

Butler, Hugh Lee

Hugh Lee Butler Papers

1896-1953, undated

Title Statement

Butler, Hugh Lee A Guide to the Hugh Lee Butler Papers MG 58

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MG 58

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/69

Unit Date

1896-1953, undated

Unit Date

Date acquired: 01/09/1985

Language

English

Abstract

Served on the Norfolk City Council from 1902 to 1938. Papers relate to his service on the Norfolk City Council during the Great Depression and as chairman of Local Draft Board No. 1 during World War I.

Creator

Butler, Hugh Lee (1871-1946)

Extent

1.20 Linear Feet

Extent

2 Hollinger document cases boxes

Repository

ODU Community Collections

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Open to researchers without restrictions.

Conditions Governing Use

[Identification of item], Box [insert number], Folder [insert number and title], Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Source of Acquisition

"Hap" Forrest White

Method of Acquisition

Gift. Accession #A85-1

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Box [insert number], Folder [insert number and title], Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Biographical or Historical Information

Hugh Lee Butler, son of Le Grande Cornelius Butler and Martha Watkins Simpson Butler (d. 1897), was born July 19, 1871 in Farmville, Prince Edward County, Virginia. He had three brothers: Percy H., Hunter C. (d. 1905), and Stanley W. (d. 1923). Butler's parents moved to Norfolk when he was nine years old. He attended public schools in Farmville and Norfolk.

Butler married Effie Lee Grace, at the residence of W. E. Brown. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. T. Whitley. They became the parents of one daughter, Alice, and three sons, Hugh Lee Jr., Willard H., and Robert T., all of whom survived him. His wife died on December 17, 1935.

Butler began as an office boy at the Seaboard Air Line Railway on May 12, 1884. Promotion followed promotion over the years. In 1922, he was promoted to the position of contracting freight agent, a position he held until his retirement. On March 19, 1937, he received a congratulatory letter from L. R. Powell and Col. Henry W. Anderson upon completion of 50 years' service to the Seaboard. G. B. Rice presented him a 50-year service medal on behalf of the company. He retired at age 70, the Seaboard being the only company for which he had ever worked.

Butler's political career was a distinguished one. It began on what was known as the Common Council, July 1, 1902, representing Brambleton. His term as a member of the Norfolk City Council expired August 31, 1938, after 36 years of service.

He began his career as a member of the Charter Commission in 1902 and served on that body and the Select Council until the council-city manager form of government became a reality. Then he served as a member of the new government for 20 years. He also served on such committees as: Finance, Fire, Public Improvement and Annexation. He served many times as a member of the Democratic Committee from Brambleton and as chair of the Local Draft Board No. 1 from April 1, 1917 - March 31, 1919. He became especially involved in responding to citizens whose need for municipal services had not been met and civil servants (teachers, municipal workers) whose salaries had been cut during the Depression. Members of the Afro-American community found him to be a champion for their causes. One evidence of his tie to that community was a note from P. B. Young, publisher of the Afro-American Journal and Guide when Butler's wife died. He also worked on such projects as the introduction of parking meters to Norfolk and a study of school needs, both salaries as well as space.

Butler was known as a person of personal integrity, one who was loyal in his support of the city's welfare and one who had a mastery of the city's business. These traits provide a partial explanation as to the length of his political career. His service of 36 years was the longest in Norfolk's modern history. An appraisal of his life was best expressed in a resolution passed by the City Council on February 5, 1946: "That in the death of Hugh L. Butler, the citizens of Norfolk have lost a faithful and conscientious public servant, whose interest in their welfare and efforts in their behalf will long be remembered, and the City has lost a valued citizen of outstanding integrity and fidelity." Though he retired from public office in 1938, he continued as a public servant. His appointment by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on October 12, 1940, as Secretary to Norfolk City Draft Board No. 4 is just one instance of his service.

He was in demand as a speaker before such organizations as the Ballantine Civic Association and the Ocean View Democratic and Social Club. He was made an honorary member of the Norfolk Athletic Club.

He died at his home on January 28, 1946 following two heart attacks the previous week.

Note written by Ellis E. O'Neal, Jr.

