

# Draper Mercantile Company Account Books

Draper Mercantile Company Account Books  
1908-1932



## Title Statement

Draper Mercantile Company Account Books  
Ms.1940.005

**Author:** John M. Jackson, Archivist

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Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)  
560 Drillfield Drive  
Newman Library, Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
Business Number: 540-231-6308  
specref@vt.edu  
URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.1940.005

### Unit Date

1908-1932

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

The collection contains account books of general mercantile business in Draper (Pulaski County), Virginia during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

### Extent

1.6 Cubic Feet 4 boxes

### Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

## Administrative Information

### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

## **Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

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## **Source of Acquisition**

The Draper Mercantile Company Account Books were acquired by the VPI Agricultural Branch Library in 1939 or 1940 and transferred to Special Collections and University Archives in 1955.

## **Processing Information**

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Draper Mercantile Company Account Books commenced and was completed in October 2012. Initial description was completed in or prior to May 1970.

## **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Draper Mercantile Company Account Books, Ms1940-005, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

# **Administrative History**

According to the current incarnation of the business, the original Draper Mercantile was founded by E. G. Gannaway, G. H. Gilmer, E. T. Pratt, and J. H. Pratt, who ran the store as a partnership until 1944, when Gannaway's sons, G. Gilmer and Lawrence C., bought out the Pratt and Gilmer interests and operated the business until 1979. In addition to its offerings in general merchandise, the store at times housed a blacksmith, barbershop, millinery, dress shop, and the local post office.

Ownership passed through several hands in the following decades, with the building becoming home to a furniture store and, later, an antiques dealership. In 2008, Debbie and Bill Gardner purchased the store and reopened it as the Draper Mercantile and Trading Company, returning the store to its original purpose but with a focus on locally produced goods.

# **Scope and Content**

This collection contains ledgers of the Draper Mercantile Company, a general store and associated enterprises operating in Draper (Pulaski County) from the late 19th century through the late 20th century. Included are three store ledgers, providing customer names, transaction dates, and goods purchased. The collection also includes a day book maintained by the Bank of Draper, providing customer names and transaction amounts.

# **Keywords**

Pulaski County (Va.)

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

# **Rights Statement for Archival Description**

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# **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged chronologically.

# **Description of Subordinate Components**

**Day book**

**Unit Date** 1928-1932

**box** 1

**Container** 1 (item)

**Ledger**

**Unit Date** 1916-1919

**box** 3

**Container** 1 (item)

**Ledger**

**Unit Date** 1919-1922

**box** 4

**Container** 1 (item)