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Thomas S. Buie Papers

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Clemson University Libraries Special Collections and Archives

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Clemson, SC 29634

cuscl@clemson.edu

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Summary Information

Repository:	Clemson University Libraries Special Collections and Archives
Creator:	Buie, T.S. (Thomas Stephen)
Title:	Thomas S. Buie Papers
ID:	Mss.0365
Date [inclusive]:	1905-1981
Physical Description:	8.0 Cubic Feet 6.5 document boxes, 1 oversize box, 3 oversize folders
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Thomas S. Buie was a Clemson graduate, World War I veteran, and a pioneer and leader in the study and promotion of soil and water conservation and land rehabilitation in the mid-twentieth century. The materials within this collection particularly document Buie's World War I Army service and the development of state and regional agencies responsible for erosion control, soil conservation and land use in the Southeastern United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Additional materials include research data about rural churches in South Carolina for the Methodist Church Town and Country Committee.

Preferred Citation

Mss 365, Thomas S. Buie Papers, Special Collections and Archives, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, SC 29634

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Biographical / Historical

Thomas Stephen Buie (1896-1973) was a Clemson graduate (class of 1917), World War I veteran and a pioneer and leader in the study and promotion of soil and water conservation and land rehabilitation.

Buie was raised in rural Patrick, South Carolina (Chesterfield County) where he attended a one-room school before entering Clemson College in 1913. He graduated in 1917 with a B.S. degree in Agriculture

and was awarded the Norris Medal for best all-around achievement. He was an active Clemson alumnus, receiving an

honorary Doctor of Science for "distinguished service to the science of agriculture" in 1937 and serving on several alumni committees. The Thomas Stephen Buie Scholarship for agronomy and soils students was established in his memory.

With the urgency of the U.S. entry into World War I, Buie entered Reserve Officer Training Camp at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia shortly before graduation and earned a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Army three months later. He remained in the Army for the duration of World War I, training at Camp Jackson (Columbia, SC) and Camp Sevier (Greenville County, SC) before serving on the front lines in France with the 81st Division of the American Expeditionary Forces.

After leaving the Army, Buie worked for the Georgia Experiment Station and then the South Carolina Experiment Station, publishing several bulletins and circulars based on his experiments and studies, particularly with fertilizer testing. He became acting head of Clemson College's Agronomy Department in 1925. By taking classes during three summers and one academic year, and conducting his research in South Carolina, Buie earned a M.S. in 1927 and a Ph.D. in 1928 from Iowa State College. From 1930 – 1933, he was a field agronomist for the Superphosphate Institute in Washington D.C.

In 1933, Buie was appointed to head the South Tyger River Erosion Control Demonstration Project in Spartanburg and Greenville counties in South Carolina. It was the first erosion control demonstration area in the Southeast. He was appointed the first Regional Conservator of the Southeastern Regional Office of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1935, eventually covering nine states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. He conducted research trips to Puerto Rico in 1952 and Barbados in 1954. When regional offices were abolished in 1954, Buie became SCS State Conservationist in South Carolina, continuing until his retirement in 1964. In 1959, Buie received the U.S. Department of Agriculture Superior Service Award and was named the "Man of the Year in Service to South Carolina Agriculture."

Thomas Buie was one of the original founders of the Soil Conservation Society of America and served as its second president in 1948. He continued to be active in the Society until his death in 1973. Buie co-authored *Soil Conservation in the Southeast, 1933-1953* (Spartanburg, S. C. : Soil Conservation Service, Southeastern Region, 1973) with Richmond Y. Bailey. He published a number of articles about soil and water conservation, agriculture and related subjects. He also gave numerous talks and presentations on the same subjects to groups ranging from high school students to the 1949 United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources.

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Scope and Contents

Materials in this collection document the personal and professional activities of Thomas S. Buie, Clemson graduate, World War I veteran, and a pioneer and leader in the study and promotion of soil and water conservation and land rehabilitation in the mid-twentieth century. The collection includes correspondence, articles, reports, speeches, diaries, certificates, diplomas, maps, photographs and two

scrapbooks/photo albums. The files in the collection date from 1905 to 1981 with most of the material created 1917-1919 and 1952-1972. The collection is arranged in two series – Alphabetical Files and Photographs.

