

National Willa Cather Center

Finding aid for

Betty Kort Collection

Date range: 1762 - 1973

Bulk dates: 1918 - 1943

Finding Aid created by Tracy Tucker 2015

Copyright Willa Cather Foundation

Extent: 2 boxes

Abstract: The Betty Kort Collection was donated by James and Angela Southwick and contains documents and personal effects belonging to Charles and Virginia Cather, Willa Cather, and family members.

Language: The material is in English

Acquisition Information: This collection came to the WCF in 2008, deposited by James and Angela Southwick (Donor 50).

Access Restrictions: The record group is open to research.

Copyright: Copyright remains with the Willa Cather Foundation.

Cite as: [item #] The Betty Kort Collection of the Willa Cather Foundation.

History: The Betty Kort Collection contains personal items that were given to Helen Cather Southwick upon the death of her aunt, author Willa Cather. James Southwick, Helen Cather Southwick's son, donated the collection to the Willa Cather Foundation in 2008.

Scope and Content: Contains original property deeds and plat maps related to the Cather land in Virginia and articles of indenture, wills, leases, birth and death records, and financial documents for the Smith, Boak, and Cather families. A collection of Confederate money and treasurer notes, loan documents and checks belonging to the family. Willa Cather items include: poems "The Truth About Horace" and "Seats of the Mighty"; photos from Grand Manan, G.P. Cather's grave in France; lipstick case, pen holders, jewelry, and purses. Journals: Willa Cather's log of sales accounts; 3 journals of Charles Cather. Letters – Charles Cather, Fanny Butcher. Magazine prints of Cather short stories. Honorary degrees.

Subjects:

- Short stories – magazine publication
- Cather genealogy
- Personal effects

Related Materials:

Southwick Rare Book Collection

Southwick Family Collections

Folder #	Description
TEX-50-1000-1	"Property deed to J. Smith in Virginia, 1762. Lord Fairfax signed (Legend says that it was surveyed by George Washington.)"
TEX-50-1000-2	"Property deed to land adjacent to Jeremiah Smith signed by Light Horse Henry Lee, father of Robert E. Lee. (He was a general in the Revolutionary War.) Also a photocopy of the back. 1792."
TEX-50-1000-3	Framed transcription of 50-1000-2
OBJ-50-1000-4	Douglass Cather notebook
OBJ-50-1000-5	Charles F. Cather journal
OBJ-50-1000-6	Charles F. Cather journal
OBJ-50-1000-7	Property deed to Jeremiah Smith in Back Creek, Virginia 1793 (Framed)
OBJ-50-1000-8	Horace poem inside book cover (with photocopy) "The Truth about Horace" actually written by Eugene Field
TEX-50-1000-9	American Express money order to Willa Cather
TEX-50-1000-10	James Cather legal document 1875
OBJ-50-1000-11	William Cather to Estate of James Cather, ledger, debt
TEX-50-1000-12	Letter to Cathers from Virginia (Dear Cousin Charlie)
TEX-50-1000-13	Legal Miscellany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13-1 James Cather Treasurer Notes 1875, 1876 13-2 Two loan documents, 1874, 1869 13-3 Two City National Bank, Lincoln, checks, 1900
TEX-50-1000-14	Princeton Honorary Degree (two newspapers)
OBJ-50-1000-15	Grand Manan watercolor by Edith Lewis
OBJ-50-1000-16	Photo of Cather
TEX-50-1000-17	Indenture (Featigue = Charles's middle name)
TEX-50-1000-18	Jeremiah Smith's will with photocopy
TEX-50-1000-19	Douglass Cather's Grand Lodge Application
TEX-50-1000-20	Two sheets of Boak birth and death records

TEX-50-1000-21 1870 receipt (James Cather)

TEX-50-1000-22 Financial document between Samuel Smith, son of Jeremiah, and George Smith

