

Mason, John W. (1842-1917). Papers, 1831-1928 A&M 1888

John W. Mason (1842-1917) Papers
1831-1928



Title Statement

Mason, John W. (1842-1917). Papers, 1831-1928 A&M 1888

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 1888

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

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Unit ID

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Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/5534

Unit Date

1831-1928

Language

English .

Abstract

Correspondence, legal papers, photographs, and printed materials of John W. Mason (1842-1917). Mason was a circuit court and state Supreme Court judge, member of the Virginia State Debt Commission, and commissioner of Internal Revenue. The general correspondence contains personal and business letters, as well as manuscript speeches, notebooks, and reports. The period while Mason was circuit judge is particularly sparse. Also includes Internal Revenue correspondence consisting of about 8,500 pages in letter press copy books. Roughly half of the collection is devoted to his legal papers and printed materials concerning law in general. Subjects include early development of the Republican Party in West Virginia; political campaigns in West Virginia from 1870-1916; Monongalia Academy; industrial development; Internal Revenue Service (1889-1893); the Virginia Debt question; early banking development in Grafton; and the development of coal companies, particularly around Fairmont. Correspondents include Arthur I. Boreman, A.W. Campbell, Stephen B. Elkins, Benjamin Harrison, Francis H. Pierpont, and others.

Creator

Mason, John W., 1842-1917

Extent

13 Linear Feet Summary: 13 ft. (29 document cases, 5 in. each); (1 index card box, 11 in.); (1 oversize folder, 2 items)

Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: West Virginia & Regional History Center

Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

John W. Mason (1842-1917) was a prominent lawyer and Republican party member in the northern part of West Virginia from the early 1870s until his death. He had been a soldier in the Union army and after the war attended Monongalia Academy. He read law under Judge Marshall Hagans of Morgantown and was admitted to the bar in 1867. He practiced law in Grafton from 1867 to 1889. During this time he was made Chairman of the Republican State Executive Committee and served four years until 1876. He ran for the House of Representatives in 1882 and was defeated by William L. Wilson by ten votes. He tried for Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia six years after but lost. The highlight of his life was his appointment as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service by President Benjamin Harrison. At the end of his term of office, he returned to West Virginia and moved to Fairmont. He continued to practice law until he was elected Judge of the Circuit Court of Monongalia, Harrison, and Marion Counties in 1900. After he left Washington, he repeatedly attempted to secure another appointment in Washington but was unsuccessful. He retired from the bench in 1912 and was appointed Chairman of the West Virginia Debt Commission the following year. He served until the fall of 1915 when he was appointed to a vacant seat in the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia. He stepped down in January of 1917 and died later that spring.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, legal papers, photographs, and printed materials of John W. Mason (1842-1917). Mason was a circuit court and state Supreme Court judge, member of the Virginia State Debt Commission, and commissioner of Internal Revenue. The general correspondence contains personal and business letters, as

well as manuscript speeches, notebooks, and reports. The period while Mason was circuit judge is particularly sparse. Also includes Internal Revenue correspondence consisting of about 8,500 pages in letter press copy books. Roughly half of the collection is devoted to his legal papers and printed materials concerning law in general.

Subjects include early development of the Republican Party in West Virginia; political campaigns in West Virginia from 1870 to 1916; Monongalia Academy; industrial development in West Virginia; Internal Revenue Service (1889-1893); the Virginia Debt question; early banking development in Grafton; and the development of coal companies, particularly around Fairmont.

Correspondents include George W. Atkinson; James G. Blaine; Arthur I. Boreman; A.W. Campbell; W.E. Chandler; William M.O. Dawson; A.G. Dayton; Marmaduke H. Dent; Stephen B. Elkins; D.D. Farnsworth; W.E. Glasscock; Nathan Goff, Jr.; J.M. Hagans; Benjamin Harrison; H.D. Hatfield; J.J. Jacob; J.C. McGrew; William McKinley; J.M. Mason; Francis H. Pierpont; Nathan B. Scott; W.E. Stevenson; G.C. Sturgiss; and A.B. White.

For item level description, see control folder.

