

Speer, William McMurtrie, 1865-1923.

Papers, 1880-1936.

17 linear ft. (ca. 11,000 items in 34 boxes, 3 oversize volumes, & 1 oversize ~~coll.~~ folder).

Biography: William M. Speer was born in Huntingdon PA in 1865 and died in Piermont NY in 1923. He graduated from Yale University in 1880 and from the Albany Law School in 1887. He was a journalist, public official, lawyer, inventor, businessman, publisher, and author.

Summary: Correspondence, manuscripts, typescripts, contracts, legal briefs, patents, and other documents, music scores, cartoons, technical drawings, account books, blueprints, photographs, clippings, printed legal briefs & transcripts, proofs, scrapbooks, and other printed materials of William M. Speer.

There are 14 manuscript boxes & 3 oversize volumes concerning his work as a journalist & publisher. Speer was the Albany correspondent for "The Sun" from 1884 until 1893. From 1893 to 1896 he was editor and part owner of "The Argus" in Albany and there are business records from this period. There is a scrapbook of his articles for "The Buffalo Express" for the period from 1896 until 1903. In 1896 he founded The Law Press as a commercial printer for lawyers, and The Cornucopia Company to publish music and a literary periodical. From 1904 to 1909, he was editorial and legislative writer for the "Evening World" in New York City and there are files of his correspondence, editorial writing, and his investigations of the insurance industry and the Panama Canal libel suit. From 1903 until 1922, he contributed to periodicals and wrote books and pamphlets on many subjects. Starting in 1919, he worked on a scenario and publicity for the Fox Film Corporation's film on wounded veterans of the war. In 1922, he became an editorial writer for "The Evening Mail".

There are 10 boxes of material covering his activities as a public official and political appointee. In 1889, he was Secretary of the Johnstown Flood Committee; in 1889 and 1890, Secretary to The Committee for The International Exposition of 1892; in 1890, Secretary to Mayor of New York City Hugh J. Grant; in 1894, Delegate to the New York State Constitutional Convention. In 1910, he was appointed Special Counsel to New York City for the Ashokan Reservoir Compensation Claims, advising the city on landowners' claims in Ulster County. In 1912 and 1913, he was Special Counsel for the Aldermanic Police Investigation in New York City during the anticorruption drive of Mayor William J. Gaynor. In 1920, he became a Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States to investigate profiteering in the coal industry. There are 5 boxes of case files from his private legal practice for the period from 1890 to 1923.

And there are 4 boxes of papers and an oversize ~~file~~^{folder} of drawings concerning his interests as an inventor, promoter, and businessman. These are files about the Snow Melter (his device to clear city streets), his New York & Brooklyn Economic Power & Construction Company (for the transmission of electricity), The Pneumatic Co. (to manufacture stencil cutting machines), The Philippines Company (a shipping business), hinge making machines (patents and contracts for manufacturing), rack cutting apparatus, an old age pension plan (for the sale of annuities), the Food Committee (a planned co-operative purchasing company), Fabricated Concrete Corporation (which built, rented, and sold houses made of cinder block), Sunlight Gas Machine Co. (which sold equipment for gas lighting), timber mill and timber land sales (acting as an agent for selling land in the southern states), and public transit reorganization (his plan for improving the transportation system in New York City).

Among the cataloged correspondents are: Maxwell Anderson, Charles A. Dana, David B. Hill, Walter Hines Page, S.S. McClure, and Elihu Root.

Organization: Selected materials cataloged; remainder arranged chronologically within professional categories. Box 1-2: 1888-1936, Cataloged correspondence & Misc.; Box 3-14: 1884-1923, Journalist & Publisher; Box 15-24: 1889-1921, Public Official & Political Appointee; Box 25-29: 1890-1923, Attorney in Private Practice; Box 30-34: 1891-1923, Inventor, Promoter, & Businessman.

Donor: Gift of Mrs Ann Satterthwaite, 1991.

Permission to publish materials must be obtained in writing from the Librarian for Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Finding aids: Contents list, 5p.

