1956

0008: George Henry Augustus Kunst Papers, 1846-1940

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OF THE

GEORGE HENRY AUGUST KUNST PAPERS

Accession Number: 1956/01.0008
Manuscript Collection (MS 8)

Special Collections Department
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Marshall University Huntington,
West Virginia
1974
GEORGE HENRY AUGUSTUS KUNST PAPERS, 1846-1940

Accession Number:  8

Processed by:  Cora P. Tee!; word-processed register typed by Amanda Quait, 1998.

Date Completed:  April 1974

Location:  Special Collections Department

This donor of this collection is Dr. Florence Kunst Hoback, daughter of Mr. Kunst. It was received in 1956.

Linear feet of shelf space:  4

Literary rights:  assigned to Marshall University.
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Explanatory notes:
Bx refers to "box" in which papers are filed.
Fd refers to "folder".
CONTENT AND SCOPE OF THE COLLECTION

Legal documents pertaining to Mr. Kunst's career as a lawyer in Grafton, West Virginia, comprise a major portion of this collection. Deeds, deeds of trust, mortgages, leases, and other legal papers of both a private and corporate nature are included. There are also plats and maps of property in Taylor County.

Records concerning the Empress Glass Company are a part of the collection. Included in this group of papers are the minute book of stockholder's meetings, stock certificates, and legal papers.

A portion of the collection is comprised of professional and personal correspondence dating from 1902 until 1940. There are also personal papers, among which are included financial and family papers.
George Henry Augustus Kunst was born in Pruntytown, Taylor County, West Virginia, on May 16, 1873, son of John Hoy and Florence (Rizer) Kunst and grandson of George Henry Augustus and Sallie (Gauer) Kunst. His grandfather came to this country from Prussia in 1823 and settled in Prunytown. His father was a merchant. After receiving his preliminary education at a private school in Prunytown, George H. A. Kunst was graduated from West Virginia University with a B.A. in 1895, M.A. in 1896, and LL.B. in 1898. Admitted to the West Virginia bar in 1898, he established a law practice in Grafton, where he continued to practice until his retirement in 1945. He served as prosecuting attorney of Taylor County from 1900 to 1902; later he helped found the Empress Glass Company in Grafton, which eventually became a subsidiary of the Continental Can Company. During 1944-1945, he was a judge on the West Virginia State Court of Claims in Charleston. He also engaged in farming, raising pedigreed diary cattle and other stock, and had an interest in coal property in West Virginia.

Mr. Kunst was a member of the West Virginia State and Taylor County bar associations, the West Virginia Historical Society, Phi Kappa Sigma, and the Emeritus Club of West Virginia University. His religious affiliation was with the St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Grafton. Politically, he was a Republican.

He was married in Grafton on March 5, 1921, to Mary Louise Conaway, daughter of Charles Edward Conaway, a Marion County, West Virginia, business executive. They were the parents of one daughter, Florence, now Mrs. John Holland Hoback of Huntington, West Virginia. Mr. Kunst died in Grafton on October 11, 1955.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bx 1</th>
<th>Correspondence, 1902-1940</th>
<th>9Fd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fd 1</td>
<td>Letters sent, 1904-1940</td>
<td>5 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 25, 1935- Grafton, WV: Letter to Mr. Robert Warman of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, in which Mr. Kunst relates news of family and friends. Comments on the unlikelihood of being appointed to any positions by Governor Kump and on the law doing away with a commissioner of school lands. Discusses taxes and the financial difficulty of the times.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fd 2</td>
<td>Business Correspondence, 1902-1935</td>
<td>17 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 27, 1908- Clarksburg, WV: Letter from Davis and Davis, attorneys, listing objections found in &quot;the title of the Southwestern Coal Company to certain tracts of coal, surface and other property near Wilsonburg, WV, which it proposes to leave to the Vincent Coal Company&quot;.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 26, 1912- Grafton, WV: Letter from W. H. Bailey, saying that he is leaving for Cincinnati to meet with Mr. McCoy. Says he discussed the type of mill wanted with Mr. Hart, who can finish everything for about $2700.00.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fd 3</td>
<td>Personal Correspondence, 1902-1912</td>
<td>14 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 6, 1908- Morgantown, WV: Letter from T. B. Wilgand, informing Mr. Kunst that he is in a new business, which is doing well. Speaks of seeing mutual friends, who reminisced about the &quot;summer law class of 1896&quot;. Mentions nomination for mayor of Morgantown and subsequent defeat.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb. 27, 1911 - Huttonsville, WV: Letter from E. Hutton informing Mr. Kunst of the arrival of two young men from Iowa. The men change trains in Grafton, and Mr. Hutton wishes Henry to look after them.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Feb. 22, 1911 - Uniontown, Pa.: Was glad they took their trip together; his wife is still excited about it. They boys were fine with their grandmother; they came home to find everything in good shape.

Jan. 3, 1911 - Hot Springs, Ark.: Letter from Florence Kunst (Mrs. John), Harry's mother, thanking him for letters and telling plans for coming home. Tells him to get up and see his father occasionally.

