of the Mathieson Alkali Works in Saltville, Virginia from 1892 to 1898. The collection is largely comprised of correspondence and printed materials.

Perry's early correspondence is preserved in two letter copy books. The first of these holds copies of letters commencing on August 28, 1891, while he was working for Mason, Chapin and Company in Johnsonburg, Pennsylvania. Perry's letters from Saltville, Virginia begin on October 23, 1891 and contain both personal and business correspondence; likewise, many of the letters relate both to personal matters and to the establishment and operation of the plant at Saltville. The copied letters end on September 7, 1897. Among Perry's correspondents during this time period was John Howard Appleton, Brown University professor of chemistry. Appleton's letters focus largely on various chemical processes and the chemical business. The collection also contains a large number of letters from William Dye Mount. (Dye worked as an electrical engineer at Mathieson Alkali Works during Perry's time there, became general superintendent in 1898, then moved in 1918 to Lynchburg, Virginia, where he worked as a consulting engineer.) The two men were close friends, so the letters are largely personal in nature but include frequent mentions of the chemical plant's operations. Also among the correspondence is an exchange of letters between Perry and Saltville historian William B. Kent. The letters primarily focus on Perry's recollections of his time in Saltville during the 1890s, mentioning a number of local individuals and homes.

The collection also includes several printed items relating to the history of Saltville, among which are a special anniversary pictorial issue of the Mathieson Alkali Works publication *The Alkalite*; the company's 1942 annual report; a copy of Kent's *A History of Saltville*; and several magazine and newspaper clippings.

Accompanying these materials is a USB flash drive containing images of Saltville, including digital copies of about 150 photographs of early Saltville, taken by Charles Perry. Also on the flash drive are files compiled by Virginia Tech professor emeritus and Saltville historian Jim Glanville.

## **Separated Materials**

A second copy of the July 1922 special anniversary issue of *The Alkalite* was removed from the collection to be cataloged for the rare book collection.

## **Keywords**

Saltville (Va.)

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

## Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the Charles M. Perry Papers by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

## Technical Access

This collection contains a USB with files that do not currently have online access. Researchers may view the images and documents by visiting the Special Collections and University Archives reading room. You may also contact us for more information about how to request online or remote access to these files.

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged by type.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### **Charles M. Perry letter copy book**

**Unit Date** 1891

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

### **Charles M. Perry letter copy book**

**Unit Date** 1891-1897

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

### **John Howard Appleton letters**

**Unit Date** 1892-1898

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 3-4 (folder)

### **William Dye Mount letters**

**Unit Date** 1903-1932

**box-folder** 2 (box)

**Container** 1-12 (folder)

### **William B. Kent correspondence**

**Unit Date** 1955-1957

**box-folder** 2 (box)

**Container** 13-14 (folder)

### **Other correspondence**

**Unit Date** 1897-1956

**box-folder** 2 (box)

**Container** 15 (folder)

### **Letter from Edward E. Arnold to Perry**

**Unit Date** 1897

**Letter from Perry to Bristol Herald Courier**

**Unit Date** 1955

**Extent** [reproduction]

**Autobiographical letter from Perry to children**

**Unit Date** 1956

**"The Manufacture of Soda Ash by the Ammonia Process"**

**Unit Date** 1898

**box-folder** 2 (box)

**Container** 16 (folder)

**Extent** [reproduction]

**The Alkalite**

**box-folder** 2 (box)

**Container** 17 (folder)

**Anniversary issue**

**Unit Date** 1922

**Unit Date** Sep-Oct 1958

**Unit Date** Nov-Dec 1958

**The Efficient Production of Chemical Lime in a Continuous Discharge Gas-Fired Kiln**

**Unit Date** 1929

**box-folder** 2 (box)

**Container** 18 (folder)

**A History of Saltville by William B. Kent**

**Unit Date** 1955

**box-folder** 2 (box)

**Container** 19 (folder)

**Mathieson Alkali Works - Fifty-first Annual Report**

**Unit Date** 1942

**box-folder** 2 (box)

**Container** 20 (folder)

**Plan of Organization, Description of Properties and Financial Outline of Mount Lime and Chemical Corp., Lynchburg, Virginia**

**Unit Date** [1925?]

**box-folder** 2 (box)

**Container** 21 (folder)

**Extent** [2 copies]

**Newspaper and magazine clippings**

**Unit Date** 1895-1971

**box-folder** 2 (box)

**Container** 22 (folder)

**"History of Saltville" by R. Ryland**

**Unit Date** 1895

**"A Busy Spot in the Mountains" ([in American Photographer])**

**Unit Date** [1919]

**"William Dye Mount" (death notice)**

**Unit Date** 1934

**"Saltville's Brine Was Important to Growth of Area" (in Roanoke Times)**

**Unit Date** 1958

**"Saltville Station Becomes Major Power Crossroads" (in Bristol Herald Courier)**

**Unit Date** 1959

**"Olin-Mathieson, One of Area's Industrial Giants, Proves Business, Community Share Mutual Benefits" (in Bristol Herald Courier)**

**Unit Date** 1959

**"End of a Company Town: the People of Saltville, Va. Lose Their Plant to New Pollution Laws" (in Life magazine)**

**Unit Date** 1971

**Charles M. Perry photographic portrait**

**Unit Date** 1891?

**box-folder** 2 (box)

**Container** 23 (folder)

**Extent** [reproduction]

**USB flash drive**

**Unit Date** 2019

**box-folder** 2 (box)

**Container** 24 (folder)

**Saltville images ("PhillipsPictures" JPG files)**

**Unit Date** 2009

**Jim Glanville autobiographical sketch ("about" HTML document)**

**Unit Date** 2016

**Jim Glanville autobiographical sketch ("bio" HTML document)**

**Unit Date** 2015

**Jim Glanville's Yuchi & Spanish-in-Virginia Corpus ("Glanville'sYuchi&SpanishCorpus" pdf document)**

**Unit Date** 2019

**"A Preliminary Inventory of the Charles M. Perry Collection" by Jim Glanville ("PerryInventory" Word and PDF documents)**

**Unit Date** 2019

**List of publications and presentations by Jim Glanville ("Publist" Word and PDF documents)**

**Unit Date** 2019