Scope and Contents

The bulk of the collection consists of material related to Hugh Lee Butlers's time on the Norfolk City Council as a representative of Brambleton (parking meters; race relations; Foreman Field; city anniversaries; Museum of Arts and Sciences; blue laws; study of schools); his service on the Local Draft Board from 1917 to 1922 (alleged draft evaders, delinquents, deserters); personal and family papers (tax returns, financial records, obituaries, condolences); pamphlets and brochures of Norfolk; clippings from Norfolk newspapers; and, a scrapbook. The correspondence is arranged chronologically, or in original order as clipped together.

Keywords

City council members--Virginia--Norfolk

Norfolk (Va.)--Politics and government--20th century

Race relations--History--20th century

Norfolk (Va.)--History--20th century

Butler, Hugh Lee (1871-1946)

Physical Access Requirements

All clippings in Folders 16-19 and items in Scrapbook are too fragile for researchers to handle. Please consult Special Collections and University Archives staff for assistance.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Correspondence

Unit ID Series I

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20600

Unit Date 1917-1939

Sub-Series A: Norfolk City Council and General

Unit ID Sub-Series A

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20601

Unit Date 1923-1939

Box 1

Unit ID Box 1

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20602

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Folder 1: Councilman Duties

Unit ID Folder 1

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20609

Unit Date 1923 March 10-1936 November 20

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 1, Councilman Duties, 1923 March 10-1936 November 20, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Railroad Retirement Act; Concerns of Afro-Americans; Dedication of Foreman Field; City

Folder 2: Councilman Duties

Unit ID Folder 2

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20630

Unit Date 1936 November 21-1937 March 25

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 2, Councilman Duties, 1936 November 21-1937 March 25, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Concerns of Afro-Americans; parking meter installation; Crime Prevention Conference; airport survey; 50-year Service Medal from Seaboard Air Line Railway

Folder 3: Councilman Duties

Unit ID Folder 3

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20631

Unit Date 1937 March 26-May 29

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 3, Councilman Duties, 1937 March 26-May 29, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Parking meters; Blue Laws; Afro-American concerns

Folder 4: Councilman Duties

Unit ID Folder 4

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20639

Unit Date 1937 June 1-October 23

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 4, Councilman Duties, 1937 June 1-October 23, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Railroad Retirement Act; parking meters; Norfolk airport; "Union Mission" for Afro-Americans

Folder 5: Councilman Duties

Unit ID Folder 5

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20640

Unit Date 1937 October 25-1938 March 28

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 5, Councilman Duties, 1937 October 25-1938 March 28, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Teachers' salaries; Police Dept.; Atlantic Coast Fleet; WPA project

Folder 6: Councilman Duties**Unit ID** Folder 6**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/20641**Unit Date** 1938 April 1-June 23**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 6, Councilman Duties, 1938 April 1-June 23, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Councilman election; Afro-American concerns; political address; WPA project

Folder 7: Councilman Duties**Unit ID** Folder 7**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/20642**Unit Date** 1938 June 28-1939 August 31**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 7, Councilman Duties, 1938 June 28-1939 August 31, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Study of high schools; Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences; Hugh Lee Butler's retirement

Sub-Series B: World War I Draft Board Records**Unit ID** Sub-Series B**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/20603**Unit Date** 1917-1922**Box 1****Unit ID** Box 1**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/20604**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Folder 8: Draft Board Records for World War I****Unit ID** Folder 8**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/20606**Unit Date** 1917 December 1-1922 April 25**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 8, Draft Board Records for World War I, 1917 December 1-1922 April 25, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Cases of alleged draft evaders, delinquents, deserters

Series II: Work Records**Unit ID** Series II**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/20605**Unit Date** undated

Box 1**Unit ID** Box 1**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/20607**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Folder 9: Railroad Retirement Act****Unit ID** Folder 9**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/20608**Unit Date** undated**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 9, Railroad Retirement Act, undated, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Series III: Personal Papers**Unit ID** Series III**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/20610**Unit Date** 1896-1953**Sub-Series A: General Correspondence****Unit ID** Sub-Series A**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/20620**Unit Date** 1896-1952**Box 1****Unit ID** Box 1**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/20621**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Folder 10: Elks Memorial Services****Unit ID** Folder 10**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/20626**Unit Date** 1896 December 6-1937 April 21**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 10, Elks Memorial Services, 1896 December 6-1937 April 21, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Invitations; acknowledgments; rental receipts

Folder 11: Family items**Unit ID** Folder 11**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/20637**Unit Date** 1937 April 22-1952**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 11, Family items, 1937 April 22-1952, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Receipts, including rental receipts

