



DALLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
"Remembering Dallas' past builds her future"

Caruth Family Papers A Guide

Finding aid author: Joseph Denton
Date Finding Aid completed: 07/14/14

Descriptive Summary

Collection Title	Caruth Family Papers
Creator	William Barr Caruth, Mattie Caruth, W. W. Caruth, Sr., W. W. Caruth, Jr., Walter Caruth, Sr., and Walter Caruth, Jr.
Inclusive Dates	1847-1958, Undated
Bulk Dates	1870s-1920s
Abstract	The Caruth family was one of the pioneer families of Dallas, most notable for amassing large tracts of land and shaping the landscape of the city over several generations. The Caruth Family Collection contains correspondence, legal documents such as deeds and title abstracts, financial documents such as bills and receipts, and other materials that relate to the personal lives and business dealings (mainly in real estate) of members of the Caruth family, primarily William Barr Caruth, Mattie Caruth, Walter Caruth, Sr., and W. W. Caruth, Sr.
Accession Number	A.79.38
Extent	11 boxes; 3.42 linear ft.

Historical Note

Biographical	William Barr Caruth (1827-1885) moved to Dallas in 1848, and his brother Walter Caruth, Sr. (1826-1897) joined him in 1849. They established the W. Caruth & Brother General Store, which was successful enough that they were able to use the funds generated from it to acquire land that eventually amounted to over 30,000 acres and that stretched north from downtown Dallas to Forest, and east from Preston to Abrams. The land was used initially for cotton, and later, dairy and cattle operations. The brothers also served in the Confederate army during the Civil War, and they continued to work together until 1881. William Barr Caruth's wife, Mattie Caruth (1836-1907) managed the Caruth Homestead and the family's real estate property after her husband died of skin cancer. ¹
---------------------	--

Their son, W. W. Caruth, Sr. (1876-1949), continued to oversee the land and real estate holdings of the Caruth family. Notably, in 1911, he donated and sold almost 800 acres of land to Southern Methodist University in order to help secure its place in Dallas. W. W. Caruth Sr.'s son, W. W. Caruth, Jr. (1912-1990), developed and leased large amounts of land from the family's estate throughout his lifetime, essentially shaping the landscape of north Dallas.²

1. "The Family," <http://www.caruthhomeplace.org/the-family.asp>; "The Caruth Saga," <http://www.dmagazine.com/publications/d-magazine/1975/september/the-caruth-saga>
2. "The Family," <http://www.caruthhomeplace.org/the-family.asp>; "The Caruth Saga," <http://www.dmagazine.com/publications/d-magazine/1975/september/the-caruth-saga>

Scope and Contents

The Caruth Family Collection contains the papers of members of the Caruth family, including Mattie Caruth, William Barr Caruth, W. W. Caruth, Sr., W. W. Caruth, Jr., Walter Caruth, Sr., and Walter Caruth, Jr. The types of materials found within the collection include correspondence, legal documents (such as title abstracts, affidavits, statements, certificates of title, chains of title, contracts, deeds, leases, petitions, power of attorney forms, releases, wills, and oaths), court papers (such as reports, lists of evidence, judgments, deeds, orders, reports of sale, answers, notices, affidavits, bills of cost, citations, and releases), and financial documents (such as account books, bank books, deposit slips, bills, receipts, cancelled checks, certificates, Confederate bonds, ledgers, financial lists, notes, and statements).

There are four series in the collection: Correspondence, Legal Documents, Court Papers, and Financial Documents.

The first series, Correspondence (1861-1958, Undated), contains correspondence between members of the Caruth family and others. One of the main topics is the Rock Creek Mining Company, of which Mattie Caruth and her nephew, Walter Caruth, Jr., were involved in. There is also correspondence related to other business matters involving Mattie Caruth, William Barr Caruth, W. W. Caruth, Sr., and Walter Caruth, Sr., and personal correspondence between members of the Caruth family and others.

