

Crush, Charles W., Papers

Charles W. Crush Collection

1796-1978



Title Statement

Crush, Charles W., Papers Charles W. Crush Collection, 1796-1978 Ms.1984.180

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1984.180

Unit Date

1796-1978

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This is a collection of materials related to various aspects of the history of Montgomery County, Virginia, including early county records, papers of the Altizer and Sullivan families, materials related to twentieth-century county politics and the county's role in the Civil War and World Wars I and II. Also includes writings and subject files on topics in local history and a small set of general materials.

Creator

Crush, Charles W., 1894(?)-1970

Extent

1 Cubic Feet 2 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Charles W. Crush Collection was purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 1984.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Crush Collection commenced and was completed in November 2002.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Charles W. Crush Collection, Ms1984-180, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Charles Wade Crush, Montgomery County judge, historian and civic leader, was born in Christiansburg, Virginia, around 1894; he earned his degree in law from Washington and Lee University in 1913. He later attended the University of Texas and practiced law in Texas for a short time before returning to Christiansburg. During World War II, Crush served with the 314th Machine Gun Battalion. (Crush's interest in military affairs would continue throughout his life, serving as commander of the Virginia Department of the American Legion and as an officer in Company 161 of the Virginia Reserve Militia.) From 1923 to 1935, Crush served as commonwealth's attorney. He later served as Christiansburg postmaster for 10 years and as judge of the county court from 1948 until his retirement in 1963. Crush died on March 18, 1970.

Judge Crush maintained an interest in local history and civic matters throughout his career. He wrote numerous articles on Montgomery County history for the county newspaper and served as chairman of the Montgomery County Jamestown Festival Committee in 1957. As a director of the Montgomery County branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, Crush was instrumental in the preservation of Smithfield Plantation. His interest in local history culminated in the publication of his book, *The Montgomery County Story, 1776-1957*; and is represented in the posthumous work *Montgomery County, Virginia: the First Hundred Years* (1982). Through the American Legion, Crush is also credited with the founding of Virginia Boys' State.

Crush's wife, Eliza Clay Allen Crush, was born in Bland County, Virginia, in 1898. She attended Virginia Tech, and later passed the Virginia bar exam. Like Judge Crush, Mrs. Crush also maintained an active interest in local affairs. She served as the Christiansburg correspondent for the *Roanoke Times* for 25 years and is credited with founding Girls' State at Radford College (now Radford University). She served as acting Christiansburg postmaster during World War II and as assistant Christiansburg postmaster for six years prior to her death in 1966.

Scope and Content

This collection contains county records, correspondence and printed materials collected by Judge Charles W. Crush relating to the history of Christiansburg and Montgomery County. The Crush collection is divided among the following series: County Records, Altizer Family Papers, Sullivan Family Papers, Politics, Military, Local History, and General Materials.

The County Records series contains tax records dating back to the late eighteenth century, a few scattered court records from the early nineteenth century, and records of the Montgomery County overseer of the poor

from the late nineteenth century. The Altizer Family Papers consist of a three items of personal correspondence, while the Sullivan Family Papers contain receipts and tax records from the latter nineteenth century. The collection also contains a small file of materials relating to state and local politics during the 1920s and 1930s. Crush's involvement in recording and preserving local history is revealed in both the Military and Local History series, the former containing rosters and notes on local units, the latter including typescripts and printed materials on a variety of subjects relating to early Montgomery County history. A small set of general materials includes personal papers, ephemera and a photograph of Montgomery Male Academy.

Separated Materials

Several books were transferred from the collection to the Rare Book Collection.

Keywords

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Civil War

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Montgomery County (Va.)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

I. Montgomery County Records, 1796-1886, n.d. This series contains early tax records, including lists of tithables, delinquencies and insolvents compiled by commissioners of revenue and deputy sheriffs James and John Hoge, Thomas Henry, James Barnett, James Rayburn and William Rutlage. The series also contains a number of early records relating to the county court's payments on accounts and claims, most notably for work done on the courthouse and jail. From the latter nineteenth century, the series contains a tax receipt book from the Blacksburg district (dated 1884) and a small set of records from the county's overseer of the poor, including recommendations for assistance signed by overseer George W. L. Kabrick and account statements from local businesses. Materials are arranged by type, then chronologically.

II. Altizer Family Papers, 1900-1937 The Altizer Family Papers consist of three letters: two written by E. Wesley Altizer from Middlecreek, Illinois to relatives in Virginia (1900), and one written by Jacob Altizer of Christiansburg to Lila Altizer of Roanoke (1937). The letters are arranged chronologically.