Sub-Series B: Financial Records

Unit ID Sub-Series B

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20627

Unit Date 1920-1953

Box 2

Unit ID Box 2

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20628

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Folder 1: Virginia and Norfolk Tax Returns for Hugh Lee Butler and Alice B Cruser

Unit ID Folder 1

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20629

Unit Date 1939-1953

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 1, Virginia and Norfolk Tax Returns for Hugh Lee Butler and Alice B Cruser, 1939-1953, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 2: Federal Tax Returns

Unit ID Folder 2

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20638

Unit Date 1920-1941

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 2, Federal Tax Returns, 1920-1941, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Sub-Series C: Family Obituaries and Condolences

Unit ID Sub-Series C

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20632

Unit Date 1905-1935

Box 2

Unit ID Box 2

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20633

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Folder 3: Death Notices

Unit ID Folder 3

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20634

Unit Date 1905-1935

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 3, Death Notices, 1905-1935, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Death notices for brothers and wife

Series IV: Pamphlets and Brochures

Unit ID Series IV

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20611

Unit Date undated

Box 2

Unit ID Box 2

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20612

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Folder 4: Primary Norfolk and Tidewater Virginia

Unit ID Folder 4

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20614

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 4, Primary Norfolk and Tidewater Virginia, undated, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Series V: Clippings

Unit ID Series V

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20613

Unit Date 1906-1940, undated

Box 2

Unit ID Box 2

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20615

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Folder 5: Miscellaneous Clippings

Unit ID Folder 5

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20616

Unit Date 1922, undated

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 5, Miscellaneous Clippings, 1922, undated, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

From the: Public Ledger; Virginia and Pilot; Norfolk Landmark; Virginian-Pilot and the Norfolk Landmark; and, Times-Advocate. Includes 1922 election of Butler et al., picture of Butler; articles on Spanish-American War; and current events.

Folder 5a: Miscellaneous Clippings

Unit ID Folder 5a

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20617

Unit Date 1922, undated

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 5a (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 5a, Miscellaneous Clippings, 1922, undated, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

From the: Public Ledger; Virginia and Pilot; Norfolk Landmark; Virginian-Pilot and the Norfolk Landmark; and, Times-Advocate. Includes 1922 election of Butler et al., picture of Butler; articles on Spanish-American War; and current events.

Folder 6: Clippings from Norfolk Newspapers

Unit ID Folder 6

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20635

Unit Date 1922-1940, undated

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 6, Clippings from Norfolk Newspapers, 1922-1940, undated, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Includes Norfolk City unofficial / official election results (1922-1940); proposed charter change; editorial re. Late Richard W Peatross; Draft Board appointments (including Butler) by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Oct 12 1940.

Folder 7: Clippings from Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

Unit ID Folder 7

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20636

Unit Date 1939 September 1-November 3

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 2, Folder 7, Clippings from Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, 1939 September 1-November 3, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

re. Beginning and progress of World War I.

Box 3

Unit ID Box 3

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20618

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Folder 1: Clipping from Norfolk Newspapers

Unit ID Folder 1

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20619

Unit Date 1906-1924, undated

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 3, Folder 1, Clipping from Norfolk Newspapers, 1906-1924, undated, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Include death of Woodrow Wilson; 'Jim Crow' law effective Jun 13 1906.

Folder 2: Clipping from Norfolk Newspapers

Unit ID Folder 2

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20623

Unit Date 1906-1924, undated

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 3, Folder 2, Clipping from Norfolk Newspapers, 1906-1924, undated, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Include death of Woodrow Wilson; 'Jim Crow' law effective Jun 13 1906.

Series VI: Scrapbook

Unit ID Series VI

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20622

Unit Date 1897-1905, undated

Box 3

Unit ID Box 3

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20624

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Folder 3: Scrapbook

Unit ID Folder 3

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/20625

Unit Date 1897-1905, undated

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 3, Folder 3, Scrapbook, 1897-1905, undated, Hugh Lee Butler Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Scope and Contents

Various clippings beginning about Apr 18 1897 from Public Ledger. Include poems; Civil War reports; current events; funeral of sister-in-law, Cassie Grace; deaths of mother, Mrs. Martha A (sic) Butler (1897) and brother, Hunter C Butler (1905).