11. Professional Papers

Bx 2  Adolphus Armstrong Estate, 1867-1911

Fd 1  Deeds, 1867-1890  6 items
Fd 2  Armstrong and J. Kunst Deeds and Leases, 1876-1905  5 items
Fd 3  Law Suits  1 item
Fd 4  Recommendation Form, 1905  1 item
Fd 5  Plats, 1861-1903  5 items
Fd 6  Correspondence, 1910-1911  8 items
Fd 7  Administrator of Estate  1 item
Fd 8  Depositions  15 items
Bx2 (Coot'd)

Fd9  List of Note Due Against Estate  1 item
Fd 10 Bills, 1910-1911  8 items
Fd 11 Armstrong Estate vs. Maryland Coal Co.  2 items
Fd 12 State Supreme Court of Appeals  2 items
Fd 13 Receipt  1 item
Fd 14 Settlements Against Estate  3 items

Bx3  Private Legal Papers, 1864-1909  9Fd

Fd 1  Reuben Davisson, 1901  3 items
Fd2  Samuel Shrader, 1906-1908  3 items
Fd3  Deeds, 1864-1903  6 items
Fd4  Injunction, 1909  1 item
Fd5  Law Suits  2 items
Fd6  Plats  4 items
Fd7  Plats  2 items
Fd8  Blueprint - Map  2 items
Fd9  Miscellaneous Legal Documents  2 items

Bx 4  Corporation Papers, 1895-1922  12Fd

Fd 1  Beaumont Glass Co., Deed, 1902  1 item
Fd 2  Flemington Coal and Coke Co., Mortgage, 1895  1 item
Fd 3  H. R. and A. Ry Coupons, 1902-1906  1 item
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bx4</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fd4</td>
<td>Overholt Coal and Coke Co., Mortgage</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fd5</td>
<td>Monongahela Power and Railway Co., Right-Of-Way, 1922</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fd6</td>
<td>Rosemont Coal Co., Deed of Trust, 1900</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fd7</td>
<td>Southwestern Coal Co., Abstract of Title</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fd8</td>
<td>Southwestern Coal Co., Agreements, Deeds, 1908</td>
<td>6 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fd9</td>
<td>Washington Fuel Co., Deed, 1907</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fd 10</td>
<td>West Virginia Consolidated Gas Co., Copy Deed, 1908</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fd 11</td>
<td>West Virginia Consolidated Coal Co., Mortgage, 1906</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fd 12</td>
<td>West Virginia Midland Railroad Co., 1905</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BxS</th>
<th>Empress Glass Company, 1905-1910</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fd 1</td>
<td>Deeds, 1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fd2</td>
<td>Incorporation Document, 1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fd 3</td>
<td>Note Due, 1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fd4</td>
<td>Stock Certificate, 1905</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fd5</td>
<td>List of Stockholders, Blank Forms, 1908</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bk 1</td>
<td>Minute Book, Empress Glass Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bk2</td>
<td>Certificate Book, Empress Glass Co.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### III. Personal Papers

- **Bx6** Personal Papers, 1860-1925
  - **Fd 1** Bills and Receipts, 1904-1925
    - 10 items
  - **Fd 2** Check Book, 1912-1913
    - 1 item
  - **Fd 3** Collateral Notes, 1906-1907
    - 2 items
  - **Fd 4** Notes Due, 1909-1911
    - 5 items
  - **Fd 5** Insurance Policy Application Forms
    - 2 items
  - **Fd 6** Mortgage, 1925
    - 1 item
  - **Fd 7** Notebook- West Virginia University Law School, July 1896
    - 1 item
  - **Fd 8** Notations
    - 3 items
  - **Fd 9** Notations
    - 2 items
  - **Fd 10** Cards, Invitations
    - 4 items
  - **Fd 11** Description of a Coal and Coking Plant
    - 1 item
  - **Fd 12** Estey Wire Works, Accounts Payable
    - 1 item
  - **Fd 13** Miscellaneous Stock Certificates, 1906-1908
    - 2 items
  - **Fd 14** Tax Account, Taylor Co., W.Va., 1865
    - 1 item
  - **Fd 15** G. H. A. Kunst, Essay, 1885
    - 1 item
  - **Fd 16** John Kunst, Deeds, 1910-1916
    - 2 items
  - **Fd 17** Florence M. Kunst Cook Book
    - 1 item
  - **Fd 18** Minute Book, Franklin Debating Society, 1860
    - 1 item
Bx 7  Printed Material; Photographs

Fd 1  Campaign Literature, 1912  5 items

Fd 2 "Football Rules and Referee's Book", American Sports Publishing Co., 1894  1 item

Fd 3  North Flat-top Coal Land Association, Articles of Agreement  1 item

Fd 4  Notices  2 items

Fd 5  Pamphlets  3 items


Fd 7  West Virginia Dept. of Agriculture, Bulletin. "Touring West Virginia This Year", July 1926  1 item

Fd 8  West Virginia State Dept. of Archives and History. "Some Events and Persons of Importance in the History of West Virginia", 1937  1 item

Fd 9  West Virginia State Dept. of Education. "Classified Senior High Schools and Approved Junior High Schools, 1929-1930."  1 item

Fd 10  West Virginia University, Dept. of Instruction by Correspondence, 1897  1 item

Fd 11  Worthington Ranch Jersey Herd, Sale List, April 28, 1917  1 item

Fd 12  Photographs  48 items

IV. Oversized Material

Bx 8  Oversized Material  12 items

Bx 9  Blueprints  14 items

These boxes contain oversized certificates, maps, plats, and charts, primarily concerned with coal fields and coal production. A detailed list of the contents is included in each box.