The second series, Legal Documents (1847-1927, Undated), contains title abstracts, affidavits, certificates of title, chains of title, contracts, deeds, leases, petitions, power of attorney forms, releases, statements, wills, and an amnesty oath pledged to the U.S. government and signed by William Barr Caruth. These documents illustrate the business activity of members of the Caruth family in the area of real estate, including their involvement with the

development of Southern Methodist University.

The third series, Court Papers (1849-1926, Undated), contains answers, affidavits, bills of cost, citations, deeds, judgments, lists of evidence, notices, orders, releases, reports, reports of sale, and other court documents. These papers relate to *Annie Caruth, et al vs. W. W. Caruth, Caruth vs. McCommas, Grigsby vs. Bowles, Irvin vs. Hoffmeyer, Stone vs. Herndon*, and the estates of Emily G. Caruth and others.

The fourth series, Financial Documents (1856-1949, Undated), contains account books, bank books, deposit slips, bills, receipts, cancelled checks, certificates, Confederate bonds, ledgers, financial lists, notes, and statements related to members of the Caruth family, and in particular, Mattie Caruth and W. W. Caruth, Sr.

This collection offers insight into the areas of real estate, mining, the Caruth family, and the history and development of Dallas.

Restrictions

Access Open for research.

Administrative Information

Literary Rights Statement	Permission to publish, reproduce, distribute, or use by any and all other current or future developed methods or procedures must be obtained in writing from the Dallas Historical Society. All rights are reserved and retained regardless of current or future development or laws that may apply to fair use standards.
Provenance	Caruth Homestead Removed in 1958
Acquisition	Gift of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Jr. 09/26/1979
Citation	Caruth Family Papers, A.79.38, Box Number, Folder Number, Dallas Historical Society.
Related Material	A.54.51 A.59.56 M.54.3

Arrangement

The collection is separated into 4 series:

- Series 1: Correspondence
- Series 2: Legal Documents
- Series 3: Court Papers
- Series 4: Financial Documents

Each series is arranged in alphabetical order, and then chronologically within each subject folder, unless otherwise noted.

Index Terms

Persons	Mattie Caruth
	Walter Caruth, Jr.
	Walter Caruth, Sr.
	William Barr Caruth
	William W. Caruth, Jr.
	William W. Caruth, Sr.
Organizations	Rock Creek Mining Company
	Southern Methodist University

Container List

Series I. Correspondence. 1861-1958, Undated.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Dates
1	A.79.38.1	Business Letters (Mines)	1894
1	A.79.38.2	Business Letters (Mines)	1895
1	A.79.38.3	Business Letters (Mines)	1896
1	A.79.38.4	Business Letters (Mines)	January 1897
1	A.79.38.5	Business Letters (Mines)	March – July 1897
1	A.79.38.6	Business Letters (Mines)	August – December 1897
1	A.79.38.7	Business Letters (Mines)	January – May 1898
1	A.79.38.8	Business Letters (Mines)	June – November 1898
1	A.79.38.9	Business Letters (Mines)	1899
1	A.79.38.10	Business Letters (Mines)	1900
1	A.79.38.11	Business Letters (Mines)	1901
1	A.79.38.12	Business Letters (Mines)	1902, Undated
1	A.79.38.13	Business Letters (Miscellaneous)	1887-1899
1	A.79.38.14	Business Letters (Miscellaneous)	1900-1905
1	A.79.38.15	Invitations & Cards	1877-1895, 1958, Undated
1	A.79.38.16	Letters to Other Family Members	1861-1879
1	A.79.38.17	Letters to Other Family Members	1888-1896, Undated
1	A.79.38.18	Letters to W. W. Caruth, Sr.	1887
1	A.79.38.19	Letters to W. W. Caruth, Sr.	1919-1932