Series include:

Series 1. Personal Papers; 1831-1928, undated; 11 boxes. This series includes general correspondence (letters, manuscript speeches, diaries, and extensively annotated printed materials), miscellaneous printed material, newspapers, school records from Mason's early life, photographs, printed material, and papers of Robert C. Mason and John W. Mason, Jr.

Series 2. Internal Revenue Service Papers; 1889-1893; 5 boxes. This series consists of 18 volumes of letter press copy books (roughly 8500 pages). Unbound letters relating to the IRS will be found in Series 1, boxes 1-6, General Correspondence.

Series 3. Business Papers; 1854-1917, undated; 13 boxes. This series includes legal papers, material relating to the Virginia-West Virginia debt controversy, financial papers, minute books of coal companies, and other printed material.

Series 4. Oversize; 1884, 1915; 1 folder. This series includes a certificate of incorporation of the Grafton, Buckhannon, and Charleston Railroad Company (1884); and John W. Mason's certificate of membership to the Virginia State Debt Commission (1915).

Separated Materials

Issue of *West Virginia Citizen* separated to A&M 3890.

Instrument for measuring alcoholic content of beverages removed to memorabilia collection.

Related A&M Collections

37, 1888, 3820

Keywords

Grafton.

Marion County (W. Va.)

Morgantown (W. Va.)

Academies

Banks and banking

Coal industry.

Coal mines and mining

Elections

Schools

Spanish-American War, 1898

Virginia - Debt Commission.

Virginia-West Virginia debt controversy.

Consolidation Coal Company

Monongalia Academy (Morgantown, W. Va.)

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)

United States. Internal Revenue Service

Atkinson, Geo. W. (George Wesley), 1845-1925

Blaine, James Gillespie, 1830-1893
Boreman, Arthur Inghram, 1823-1896
Campbell, Archibald W., 1833-1899.
Chandler, W.E.
Dawson, William M.O.
Dayton, Alston Gordon
Dent, Marmaduke Herbert.
Elkins, Stephen B. (Stephen Benton), 1841-1911
Farnsworth, D.D.T.
Goff, Nathan, 1843-1920
Hagans, John Marshall, 1838-1900
Harrison, Benjamin, 1833-1901
Hatfield, Henry Drury, 1875-1962
Jacob, J.J.
Mason, James M.
Mason, John W., 1842-1917
McGrew, J.C.
McKinley, William, 1843-1901
Pierpont, Francis Harrison, 1814-1899
Scott, Nathan Bay, 1842-1924
Stevenson, W. E. (William Erskine), 1820-1883
Sturgiss, George C.
White, A.B.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1. Personal Papers, 11 boxes

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148229

Unit Date 1831-1928, undated

General Correspondence (includes all letters, manuscript speeches, diaries, and extensively annotated printed materials)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148248

Unit Date 1867-1886

Mixed Materials Series 1, B 1 (Box)

General Correspondence (cont.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148249

Unit Date 1887-1895

Mixed Materials Series 1, B 2 (Box)

General Correspondence (cont.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148251

Unit Date 1896-1898

Mixed Materials Series 1, B 3 (Box)

General Correspondence (cont.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148252

Unit Date 1899-1904

Mixed Materials Series 1, B 4 (Box)

General Correspondence (cont.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148253

Unit Date 1905-1914

Mixed Materials Series 1, B 5 (Box)

General Correspondence (cont.; also includes undated and incomplete correspondence)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148254

Unit Date 1915-1917, undated

Mixed Materials Series 1, B 6 (Box)

Newspapers (includes references and clippings [1860-1916], The Veil is Rent [1889-1891], scrapbook [1889], and miscellaneous periodicals)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148255

Unit Date 1860-1916

Mixed Materials Series 1, B 7 (Box)

Early Life (includes school papers [1854-1866] and Monongalia Academy material [1831-1867])

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148256

Unit Date 1831-1867

Mixed Materials Series 1, B 8 (Box)

Miscellaneous (includes photographs, certificates, printed political campaign material, and printed speeches and booklets by various state and national leaders)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148257

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials Series 1, B 9 (Box)

Miscellaneous (includes printed material on political, literary, agricultural, and religious subjects)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148258

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials Series 1, B 10 (Box)

Papers of Robert C. Mason and John W. Mason, Jr.

