

DeKalb History Center

James A. Hall Papers

Introduction: The James A. Hall Papers include notes, essays, and news articles written by James A. Hall, longtime editor of the *DeKalb New Era*. The collection starts with a ledger begun in 1818, but the bulk of it covers from about 1912 through the 1940s.

Provenance: Papers donated in 1978 by Viola Wright (Mrs. James A.) Hall (Accession #1978.7)

Access: Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from this collection must be requested from the archivist, DeKalb History Center. Citation should be as follows:

Description of specific item; James A. Hall Papers, DeKalb History Center Archives

Processed by Lindsey Breithaupt, DHS intern, 1998. Updated by Megan Milford, DHS intern, 2001. Jill Sweetapple, Archivist, 2013.

Size: 4 document boxes, 2 scrapbook boxes

Biographical Sketch of James A. Hall (1866-1943): James A. Hall was the editor of the *DeKalb New Era* newspaper for over twenty years. As editor, he wrote a column “Random Remarks,” essays on nature, and the history of DeKalb County. Before his work on the newspaper, he was a reporter for the Calhoun Times and the Rome Tribune, and news editor for the Atlanta Journal. Besides being a journalist, he was a poet, essayist, and an authority on Native Americans. Also, he was a member of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce and of the American Red Cross (1917). Hall retired from his job as editor in 1937. He was married to Viola Wright of Rome, Georgia and had a daughter, Helen Hopkins, and a son, Warner Hall.

Description: The James A. Hall Papers include notes, essays, and poems written by Hall. There are two pocket notebooks containing poems and notes. There are several manuscripts for a collection of essays that Hall wrote about Native Americans; he spent years gathering Cherokee legends. The scrapbooks are mostly indexed collections of his articles. Several condolence letters that he received on the death of his brother-in-law are also in the collection. There is also a bound accounts ledger that begins in 1818.

Folder List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date(s)
1	1	Bios	
	2	California	
	3	Changing Customs	
	4	The Changing Road, essays 1 of 2	1934

Box	Folder	Contents	Date(s)
1	5	The Changing Road, essays 2 of 2	1934
	6	Cherokee	
	7	Current Events	1930s
	8	Clippings	
	9	Correspondence 1 of 3	1912-1928
	10	Correspondence 2 of 3	1912-1928
2	1	Correspondence 3 of 3	1912-1928
	2	DeKalb place names	
	3	Essays 1 of 2	
	4	Essays 2 of 2	
	5	Indian Lore	
	6	Journal	1917-1918
	7	Journal	
	8	Letters	
	9	Manuscript, Who Are the Indians? DeKalb County Indian trails by Carl Hudgins	
	10	Indians - essays and published articles	
	11	Miscellaneous essays	
	12	Miscellaneous ideas	
	13	Miscellaneous notes	
3	1	Miscellaneous notes	
	2	New York, Boston, Virginia	
	3	Nineteenth Century clothes	
	4	Nineteenth Century Life	
	5	Notes on animals	
	6	Notes on backwoods America	
	7	Notes on Birds	
	8	Notes on Buildings	
	9	Notes on Flowers	
	10	Notes on Insects	
	11	Notes on nature	
	12	Notes on Summer and Nature	
	13	Notes on sunlight	
	14	Notes on trees and leaves	
	15	Random Remarks columns and newspaper clippings	
4	1	Source material – Indians	
	2	United War Work campaign certificate of appointment, appointing J. A. Hall as Publicity Director for DeKalb	1918
	3	Vanishing river ferry column	
	4	<i>The Woodland Trail and other Poems</i>	1934
	5	Red Cross arm band, 1978.7.1	1917

Box	Contents	Date(s)
5	5 scrapbooks of clippings, news events, Camp Gordon, Random Remarks columns; indexed	
6	Accounts/charge Ledger	1818-1853