

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Dum, George (c1863-1918)** **MC 2008.1**

Material: Business and Estate Papers (1906–1955)

Volume: 0.25 linear feet (1 Document Box, 2 Oversized Folders)

Donation: Gift of Robert Frey, 2007.

Usage: These materials have no restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

George Billow Dum was born in Green Park, Perry County, Pennsylvania around 1863. He attended the Poughkeepsie Business School in Poughkeepsie, New York. Upon completing school, his father purchased for him a general store in Landisburg, Pennsylvania, which Dum ran successfully for several years. As a way to increase his business among local farmers, who frequently lacked ready cash for shopping, Dum bought cut timber from them and sold the wood as railroad ties to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. He also began harvesting standing timber and invested in a number of woodland tracts. At some point, Dum became the secretary and superintendant for the Perry County-based Oak Grove Lumber Company. His business partners were P.F. Duncan, the company president, and William Wills, the treasurer. On the company's letterhead, Duncan, Dum and Wills characterized themselves as "manufacturers of ties, oak and pine lumber, rail keg staves and shingles."

On November 12, 1885, Dum married Annie Simmons Spotts, a native of Alinda, Pennsylvania. They had five children, three of whom survived into adulthood: Blanche Lightner Dum, Miriam Anna Dum Frey, and Ray Spotts Dum. In 1904 Dum sold the general store and moved his family to Carlisle, with the aim of sending his children to Dickinson College. He continued to harvest timber until 1911 or 1912, by which time he had opened a lumber and coal yard in Carlisle. Dum died of cancer in Carlisle on December 24, 1918. His wife Annie Dum passed away in April of 1938.

During the 1940s and 1950s, Dum's children and grandchildren collaborated with Duncan's and Wills's heirs to assess and attempt to sell the lumber company lands. Though this collection does not document any completed transaction, one of the company's three properties, the Oak Grove Tract, is currently part of the Florence Jones Reineman Sanctuary for wildlife. Dickinson College administered the Reineman Sanctuary from 1966 until 1984, when control over it was given to the Natural Lands Trust.

These papers were donated by Robert Mark Frey, grandson of George and Annie Dum and a member of the Dickinson College class of 1951.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The George Dum Business and Estate Papers are housed in one document box and two oversized folders. Its materials have been organized into two primary series, Business and Estate, and one small Miscellaneous series. Business materials are all those generated while George B. Dum was alive; Estate materials refer to everything created after his death in 1918. Both of these larger categories have been sorted into three subseries: Correspondence, Financial and Legal Papers, and Maps. This collection as a whole is in large part concerned with three tracts which the company owned, the 3204-acre Oak Grove Tract and the two Kennedy's Valley Tracts, which total 1300 acres. It does not contain a great deal of specific information about the Oak Grove Lumber Company's origins or the ultimate fate of the company's lands.

Within the Business series, the Correspondence section is organized alphabetically according to family member or agent and then chronologically. The majority of the letters date from 1911 and were almost entirely written to George Dum, regarding land surveying and other company matters. The Financial and Legal papers in this series date from 1906 to 1916 and represent the lumber company's day-to-day workings: time sheets, insurance assessments, payroll, and accounts. The Business Maps section contains two diagrams of the lumber company's property surveyed and hand-drawn by R.V. Woods. A larger map of the same land, also drawn by R.V. Woods but undated, is housed in the collection's second oversized folder and has been designated OC 2008.1.

Within the Estate series, the Correspondence section is organized alphabetically according to family member and then chronologically. It is dominated in large part by letters exchanged between Blanche Dum and various legal agents, including her nephew Robert Frey, involved in settling the lumber company's estate in the 1940s and 50s. Topics discussed include selling clear-cutting rights to AT&T for a radio relay station and partitioning the timber rights for jointly-held property. The Financial and Legal papers consist mainly of Blanche Dum's notes and calculations of the land's lumber value. Other highlights are contracts for land assessment, the final agreement with AT&T, and promotional material advertising the tracts. As with the correspondence, these documents span the 1940s and 50s. The final grouping in the Estate papers, Maps, contains a number of hand-drawn maps and diagrams of the two tracts, some by Blanche Dum and some unsigned, with notes comparing different types of lumber. A number of additional Estate maps are located in the collection's two oversized folders, OC 2008.1. These include a hand-drawn diagram of the tracts labeled with their previous owners, a map of the proposed radio relay station at Waggoner's Gap, and three US Geologic Survey maps of Southern Central Pennsylvania from the 1930s and 40s.