Alphabetical Files are arranged alphabetically by folder title, except for Speeches and Writings which are arranged chronologically. The collection includes significant correspondence and related documents from Buie's service in the U.S. Army during and after World War I. Buie trained at Camp Oglethorpe (GA), Camp Jackson (SC) and Camp Sevier (SC) and was in France with the 81st Division of the American Expeditionary Forces. His World War I era letters also have been transcribed and edited by his son Franklin B. Buie and bound with copies of photographs and military documents (see: "Your True Son. Tom. Letters from World War One by Thomas Stephen Buie 1896-1973" / call number: D570.9.B85 1991). Other personal activities documented in the collection include Buie's student days at Clemson College as well as alumni involvement, particularly in establishing the Preston Brooks Holtzendorff Scholarship, 1970-1972. Professional activities are documented through correspondence to, from and about Buie related to his career and professional affiliation with various soil conservation agencies, a 1935 report of the South Tyger River Erosion Control Demonstration Project in Spartanburg and Greenville counties in South Carolina, a 1952 report and related materials from a Soil Conservation Service research trip to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and a 1954 report and related materials from a Soil Conservation Service research trip to the British West Indies. The collection includes several drafts and related correspondence for the book *Soil Conservation in the Southeast, 1933-1953*, co-authored with Richmond Y. Bailey. There are newspaper, magazine and journal articles about his World War I memories, soil conservation, agriculture and rural life from 1929-1967, as well as articles for the *South Carolina Methodist Advocate* from 1967-1970 and Methodist Church Sunday School lessons from the mid-1950s. In addition, the collection includes research data for a study of rural churches in South Carolina from 1905-1968 for the Methodist Church South Carolina Conference Town and Country Committee. There also are texts of speeches about soils conservation and rural life given by Buie to various educational, professional and community organizations from 1935-1965.

Photograph subjects include Clemson College buildings in the 1920, particularly the Library fire and Class of 1917 reunions; 1954 Barbados trip, and Soil Conservation Service groups. The scrapbook includes photographs and ephemera documenting Buie's World War I era military training and service. The photo album also documents Buie's World War I era military experience, particularly the time he spent in England and Europe after the war ended.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open to the public without restriction. The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, U.S. Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Franklin B. Buie and Patricia Buie McKinney in 1999 and 2009

Processing Information

Processed and finding aid written by Susan Hiott in 2017-18.

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Controlled Access Headings

- World War, 1914-1918.
- Holtzendorff, Preston Brooks.

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Bethel Methodist Church, Spartanburg (SC), 1947, 1953	box 1	folder 1
Billfold Contents, 1918-1919	box 1	folder 2
Billfold, n.d.		
Biographical, 1929, 1934, 1944, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1978, 2009, n.d.	box 1	folder 3
British West Indies (Barbados) Trip, 1954	box 1	folder 4-7

Buie, Franklin, 1961, 1984, n.d.	box 1	folder 8
Camp Buie (SCS-3-SC), South Tyger River Area, Narrative Report, 1935	box 1	folder 9
Civil Service Exam, 1928	box 1	folder 10
Clemson University, 1912-13, 1917, 1959-60, 1964-65, n.d.	box 1	folder 11
Clemson University - Freehand Drawing notebook, 1913-14	box 8	
Clemson University, Preston Brooks Holtzendorff Scholarship, 1970-1972, n.d.	box 1	folder 12-13
Correspondence, 1914 - August 1918	box 1	folder 14-18
Correspondence, September 1918 - 1922, 1924-25, 1929, 1931, 1933-39, 1944-45, 1947-54, 1964, 1966-67, 1970, 1973, n.d.	box 2	folder 1 - 13
Diary, 1919	box 2	folder 14
Diary, cross country airplane trip, August - September 1957	box 2	folder 15
Diplomas, 1917	oversize_folder 1	
Honors and Awards, 1959-61, 1964, 1967	box 2	folder 16
Identification and Membership Cards, 1938, 1954-55, 1960-65	box 2	folder 17
Invocations, 1960, 1963, n.d.	box 2	folder 18
"List of Passengers, Porto Rico Line", 1939	box 2	folder 19