1. Anderson, Maxwell, 1888-1959. 2. Comstock, Anthony, 1844-1915. 3. Dana, Charles A. (Charles Anderson), 1819-1897. 4. Dana, Paul, 1852-1930. 5. Gaynor, William Jay, 1849-1913. 6. Glynn, Martin Henry, 1871-1924. 7. Grant, Hugh John, 1855- 8. Hearst, William Randolph, 1863-1951. 9. Hill, David Bennett, 1843-1910. 10. Laffan, William M. 11. Lord, Chester Sanders, 1850-1933. 12. McClure, S. S. (Samuel Sidney), 1857-1949. 13. O'Connor, Joseph, 1841-1908. 14. Page, Walter Hines, 1855-1918. 15. Pulitzer, Joseph, 1847-1911. 16. Ralph, Julian, 1853-1903. 17. Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919. 18. Root, Elihu, 1845-1937. 19. Sulzer, William, 1863-1941. 20. Untermeyer, Samuel, 1858-1940. 21. Brooklyn Edison Company, Inc. 22. Cornucopia Company. 23. Delaware and Eastern Railway Company. 24. Dixie Transportation Co., Inc. 25. Douglass Barnes Corporation. 26. Equitable Life Insurance Company. 27. Fabricated Concrete Corporation. 28. Food Committee. 29. Fox Film Corporation. 30. International Exposition of 1892. 31. Johnstown Flood Committee. 32. Law Press. 33. New York and Brooklyn Economic Power and Construction Company. 34. New York Mail and Newspaper Transportation Company. 35. New York (N.Y.). Board of Aldermen. 36. New York (N.Y.). Board of City Record. 37. New York (N.Y.). Dept. of Water Resources. 38. New York (N.Y.). Law Dept. 39. New York (N.Y.). Office of the Mayor. 40. New York (N.Y.). Police Dept.--Investigation. 41. New York (State). Constitutional Convention (1894) 42. Philippines Company. 43. Pneumatic Co. 44. Sunlight Gas Machine Co., Inc. 45. United States. Attorney-General. 46. Argus (Albany, N.Y. : 1883 : Daily) 47. Brooklyn citizen. 48. Buffalo morning express (Buffalo, N.Y. : 1878) 49. City record (New York, N.Y.) 50. Evening mail (New York, N.Y. : 1904) 51. Evening world (New York, N.Y.) 52. New York law journal. New York, New York Law Pub. Co. 53. Sun (New York, N.Y. : 1833) 54. World (New York, N.Y. : 1883 : Daily) 55. Actions and defenses. 56. Agriculture. 57. Annuities. 58. Bankruptcy. 59. Cinder blocks. 60. Coal--Transportation--Law and legislation. 61. Coal trade. 62. Concrete houses. 63. Consumer cooperatives. 64. Cooperation. 65. Eminent domain--New York (State) 66. Floods--Johnstown (Pa.) 67. Food supply. 68. Gas lighting. 69. Government litigation. 70. Hinges--Manufacture. 71. Insurance. 72. Insurance companies--Investigation. 73. Inventions. 74. Journalism. 75. Libel and slander. 76. Local transit--New York (N.Y.)--Reorganization. 77. Lumber trade--Southern States. 78. Machinery. 79. Milk trade--Law and legislation--New York (State) 80. Music--Publishing. 81. Newspaper publishing. 82. Old age pensions. 83. Patents. 84. Police corruption--New York (N.Y.) 85. Precast concrete construction. 86. Printing--Technological innovations. 87. Publishers and publishing. 88. Real property. 89. Representation in administrative proceedings. 90. Sawmills--Southern States. 91. Shipping. 92. Ships, Concrete. 93. Snow removal--Technological innovations. 94. Stencils and stencil cutting--Technological innovations. 95. Transportation--New York (N.Y.)--Reorganization. 96. Trials (Libel) 97. World War, 1914-1918--Veterans. 98. Ashokan Reservoir (N.Y.) 99. Johnstown (Pa.)--Floods. 100. Kingston (N.Y.) 101. Panama Canal (Panama) 102. Ulster County (N.Y.) 103. Abstracts. 104. Account books. 105. Accounts. 106. Agreements. 107. Announcements. 108. Architectural drawings. 109. Articles. 110. Articles of incorporation. 111. Artifacts. 112. Bankruptcy proceedings. 113. Bills (financial). 114. Bills (legislative). 115. Biographies. 116. Blueprints. 117. Briefs. 118. Brochures. 119. Bylaws. 120. Cartoons. 121. Case files. 122. Certificates. 123. Charts. 124. Claims. 125. Clippings. 126. Commissions. 127. Contour maps. 128. Contracts. 129. Decisions. 130. Deeds. 131. Depositions. 132. Diagrams. 133. Drafts (literary). 134. Essays. 135. Fiction. 136. Galley proofs. 137. Geologic maps. 138. Illustrations. 139. Indictments. 140. Insurance policies. 141. Inventories. 142. Lists. 143. Maps. 144. Mechanical drawings. 145. Patent drawings. 146. Patents. 147. Photoengravings. 148. Photographs. 149. Printing blocks. 150. Proceedings. 151. Proofs. 152. Receipts. 153. Reports. ~~154. Rolls~~ 155. Scores. 156. Scrapbooks. 157. Scripts. 158. Sheet music. 159. Specifications. 160. Statistics. 161. Stock certificates. 162. Surveys. 163. Tables. 164. Testimonials. 165. Testimony. 166. Topographic maps. 167. Writs. 168. Businessmen. 169. Editors. 170. Government attorneys. 171. Inventors. 172. Journalists. 173. Lawyers. 174. Music publishers. 175. Promoters. 176. Public officers.

ID: NYCR92-A56

WILLIAM McMURTRIE SPEER PAPERS

1884-1923. Journalist & Publisher (cont.)