The Miscellaneous series contains only one item, a notebook kept by Robert Frey's father from approximately 1917. The contents of the notebook are fragmentary and seem to document some type of military education program.

For related research materials, explore the following collections, also located in the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections:

Dum Family Papers (MC 2007.5)

Records of the Florence Jones Reineman Wildlife Sanctuary (1966-1984)

Frank E. Masland, Jr. Papers

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2008.1

BUSINESS

Correspondence

- Folder 01) George B. Dum
 - From R. V. Woods – Mar. 3 - Mar. 30, 1911 (4)
 - From P. F. Duncan – Apr. 8, 1911
- Folder 02) From Charles H. Smiley – Apr. 12, 1911-Sep. 24, 1914 (8)
- Folder 03) Charles H. Smiley
 - To P. F. Duncan – Apr. 7, 1911

Financial and Legal

- Folder 04) Accounts – 1911-1912
- Folder 05) Insurance Assessments – 1906-1911
- Folder 06) Pay roll – 1907-1908
 - Real estate assessment slips – Feb. 1, 1916
- Folder 07) Time Books – 1906-1916

Maps

- Folder 08) Oak Grove Lumber Company Tracts – May 25, 1909 (2)

ESTATE

Correspondence

- Folder 09) Annie S. Spotts Dum (Mrs. George B. Dum)
 - From Duncan Wills – Apr. 4, 1919
- Folder 10) Blanche L. Dum
 - From Evan J. Miller, et. al. – Jun. 23, 1945
 - To H.J. Hessler – Sep. 3, 1945
 - From L.A. Ehrhart – Oct. 6, 1945
 - To B. Stiles Duncan – Feb. 8, 1953
 - From J. Howard Carr – Mar. 6, 1954
 - From Carlyle Gray – May 19, 1954
 - To B. Stiles Duncan – Jun. 25, 1954
 - To Evan J. Miller – Jun. 25, 1954
 - From J. Howard Carr [AT&T] – Jul. 12, 1954
 - From B. Stiles Duncan – Jul. 12, 1954
- Folder 11) To B. Stiles Duncan – Jul. 16, 1954
 - To Evan J. Miller – Jul. 16, 1954
 - To Evan J. Miller – Sep. 14, 1954
 - To B. Stiles Duncan – Feb. 26, 1955
 - To Ruth – Mar. 3, 1955
 - To Ruth – Mar. 12, 1955
 - From Charles W. Kugler – Apr. 20, 1955
 - To Charles W. Kugler – Apr. 22, 1955
 - To Robert M. Frey – undated
 - To Mr. Miller (2 drafts) – undated

BOX 1 - MC 2008.1 (cont.)

ESTATE (cont.)

Correspondence (cont.)

- Folder 12) Robert M. Frey
To Blanche Dum – Mar. 9, 1955
[Letters from Blanche to Ruth and B. Stiles Duncan
copied on reverse]
To Blanche Dum – Mar. 10, 1955
To Charles W. Kugler – Jun 15, 1955
- Folder 13) Merrill F. Hummel
To Charles W. Kugler – Jun. 15, 1955

Financial and Legal

- Folder 14) Calculations of timber and property value – c. 1945, 1952
Folder 15) Calculations of timber and property value – 1953, undated
Folder 16) Contracts
Timber assessment – Apr. 1953
Clear-cutting rights – Feb. 25, 1954
Description of Oak Grove and Kennedy's Valley tracts – undated
Promotional material, "Timberland in Perry County" – c Apr. 1945
Tax receipts – Aug. 31, 1955

Maps

- Folder 17) Unlabeled maps by Blanche Dum – undated (4)
Oak Grove Tract – undated [calculations and notes attached]

MISCELLANEOUS

- Folder 18) Notebook, "J. Mark Frey Army Y.M.C.A" – c. 1917

OVERSIZED - OC 2008.1

Maps

- Folder 01) Loysville Quadrangle, Pennsylvania – 1930 & 1933 eds.
New Bloomfield Quadrangle, Pennsylvania – 1944
Folder 02) Proposed Waggoner's Gap radio relay station – Mar. 30, 1954
Oak Grove Lumber Company Land – undated (2)

This collection register was prepared by Alissa Zawoyski, January 2008.