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Dates
1	A.79.38.20	Letters to Wm. Caruth or W. Caruth & Brother	1865-1872
1	A.79.38.21	Letters to Wm. Caruth or W. Caruth & Brother	1873
1	A.79.38.22	Letters to Wm. Caruth or W. Caruth & Brother	1874
1	A.79.38.23	Letters to Wm. Caruth or W. Caruth & Brother	1875-1877
2	A.79.38.24	Miscellaneous Letters	1880-1888
2	A.79.38.25	Miscellaneous Letters	1915, Undated
2	A.79.38.26	Miscellaneous Letters	Undated
2	A.79.38.27	Personal Correspondence	1868-1869
2	A.79.38.28	Personal Correspondence	1870-1872
2	A.79.38.29	Personal Correspondence	1877-1878
2	A.79.38.30	Personal Correspondence	1880-1882
2	A.79.38.31	Personal Correspondence	1885-1886
2	A.79.38.32	Personal Correspondence	1887
2	A.79.38.33	Personal Correspondence	1888-1889
2	A.79.38.34	Personal Correspondence	1890-1892
2	A.79.38.35	Personal Correspondence	1893-1895
2	A.79.38.36	Personal Correspondence	1897-1898
2	A.79.38.37	Personal Correspondence	1899
2	A.79.38.38	Personal Correspondence	1901-1902
2	A.79.38.39	Personal Correspondence	1904-1905

Series 2. Legal Documents. 1847-1927, Undated.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Dates
2	A.79.38.40	Abstracts	1888
2	A.79.38.41	Abstracts	1888
2	A.79.38.42	Abstracts	1890
2	A.79.38.43	Abstracts	1905
2	A.79.38.44	Abstracts	1905

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Dates
2	A.79.38.45	Abstracts	1906
3	A.79.38.46	Abstracts	1908
3	A.79.38.47	Abstracts	1908
3	A.79.38.48	Abstracts	1908
3	A.79.38.49	Abstracts	1909
3	A.79.38.50	Abstracts	1911
3	A.79.38.51	Abstracts	1912
3	A.79.38.52	Abstracts	1912
3	A.79.38.53	Abstracts	1913
3	A.79.38.54	Abstracts	1913
3	A.79.38.55	Abstracts	1914
3	A.79.38.56	Abstracts	1914
3	A.79.38.57	Abstracts	1918
3	A.79.38.58	Abstracts	1920
3	A.79.38.59	Abstracts	1921-1924
3	A.79.38.60	Abstracts	1925
3	A.79.38.61	Abstracts	1925
3	A.79.38.62	Abstracts	1925
4	A.79.38.63	Abstracts	1926
4	A.79.38.64	Abstracts	1926
4	A.79.38.65	Affidavits & Statements	1897-1927
4	A.79.38.66	Certificates of Title	1912, 1922
4	A.79.38.67	Chains of Title	1911-1926
4	A.79.38.68	Chains of Title	1923-1925
4	A.79.38.69	Chains of Title	1925
4	A.79.38.70	Chains of Title – Miscellaneous	1913
4	A.79.38.71	Contracts	1897-1899, 1902, 1907
4	A.79.38.72	Contracts	1921
4	A.79.38.73	Contracts	1922-1927
4	A.79.38.74	Deeds	1847-1853
4	A.79.38.75	Deeds	1854
4	A.79.38.76	Deeds	1855

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Dates
4	A.79.38.77	Deeds	1856
4	A.79.38.78	Deeds	1858
4	A.79.38.79	Deeds	1859
4	A.79.38.80	Deeds	1860-1861
4	A.79.38.81	Deeds	1862
4	A.79.38.82	Deeds	1863-1867
5	A.79.38.83	Deeds	1868
5	A.79.38.84	Deeds	1869
5	A.79.38.85	Deeds	1870
5	A.79.38.86	Deeds	1871
5	A.79.38.87	Deeds	1872
5	A.79.38.88	Deeds	1873
5	A.79.38.89	Deeds	1874
5	A.79.38.90	Deeds	1875
5	A.79.38.91	Deeds	January – April 1876
5	A.79.38.92	Deeds	June – September 1876
5	A.79.38.93	Deeds	1877
5	A.79.38.94	Deeds	1878
5	A.79.38.95	Deeds	1879
5	A.79.38.96	Deeds	1880
5	A.79.38.97	Deeds	1881
5	A.79.38.98	Deeds	1883
5	A.79.38.99	Deeds	1884
5	A.79.38.100	Deeds	1885-1886
5	A.79.38.101	Deeds	1887
5	A.79.38.102	Deeds	1888-1889
5	A.79.38.103	Deeds	1892-1895
5	A.79.38.104	Deeds	1896
5	A.79.38.105	Deeds	1897-1899
5	A.79.38.106	Deeds	1900
6	A.79.38.107	Deeds	July – August 1905
6	A.79.38.108	Deeds	October 1905

