

DeKalb History Center

William Marion Guess Sr. Collection DeKalb County Court of Ordinary

Introduction: The Guess Collection consists of miscellaneous DeKalb County court documents over the period of 1844 to 1950. Included are tax records, land deeds, voter records, petitions, and various other documents, including ballot slips.

Provenance: In the early 1970's, Judge William Marion Guess Sr. (1907-1987) placed these documents in the care of the DeKalb History Center. The Guess Collection is on loan from the DeKalb County Court of Ordinary. Judge Guess was a judge in DeKalb's Recorder's Court from 1968 to 1976. He was also a mayor, city councilman, and city attorney for Stone Mountain. Accession # L1973.1

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; Guess Collection, DeKalb History Center Archives.

Processed by Karrmen Currin, DHS intern, 1999, Jill Sweetapple, Archivist, 2013.

Size: 4 document boxes

Description: The Guess Collection documents a century of life in DeKalb County through court documents, petitions, voter records, tax records, and other documents. The collection spans 1844 to 1950, with the majority of the items from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There are court documents, petitions and voter records of the Court of Ordinary, documents relating to land, roads and animals, African Americans and tax documents. There are signed petitions and lists of voters for each election, separated into DeKalb County districts. There are also tax and treasury records for DeKalb, including special receipts of John Steward, a wealthy Panthersville/Lithonia landowner, and J A Mason, a DeKalb County treasurer later prosecuted for mismanaged funds.

Folder List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date(s)
1	1	Widows, Orphans and children	1844-1929
	2	Documents Pertaining to African-Americans	ca. 1860-1926
	3	Documents pertaining to the Confederacy	1867-1903
	4	Creation of Kirkwood Militia District	1900
	5	Letters excusing road hands from work	1901-1902

Box	Folder	Contents	Date(s)
1	6	Road hands lists Districts: Brownings, Kirkwood, Cross Keys, Lithonia, Decatur, McWilliams, Diamonds, Mills, Doraville, Philips, Edgewood, Redan, Shallowford	1901
	7	Misc court documents, DeKalb	1866-1896
	8	Misc court documents, DeKalb	1901-1950
	9	Misc court documents, Fulton	1925-1938
	10	Misc documents	undated
	11	Petitions and voters, Avondale (Ingleside)	1908-1935
	12	Petitions and voters, Caldwell	1908
	13	Petitions and voters, Chamblee, Dunwoody, Doraville	1909-1930
	14	Petitions and voters, Clarkston, Rehoboth	1920-1937
	15	Petitions and voters, Cross Keys	1928-1933
	16	Petitions and voters, Decatur	1920-1925
2	1	Petitions and voters, East Atlanta, Kirkwood McWilliams, Oakhurst	1906-1923
	2	Petitions and voters, East End	1905-1907
	3	Petitions and voters, East Lake	1912-1925
	4	Petitions and voters, Glen Haven	1937-1938
	5	Petitions and voters, Lithonia	1920-1938
	6	Petitions and voters, Mountain View	1920-1933
	7	Petitions and voters, Redan	1909-1933
	8	Petitions and voters, Southwest DeKalb	1927-1929
	9	Petitions and voters, Tucker	1909
	10	Petitions and voters, Stone Mountain	1920-1924
	11	Petitions and voters, DeKalb general	1918-1925
	12	Misc original deeds, DeKalb	1848-1945
	13	Misc original deeds, Fulton	1856-1921
	14	Deeds, lot 119, Clarkston	1892-1945
	15	Deeds, Stone Mountain	1897-1917
	16	Obstructions of roads and land	1873-1937
	17	Estray (stray) animals	1866-1928
3	1	Pauper's fund receipts	1894-1896
	2	Jurors receipts, Court of Ordinary	1894-1897
	3	Jail fund receipts	1895-1896
	4	Common fund receipts	1895-1896
	5	Bridge fund receipts	1895-1897
	6	Jail fund receipts	1895-1896
	7	Superior and Ordinary receipts	1895-1896

Box	Folder	Contents	Date(s)
4	1	Road tax record	1901
	2	Tax collectors receipts 1 of 2	1901
	3	Tax collectors receipts 2 of 2	1901
	4	J A Mason case documents	1889-1896
	5	John B Steward, receipts	1866-1891
	6	John B Steward, personal documents	1867-1891
	7	Miscellaneous documents	1853-1934