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148259

Unit Date 1900-1928

Mixed Materials Series 1, B 11 (Box)

Series 2. Internal Revenue Service Papers, 5 boxes

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148230

Unit Date 1889-1893

General Correspondence (includes letter press copy books--for unbound letters relating to the IRS, see Series 1, boxes 1-6, General Correspondence)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148273

Unit Date March 1889 - July 1889

Mixed Materials Series 2, B 1 (Box)

General Correspondence (cont.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148274

Unit Date July 1889 - May 1890

Mixed Materials Series 2, B 2 (Box)

General Correspondence (cont.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148275

Unit Date May 1890 - May 1891

Mixed Materials Series 2, B 3 (Box)

General Correspondence (cont.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148276

Unit Date May 1891 - July 1892

Mixed Materials Series 2, B 4 (Box)

General Correspondence (cont. [July 1892 - April 1893]; also includes volumes which show the Internal Revenue organization [1889-1893])

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148277

Unit Date 1889-1893

Mixed Materials Series 2, B 5 (Box)

Series 3. Business Papers, 13 boxes

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148231

Unit Date 1854-1917, undated

Legal Papers (includes papers regarding the Grafton Building Association and the Working Men's B & L Association)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148278

Unit Date 1854-1871

Mixed Materials Series 3, B 1 (Box)

Legal Papers

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148279

Unit Date 1872-1875

Mixed Materials Series 3, B 2 (Box)

Legal Papers

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148280

Unit Date 1876-1891

Mixed Materials Series 3, B 3 (Box)

Legal Papers

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148281

Unit Date 1891-1899

Mixed Materials Series 3, B 4 (Box)

Legal Papers

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148282

Unit Date 1900-1916

Mixed Materials Series 3, B 5 (Box)

Miscellaneous Legal Papers (includes undated and incomplete legal papers, plats, and blank forms)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148283

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials Series 3, B 6 (Box)

Virginia Debt Papers (includes material relating to the development of West Virginia's case, resolutions, reports, and U.S. Supreme Court briefs)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148284

Unit Date 1913-1916

Mixed Materials Series 3, B 7 (Box)

Virginia Debt Papers (includes Reports and Proceedings of the West Virginia Debt Commission, Reports and Opinions by Public and Private Persons and Organizations on the Virginia Debt)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148285

Unit Date 1913-1917

Mixed Materials Series 3, B 8 (Box)

Financial Papers (includes receipts, bank statements, and check stubs)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148786

Unit Date 1868-1917

Mixed Materials Series 3, B 9 (Box)

Legal Records (includes account books and law dockets)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148787

Unit Date 1867-1907

Mixed Materials Series 3, B 10 (Box)

Minute Books (includes Worthington Coal and Coke Company; Hutchinson-Ellen Coal Company; and lists of the contents of Mason's law library)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148788

Unit Date 1893-1901

Mixed Materials Series 3, B 11 (Box)

Printed Legal Material (includes briefs and opinions by Mason and others on West Virginia cases)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148789

Unit Date 1872?-1916

Mixed Materials Series 3, B 12 (Box)

Miscellaneous Printed Legal Material (includes West Virginia Bar Association material, and opinions and briefs from federal courts)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148790

Unit Date 1865-1917

Mixed Materials Series 3, B 13 (Box)

Artifact -- US Prohibition Era Hydrometer (for testing alcohol proof)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148791

Unit Date ca. 1914-1930

Mixed Materials Series 3, B 14 (Box)

Series 4. Oversize Certificates, 1 folder

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148232

Unit Date 1884, 1915

Certificate of incorporation of the Grafton, Buckhannon, and Charleston Railroad Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148792

Unit Date [1884]

Mixed Materials Oversize (Folder)

John W. Mason's certificate of membership to the Virginia State Debt Commission

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/148793

Unit Date [1915]

Mixed Materials Oversize (Folder)