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Dates
6	A.79.38.109	Deeds	May 1906
6	A.79.38.110	Deeds	August 1906
6	A.79.38.111	Deeds	1907-1908
6	A.79.38.112	Deeds	1909
6	A.79.38.113	Deeds	1910
6	A.79.38.114	Deeds	1911-1913
6	A.79.38.115	Deeds*	1914
		*Includes a deed to Southern Methodist University.	
6	A.79.38.116	Deeds	1915-1917
6	A.79.38.117	Deeds	1918-1919
6	A.79.38.118	Deeds*	1920
		*Includes a deed to Southern Methodist University.	
6	A.79.38.119	Deeds	1921
6	A.79.38.120	Deeds	1922
6	A.79.38.121	Deeds	1924-1927
6	A.79.38.122	Deeds - Mattie Caruth, et al to Annie Caruth	Undated
6	A.79.38.123	Grant of Right-of-Way	1887
6	A.79.38.124	Leases	1867-1898
6	A.79.38.125	Mortgage	1874
6	A.79.38.126	Petition	1882
6	A.79.38.127	Powers of Attorney	1859-1877
6	A.79.38.128	Powers of Attorney	1878-1884, 1905
6	A.79.38.129	Release	1906, 1910
6	A.79.38.130	Release (Photocopies)	1906, 1910
7	A.79.38.131	Release of Liens	1889-1906
7	A.79.38.132	Release of Liens	1908-1910
7	A.79.38.133	Release of Liens	1913-1918
7	A.79.38.134	Title Bonds	1849, 1853-1854
7	A.79.38.135	Transfer of Vendor's Lien Notes	1900-1921
7	A.79.38.136	Wills	1860, 1869, 1913
7	A.79.38.137	Wm. Caruth's Amnesty Oath	1865-1866

Series 3. Court Papers. 1849-1926, Undated.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Dates
7	A.79.38.138	Annie Caruth, et al vs. W. W. Caruth – Judgment	1926
7	A.79.38.139	Annie Caruth, et al vs. W. W. Caruth - Report & Lists of Evidence	1926
7	A.79.38.140	Caruth vs. McCommas – Deeds	1874, 1881-1885
7	A.79.38.141	Caruth vs. McCommas – Judgment	1882
7	A.79.38.142	Caruth vs. McCommas - Power of Attorney	1882
7	A.79.38.143	Estate of Emily G. Caruth	1881-1882
7	A.79.38.144	Estate of Francis Ferris	1874-1875
7	A.79.38.145	Estate of Jonas Crane – Deeds	1870, 1872
7	A.79.38.146	Estate of Jonas Crane – Partition	1870
7	A.79.38.147	Grigsby vs. Bowles - Answer, Notice, Affidavit, Abstract of Evidence, Bill of Costs, Court Order, Citation in Error	1883, 1891, Undated
7	A.79.38.148	Grigsby vs. Bowles – Deeds	1849
7	A.79.38.149	Grigsby vs. Bowles – Deeds	1851-1852
7	A.79.38.150	Grigsby vs. Bowles – Deeds	1853-1854
7	A.79.38.151	Grigsby vs. Bowles – Deeds	1857, 1859
7	A.79.38.152	Grigsby vs. Bowles – Deeds	1870
7	A.79.38.153	Grigsby vs. Bowles – Deeds	1872, 1876, 1879
8	A.79.38.154	Grigsby vs. Bowles – Deeds	Undated
8	A.79.38.155	Grigsby vs. Bowles - Evidence, Financial Documents	1891, 1903
8	A.79.38.156	Grigsby vs. Bowles - Miscellaneous Evidence	1849-1891, Undated
8	A.79.38.157	Grigsby vs. Bowles – Release	1903
8	A.79.38.158	Irvin vs. Hoffmeyer	Undated
8	A.79.38.159	Stone vs. Herndon – Judgment	1872