- Oversize vol.** Scrapbook of his articles from various newspapers,
1896-1923
- Box 7** 1904-1909. The World (New York NY) - Editorial & legislative writer
Correspondence & editorial matter, 1904-1912
Cartoons of Speer, no date
Clippings & other printed materials, 1904-1905
- Oversize vol.** Scrapbook of clippings, 1905
- Box 8** Printed editorials by Speer, clippings, & other
printed materials, 1906-1908
- Box 9** Printed editorials by Speer, clippings, & other
printed materials, 1908-1913
- Box 10** Insurance investigation, 1905-1909
Correspondence, drafts & memoranda, clippings, &
other printed materials
- Box 11** Panama libel suit, 1907-1910
Correspondence, drafts & proofs, memoranda &
documents, clippings & other printed materials
- Box 12** Panama libel suit, 1907-1910
Printed briefs, transcripts, & other legal documents
- Box 13** 1903-1910. Periodical articles & books by Speer
Correspondence, drafts, proofs, & printed copies of
his articles, including many on insurance
Correspondence, the typescript, & a reader's report
of his novel, John Van Buren, Politician.
- Box 14** 1906-1922. Periodical articles & books by Speer
Drafts & printed materials for his writings on
several subjects including W.R. Hearst, Theodore
Roosevelt, real estate, & legal subjects
- 1919-1922. Scenario & publicity for the Fox Film Corporation
Correspondence, drafts, & printed materials for his
work on a film on wounded veterans of World War I
- 1922-1923. The Evening Mail (New York NY) - Editorial writer
Correspondence & typescript drafts

1889-1921. Public Official & Political Appointee

- Box 15** 1889. Johnstown Flood Committee - Secretary
Lists & accounts
- 1889-1890. The Committee for The International Exposition of 1892 -
Secretary
Correspondence, account books, lists, & printed materials

WILLIAM McMURTRIE SPEER PAPERS

1890-1923. Attorney in Private Practice (cont.)

- Box 26** Case files
 Towns & McCrossin, Attorneys, 1897-1899
 Sexton vs. Ives, 1900-1903
 Brown vs. Proctor, 1903-1905
 Keystone Farm Machine Co. vs. N.Y. Agricultural Co., 1903-1909
 Platt vs. Inovation Trunk Co., 1903-1904
 Cowles bankruptcy, 1909
 The Bordon Company - Bordon's Milk, 1910
 Masten & Nichols - Food legislation, 1911-1916
 S.S. Kaplan to F.W. Brooks - Mortgages, 1912
 Stamford Water Company, 1916-1919
 Sylvia Perlson - Custody suit, 1917
- Box 27** Case files
 Delaware and Eastern Railway Company, 1918-1921
- Box 28** Case files
 Delaware and Eastern Railway Company, 1918-1923
 Dunlap vs. Star Company, 1918-1923
 Burke vs. Freundlich, 1920-1922
 Prohibition permits, 1920-1921
 Richardson vs. The Brooklyn Citizen, 1920-1922
 Jergens vs. Woodbury, 1921
 Pennsylvania Railroad Company, 1921
- Box 29** Case files
 Converse D. Marsh, 1921-1922
 Stern Miller Co., Inc bankruptcy, 1921-1922
 Vogue Shirt Co., Inc. bankruptcy, 1921-1922
 Drake patent, 1922
New York Law Journal, 1922
 618 West 148th Street, 1922

1891-1923. Inventor, Promoter, & Businessman

- Box 30** 1891-1911. The Snow Melter - a street clearing machine
 Correspondence, 1895-1911
 Documents & manuscripts
 Drawings & blueprints
 Photographs & photoengraving block
 Printed materials
- Mapcase 14/13/6** Drawings & blueprints
- Box 31** 1893-1901. New York & Brooklyn Economic Power and Construction Company
 Correspondence
 Contracts & documents
- 1893-1904. The Pneumatic Co. - Stencil cutting machines, etc.
 Correspondence, contracts, patents, & other documents,
 & printed materials

WILLIAM McMURTRIE SPEER PAPERS

1891-1923. Inventor, Promoter, & Businessman (cont.)

- Box 31** 1899. The Philippines Company - shipping
Documents & printed materials
- Box 32** 1902-1912. Hinge making machines.
Correspondence
Contracts & documents
Patent documents
Patent drawings
Printed materials
- 1903-1905. Rack cutting apparatus
Correspondence, contracts, & patents
- Box 33** 1911-1917. Old age pension plan - sale of annuities (Iron &
Steel Board of Trade)
Correspondence
Manuscripts & documents
Printed materials
- 1912-1913. Food Committee - a planned co-operative purchasing
company
Correspondence, 1912-1921
Documents, manuscripts, & printed materials
- 1918-1923. Fabricated Concrete Corporation - cinderblock houses
Correspondence, 1920-1923
Concrete boat hulls
Manuscripts & documents, 1918-1923
Printed materials
Technical drawings & blueprints
- Box 34** 1918-1923. Sunlight Gas Machine Co., Inc. - gas lighting
Correspondence, 1920-1923
Manuscripts & documents, 1918-1922
Printed materials
- 1919-1920. Timber mill & timber land sales - land in the southern
states
Correspondence & documents
1921. Public transit reorganization - New York City
Correspondence, manuscripts, & documents