III. Sullivan Family Papers, 1872-1895, n.d. This series contains papers of Christiansburg's Sullivan family and consists largely of receipts and tax records. Mentioned within the papers are Arthur O., C. W., Eugenia V., Mary Maude, Thomas E. and William Sullivan. Arranged chronologically. (For more on the Sullivans, see Ms56-001 - Sullivan Family Papers.)

IV. Politics, 1921-1936, n.d. This series contains correspondence and printed materials relating to both local and statewide campaigns. Included are numerous items (correspondence and printed material) concerning Clifton A. Woodrum's 1922 congressional campaign, sample ballots and Democratic Party printed matter. Arranged chronologically.

V. Military, 1918-1946, n.d. The Military series includes materials relating mostly to local involvement in the Civil War and both world wars. The Civil War materials include typescript rosters for local units and correspondence, forms and notes relating to grave markers of Confederate veterans. World War I items include a list of Montgomery County veterans, as well as official records and rosters of Company A, 314th Machine Gun Battalion (with which Crush and many other Southwest Virginia men served). Also filed here are printed materials regarding the American Legion, founded by World War I veterans. World War II materials include a list (with accompanying materials) of Montgomery Countians killed in the war and papers of Company 161, Virginia Reserve Militia. The series is arranged sequentially by war, then chronologically.

VI. Local History, 1880-1970, n.d. This series contains various materials relating to the history of Christiansburg and Montgomery County. Included are typescript and printed articles (written by Crush and others) on early Montgomery County history, a file of printed materials regarding the Lee Highway opening celebration (1926) and the roadway's historic background, and records of the steering committee for Christiansburg's 150th anniversary celebration (1957). Materials are loosely arranged by historical time period, with a file of newsclippings relating to various local history topics and periods completing the series.

VII. General Materials, 1886-1978, n.d. This small set of materials includes an invitation to an 1886 Athenaeum Literary Society event at King College (Bristol, Tennessee), a photograph of Christiansburg's Montgomery Male Academy, correspondence--mostly regarding army extension courses taken by Crush--and newspaper clippings related to Judge and Mrs. Crush and others. Arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I. Montgomery County Records

Unit Date 1796-1886

Tax records

Unit Date 1796

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Tax records

Unit Date 1799

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Tax records

Unit Date 1806

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Tax records

Unit Date 1811-1813

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Tax receipt book (Blacksburg District)

Unit Date 1884

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Claims and accounts paid by county

Unit Date 1795-1813

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Claims and accounts paid by county

Unit Date 1814-1860, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Overseer of the poor records

Unit Date 1880-1886

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Series II. Altizer Family Papers

Unit Date 1900-1937

Correspondence**Unit Date** 1900-1937**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Series III. Sullivan Family Papers****Unit Date** 1872-1895, n.d.**Receipts and tax records****Unit Date** 1872-1887**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Receipts and tax records****Unit Date** 1888-1895, n.d.**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Series IV. Politics****Unit Date** 1921-1936, n.d.**Correspondence, ballots, printed material****Unit Date** 1921-1936, n.d.**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Series V. Military****Unit Date** 1918-1946, n.d.**Scope and Content**

[see also Oversize Materials]

"Montgomery in the War Between the States"**Unit Date** n.d.**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Confederate veteran grave markers****Unit Date** 1918-1938, n.d.**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 5 (3 folders) (folder)**"Montgomery County World War [I] Service Roll"****Unit Date** n.d.**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Company A, 314th Machine Gun Battalion****Unit Date** 1918, n.d.**box-folder** 2 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)

American Legion

Unit Date 1933-1946, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Montgomery Countians killed in World War II

Unit Date 1945-1946, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Company 161, Virginia Reserve Militia (Christiansburg)

Unit Date 1940-1945, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Series VI. Local History

Unit Date 1880-1970, n.d.

"Incidents of Border Life in Virginia" by Letitia Floyd (typescript copy of 1880 Richmond Standardarticle)

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

"History of Montgomery County" typescript (includes typescript copies of early county records)

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 12 (2 folders) (folder)

Lee Highway opening celebration

Unit Date 1926

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Scope and Content

[see also Oversize Materials]

Christiansburg 150th anniversary celebration

Unit Date 1945

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 14 (2 folders) (folder)

Newsclippings

Unit Date 1940-1970, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Series VII. General Materials

Unit Date 1886-1978, n.d.

Correspondence, newsclippings, photographs, ephemera

Unit Date 1886-1978, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)
Container 16 (folder)

Oversize Materials

Unit Date 1937, 1945, n.d.

Virginia Legionnaire

Unit Date August 1937
folder 1

The Virginia Guardsman

Unit Date February 1945
folder 1

Map of the Lee Highway: a Main Street of the Nation

Unit Date n.d.
folder 1