OBJ-50-1000-23 Collection of Confederate money

TEX-50-1000-24 Photocopy of letter to H.L Cather Southwick January 20, 1943

TEX-50-1000-25 Photocopy of letter to H.L Cather Southwick July 22, 1943

TEX-50-1000-26 Photocopy of letter to H.L Cather Southwick October 24, 1946

TEX-50-1000-27 Poem to Roscoe titled "To Roscoe with "Seats of the Mighty" by Gilbert Parker

TEX-50-1000-28 Two letters from Jenni to Charles (undated)

TEX-50-1000-29 Four letters from Charles to Jennie

PHO-50-1000-30 Photo of G.P. Cather's grave in France

PHO-50-1000-31 Photo at Grand Manan (unknown woman)

PHO-50-1000-32 Photo of Mary Virginia Auld, Virginia Cather, H.L. Cather, and Jessica Cather

TEX-50-1000-33 Agreement with C. W. Cather and heirs

TEX-50-1000-34 Letter from Virginia to Cathers, 1907, S.A. Smith

OBJ-50-1000-35 C.F. Cather business Christmas card

TEX-50-1000-36 Barnum documents, 1856

TEX-50-1000-37 Letter from Douglass to father, June 30, 1929

TEX-50-1000-38 Two letters from Fanny Butcher to H.L. Cather, 1971, 1973

TEX-50-1000-39 Envelope from CF Cather to Cather with Cather's writing, 9-23-27

TEX-50-1000-40 Two envelopes from Gore, Virginia, 1907, to CF Cather

TEX-50-1000-41 Photocopies of 50-1000-28 and 50-1000-29

TEX-50-1000-43 C.F. Cather's obituary in Commercial Advertiser

TEX-50-1000-44 C.F. Cather's death certificate

TEX-50-1000-45 Platt and Frees Co. C.F. Cather legal document 1891

TEX-50-1000-46 Probate document (George Hutchison)

OBJ-50-1000-47 Dos Banderos Oil Douglass Cather

TEX-50-1000-48 Indenture (Sidney Cather Gore) widow of Mahlon Gore (ran a store in Back Creek) 1858

TEX-50-1000-49 George Cather lease (George Smith)

TEX-50-1000-50 McClure's, "The Diamond Mine," October 1916

TEX-50-1000-51 Willa Cather Centennial Concert and Review with picture

TEX-50-1000-52 New York Herald Tribune, Princeton, 1931

TEX-50-1000-53 New York Herald Tribune, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, 1933

TEX-50-1000-54 Books and Books Column, Pittsburgh Gazette, 1903 Review of April Twilights

TEX-50-1000-55 The Library, "The Conversion of Sum Loo"

TEX-50-1000-56 New York Times Book Review of Shadows on the Rock, 1931

TEX-50-1000-57 Cather article from The Nation, 1923

OBJ-50-1000-58 Lipstick case

OBJ-50-1000-59 Pen holder

OBJ50-1000-60-1 Small metal purse

60-2 Small metal purses

OBJ-50-1000-61 Snake ring with accompanying 1984 WCPMN article explaining it

TEX-50-1000-62 Letter to C.F. Cather from Charles Moore, 1921

TEX-50-1000-63 Letter to H.L. Cather Southwick, December 20, 1939

(West = Virginia Brockway and East = Mary Virginia Cather Auld)

OBJ-50-1000-64 Edith Lewis's camera with cable release

TEX-50-1000-65 Log of sales accounts for novels

TEX-50-1000-66 C.F. Cather shares in Big Chief Oil and Gas

OBJ-50-1000-67 Plot map and summary of George Smith land in Back Creek, 1793

TEX-50-1000-68 Rental agreement, 1840, Willes Crane Blacks and George Smith

TEX-50-1000-69 Charles F. Cather biography

OBJ-50-1000-70 Cather's address book with H.L. Cather Southwick's picture

OBJ-50-1000-71 C.F. Cather's 1872 journal (Trip to Colorado) and transcription

TEX-50-1000-72 Photocopy of letter to H.L. Cather Southwick, December 20, 1939