Series 4. Financial Documents. 1856-1949, Undated.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Dates
8	A.79.38.160	Account Books	1872
8	A.79.38.161	Account Books	1873
8	A.79.38.162	Account Books	1888-1889
8	A.79.38.163	Bank Books	1893-1907
8	A.79.38.164	Bank Deposit Slips & Check Stubs	1893-1906
8	A.79.38.165	Bills & Receipts	1867-1869
8	A.79.38.166	Bills & Receipts	1870-1872
8	A.79.38.167	Bills & Receipts	1873
8	A.79.38.168	Bills & Receipts	1874
8	A.79.38.169	Bills & Receipts	1875
8	A.79.38.170	Bills & Receipts	1877-1879
8	A.79.38.171	Bills & Receipts	1884
8	A.79.38.172	Bills & Receipts	1886-1889
8	A.79.38.173	Bills & Receipts	1890-1899
8	A.79.38.174	Bills & Receipts	1900-1905
8	A.79.38.175	Bills & Receipts	1909-1923
8	A.79.38.176	Bills & Receipts	1949
8	A.79.38.177	Bills & Receipts	Undated
9	A.79.38.178	Cancelled Checks - Mattie Caruth	1887-1892
9	A.79.38.179	Cancelled Checks - Mattie Caruth	1893-1900
9	A.79.38.180	Cancelled Checks - Mattie Caruth	1901-1906
9	A.79.38.181	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	1909-1912, 1929
9	A.79.38.182	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	January 1930
9	A.79.38.183	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	February 1930
9	A.79.38.184	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	March 1930
9	A.79.38.185	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	April 1930
9	A.79.38.186	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	May 1930

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Dates
9	A.79.38.187	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	June 1930
9	A.79.38.188	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	July 1930
9	A.79.38.189	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	August 1930
10	A.79.38.190	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	September 1930
10	A.79.38.191	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	October 1930
10	A.79.38.192	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	November 1930
10	A.79.38.193	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	December 1930
10	A.79.38.194	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	January – June 1931
10	A.79.38.195	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	July – December 1931
10	A.79.38.196	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	1932
10	A.79.38.197	Cancelled Checks - Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr.	January – April 1933
10	A.79.38.198	Certificates & Receipts of Redemption	1893-1897, 1911
10	A.79.38.199	Confederate Bonds	1864
10	A.79.38.200	Ledger	1892-1894
10	A.79.38.201	Ledger	1904-1907
11	A.79.38.202	Ledger Sheets	1860-1905
11	A.79.38.203	Ledger Sheets	Undated
11	A.79.38.204	Miscellaneous Financial Lists	1884
11	A.79.38.205	Miscellaneous Financial Lists	1895-1897
11	A.79.38.206	Miscellaneous Financial Lists	1906-1923
11	A.79.38.207	Miscellaneous Financial Lists	1931, 1934
11	A.79.38.208	Miscellaneous Financial Lists	Undated
11	A.79.38.209	Miscellaneous Financial Memos	Undated

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Dates
11	A.79.38.210	Note Collection Receipts	1925
11	A.79.38.211	Note Collection Receipts	January – February 1926
11	A.79.38.212	Note Collection Receipts	March 1926
11	A.79.38.213	Note Collection Receipts	April 1926
11	A.79.38.214	Note Collection Receipts	May – June 1926
11	A.79.38.215	Note Collection Receipts	July – August 1926
11	A.79.38.216	Notes	1856-1891
11	A.79.38.217	Notes	1895-1896
11	A.79.38.218	Notes	1900-1913
11	A.79.38.219	Notes	1920-1927
11	A.79.38.220	Order Book	1878
11	A.79.38.221	Statements of Notes Held for Collection	1930-1933
11	A.79.38.222	Tax Receipts	1882-1889
11	A.79.38.223	Tax Receipts	1893-1899
11	A.79.38.224	Tax Receipts	1900-1916
11	A.79.38.225	Tax Receipts	1921-1926, Undated
11	A.79.38.226	Weekly Time Book	1925