

## DeKalb History Center

### William Marion Guess Sr. Collection DeKalb County Court of Ordinary

**Introduction:** The Guess Collection consists of miscellaneous DeKalb County court documents over the period of 1844 to 1950. Included are tax records, land deeds, voter records, petitions, and various other documents.

**Provenance:** In the early 1970's, Judge William Marion Guess Sr. placed these documents in the care of the DeKalb History Center. The Guess Collection is currently on loan from the DeKalb County Court of Ordinary. Judge Guess was a judge in DeKalb's Recorder's Court from 1968 to 1976. He was also a mayor, city councilman, and city attorney for Stone Mountain. Judge Guess lived from 1907 to 1987.

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Citation should be as follows:

Description of specific item; Guess Collection, DeKalb History Center Archives.

Processed by Karrmen Currin, DHS intern, 1999.

**Size:** 5 document boxes

#### Description

The Guess Collection documents a century of life in DeKalb County through court documents, petitions, voter records, tax records, and other documents. The collection spans 1844 to 1950, with the majority of the items from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The collection consists of five boxes: Box 1, Miscellaneous Court Documents; Box 2, Petitions and Voter Records (Court of Ordinary); Box 3, Documents Relating to Land, Roads, and Animals; Box 4, Court Vouchers; and Box 5, Documents Relating to Taxes/Treasurer's Records. Box 1 is divided into special areas of interest, including documents pertaining to women and children, African-Americans, the Confederacy, etc. Of particular interest is the 1862 bill of sale for a slave in Folder 2. Box 2 contains mostly petitions for the levying of school taxes in the early twentieth century. Of particular interest are the signed petitions and lists of voters for each election. These documents are separated into DeKalb County districts. Box 3 contains original land deeds for DeKalb and Fulton Counties. These deeds often give detailed descriptions of land lots and are quite useful in tracing ownership of land. Box 4 contains court vouchers, including jurors' receipts, pauper's fund and jail fund receipts. Finally, Box 5 contains taxes and treasury records for DeKalb, including special receipts of John Steward, a wealthy Panthersville/Lithonia landowner, and J.A. Mason, a DeKalb County treasurer later prosecuted for mismanaged funds.

Additional notes concerning order and contents are written on some folders.  
Chronological order within category has been used whenever possible, and undated items usually precede dated ones.

### Folder List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
1	1	Documents Pertaining to Widows, Orphans, and Children	1844-1929
	2	Documents Pertaining to African-Americans	ca. 1860-1926
	3	Documents Pertaining to the Confederacy	1867-1903
	4	Creation of Kirkwood Militia District	1900
	5	Letters Excusing Roadhands from Work	1901-1902
	6	Road Hands Lists	1901
	7	Misc. Court Documents, DeKalb County	1866-1896
	8	Misc. Court Documents, DeKalb County	1901-1950
	9	Misc. Court Documents, Fulton County	1925-1938
	10	Misc. Documents	undated
2	1	Petitions and Voter Records, Avondale (Ingleside)	1908-1935
	2	Petitions and Voter Records, Caldwell School District	1908
	3	Petitions and Voter Records, Chamblee, Dunwoody, Doraville	1909-1930
	4	Petitions and Voter Records, Clarkston, RehoBeth	1920-1937
	5	Petitions and Voter Records, Cross Keys	1928-1933
	6	Petitions and Voter Records, Decatur	1920-1925
	7	Petitions and Voter Records, East Atlanta, Kirkwood, McWilliams, Oakhurst	1906-1923
	8	Petitions and Voter Records, East End	1905-1907
	9	Petitions and Voter Records, East Lake	1912-1925
	10	Petitions and Voter Records, Glen Haven	1937-1938
	11	Petitions and Voter Records, Lithonia	1920-1938
	12	Petitions and Voter Records, Mountain View	1920-1933
	13	Petitions and Voter Records, Redan	1909-1933

	14	Petitions and Voter Records, Southwest DeKalb	1927-1929
	15	Petitions and Voter Records, Stone Mountain	1920-1924
	16	Petitions and Voter Records, Tucker	1909
	17	Petitions and Voter Records, DeKalb County (general)	1918-1925
3	1	Misc. Original Deeds, DeKalb County	1848-1945
	2	Misc. Original Deeds, Fulton County	1856-1921
	3	Original Deeds for Lot 119, Clarkston	1892-1919
	4	Original Deeds for Stone Mountain Lot	1897-1917
	5	Petitions Concerning Obstructions of Roads and Lands	1873-1937
	6	Original Estray (Animal) Records	1866-1928
4	1	Pauper's Fund Receipts	1894-1896
	2	Jury Vouchers, Court of Ordinary	1894-1897
	3	Original Jurors' Receipts, Superior Court	1895-1896
	4	Common Fund Receipts	1895-1896
	5	Jail Fund Receipts	1895-1896
	6	Superior and Ordinary Court Jurors' Receipts	1895-1896
	7	Bridge Fund Receipts	1895-1897
5	1	Road Tax Record	1901
	2	Tax Collector's Receipts	1901
	3	Tax Collector's Receipts	1901
	4	Documents Relating to J.A. Mason Case	1889-1896
	5	Receipts, Taxes & Monies Collected, John B. Steward	1866-1891
	6	Insurance & Personal Bills, John B. Steward	1867-1891
	7	Misc. Documents and Receipts	1853-1934