

Watt, Lucian Louis, papers

Lucian Louis Watts papers
1921-1960

Title Statement

Watt, Lucian Louis, papersA Guide to the Lucian Louis Watt papers, 1921-1961 M 12

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

M 12

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/62

Unit Date

1921-1960

Language

English

Creator

Watts, Lucian Louis, 1888-1974

Extent

1.5 Linear Feet

Repository

VCU James Branch Cabell Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Use Restrictions

No restrictions on use.

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the Department by Mrs. L.L. Watts on October 3 and October 29, 1975, through Dr. Thelma Biddle of the Department of History and Geography (VCU). Additional materials were given in March and April 1977. Newspaper clippings relating to the Virginia Commission for the Blind were merged in August 1980.

Preferred Citation

Box/folder, Lucian Louis Watts Papers, M 12, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University

Biographical / Historical

Lucian Louis Watts (1888-1974) was born in Albemarle County, Virginia in November 1888. Son of the Albemarle County Sheriff, he graduated from public high school and attended Fork Union Military Academy for one year. His youth was an active one, and he participated in local sports and served as a deputy sheriff.

Watts was employed at railroad construction work at age eighteen. Within the next three years he became Superintendent of seven miles of railroad construction work. He continued in this profession until a dynamite explosion caused him to lose his sight, May 27, 1913.

Following a recuperation of more than a year, Watts enrolled in the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Staunton, October 1914. He graduated from the school in June 1917, and he returned there the following fall to be a supervisor of blind boys. By June 1918, he had become an instructor of industrial work. At the same time he made plans to organize an association for the adult blind. With the help of H. Randolph Latimer of Maryland, and of H.M. McManaway, Superintendent of the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind, Watts organized the Virginia Association of Workers for the Blind, June 9, 1919.

The legislative survey led to the creation of a three-member Commission to study these problems in depth; Watt served as secretary of this temporary commission. The commission was enlarged and made permanent in 1922, and Watt was appointed its Executive Secretary. He was also elected as the first president of the Virginia Association of Workers for the Blind, a position he held continuously throughout his affiliation with the Association.

Watts, through the Association of Workers for the Blind, initiated a financial campaign to establish a workshop for the blind at Charlottesville. Begun in 1925, the Workshop for the Blind was completed by 1930. It was transferred to the Virginia Commission for the Blind in 1936.

Watts served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from January 1, 1926 to January 1, 1934. In 1934 he was elected President of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, and after his term ended in 1936 he remained active in the Association, serving on the Board of Directors and as Chairman of the Legislative Committee. He was also a Board member for the National Industries of the Blind. Lucian Watts died in 1974.

Scope and Contents

The Lucian Louis Watts Papers, 1921-1960, comprising ca. 300 items, consists primarily of correspondence relating to Watts' work with the blind through the Virginia Association of Workers for the Blind, the Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped, and the House of Delegates. The collection also includes speeches and articles by Watts and others relating to loss of vision and education of the visually handicapped.

Keywords

Blind -- Services for -- Virginia

People with visual disabilities -- Services for -- Virginia

People with visual disabilities -- Education -- Virginia

Legislators -- Virginia

Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped

Virginia Association of Workers for the Blind, Inc.

Watts, Lucian Louis, 1888-1974

Arrangement

The correspondence is arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25197

Unit Date 1921-1927

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25198

Unit Date 1928-1932

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25199

Unit Date 1933-1945

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

TMs of Speeches and Articles by Watts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25200

Unit Date 1931-1961

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Biography of Watts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25201

Unit Date 1925-1953

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Org. and leg. of Comm. Asso. of Workers of Visually Handicapped

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25202

Unit Date 1924-1968

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

TMs of speeches and articles by others

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25203

Unit Date 1924-1941

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Education of the Visually Handicapped

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25204

Unit Date 1949-1959

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Vocational Rehabilitation

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/25205

Unit Date 1953-1955

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Photographs, n.d.**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25206**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**News clippings****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25207**Unit Date** 1939-1949**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Miscellaneous items****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25208**Unit Date** 1925-1949**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Printed Documents****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25209**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)**Letters of Endorsement****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25211**Unit Date** 1943-1945**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Report American Foundation for the Blind and materials regarding rehabilitation and blind workers****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25212**Unit Date** 1945-1947**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Articles for Charlottesville Daily Progress regarding Virginia Workshop for the Blind****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25213**Unit Date** 1946**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Reports on Virginia Commission for the Blind****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25214**Unit Date** 1947**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Notes on special classes for the blind; TMs of Speech Home Teachers; brochure of Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25215**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**3 movie films: General Program of the Va. Comm. for the Blind, Pre-School Nursery for Blind Children 1952, The Sight Saving Program in the Pub. Schools of Va.****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/25210**Mixed Materials** [A11424377626] 4 (box)