Maps	oversize_folder 3	
Methodist Church, Department of Town and Country Work, Collected Materials, n.d.	box 2	folder 20
Methodist Church, South Carolina Conference, Committee on Wills, Bequests and Gifts, 1966, 1968	box 3	folder 1
Methodist Church, South Carolina Conference, Town and Country Committee, 1968-69	box 3	folder 2
Methodist Church, South Carolina Conference, Town and Country Committee Reports, 1953-54	box 3	folder 3
Methodist Church, South Carolina Conference, Town and Country Committee, Research Data, 1905-1969, n.d.	box 3	folder 4-5
Military Service, 1917-1920, n.d.	box 3	folder 6
Military Service, ephemera, 1914, 1917	box 3	folder 7
Military Service, Officers Record Books, c1917-1919	box 3	folder 8

Newspapers

Title/Description	Instances	
"The New York Herald", 13 September 1918	oversize_folder 2	
"Service Record", 15 July 1919	oversize_folder 2	
Notebook, c1931	box 3	folder 9
Notes (genetics and human inheritance), n.d.	box 3	folder 10
Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Trip, Diary, 1952	box 3	folder 11

Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Trip, Reports, 1952	box 3	folder 12-13
Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Trip, Speeches, 1952	box 3	folder 14
Rural Churches, Collected Material, 1946-47, 1950	box 3	folder 15
Soil Conservation and Farming, Collected Materials, 1911, 1915, 1941, 1954	box 4	folder 1
Soil Conservation Service History, Collected Materials, 1934, 1964, 1970, n.d.	box 4	folder 2
"South Carolina Chapter Soil Conservation Society of America, History 1945-1981", c1981	box 4	folder 3

Speeches

Title/Description	Instances	
"Conservation," Zanesville (OH) High School, 29 May 1935	box 4	folder 4
"Conservation of the Soil," University of Georgia, 25 October 1935	box 4	folder 5
"Conserving North Carolina Soil," Farmers Field Day, Piedmont Experiment Station, Statesville, NC, 13 August 1936	box 4	folder 6
"Man's Duty to the Soil," West Georgia Teachers College, 7 May 1940	box 4	folder 7
"Land and the Church," Hiwassee College, 5 June 1944	box 4	folder 8
The Earth Is the Lord's and the Fullness Thereof," McCormick (SC) Methodist Church, 2 July 1944	box 4	folder 9
"The Effect of Erosion on the Church," Conference of Southern Religious Extension Workers, Anniston, AL, 16 October 1944	box 4	folder 10

"Opportunities for Service Through Soil Conservation Districts," SC Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors, 24 January 1947	box 4	folder 11
"Poplar Springs - A Leader in Soil Conservation," Poplar Springs Community, 2 December 1949	box 4	folder 12
"Education, Soil Conservation, and Good Living," Gardner-Webb College, 12 June 1951	box 4	folder 13
"History of Agriculture and of Agricultural Land in the South," Town and Country School, Emory University, 22 August 1951	box 4	folder 14
"South Carolina and Barbados Have a Common Heritage," Cosmos Club, Columbia, SC, 10 December 1955	box 4	folder 15
"Influence of Dr. H.H. Bennett on Soil Conservation in the U.S.A.," Southeastern Section Meeting of the SCSA, Association of Southern Agricultural Workers, Jackson, MS, 7 February 1961	box 4	folder 16
"A Quarter Century of Soil Conservation in the South (East of the State of Mississippi), Agronomy Society/Soil Conservation Society of America joint meeting, 7 February 1962	box 4	folder 17
"Twenty-five Years Ago - Twenty-five Years Hence," Aiken (SC) Soil Conservation District Supervisors, 15 November 1962	box 4	folder 18
"Our Soil - Then and Now," Pendleton Farmers Society, c1962	box 4	folder 19
"Seeking the Worth While Things in Life," Laymen's Day Observance, Bethel Methodist Church, Spartanburg, SC, 27 October 1963	box 4	folder 20
"Christian Stewardship to be Learned and Lived," South Carolina Methodist Conference (SEJ), 9 June 1965	box 4	folder 21
Testimony Before the Interstate Commerce Commission Hearing on Livestock Rates, 3 March 1944	box 4	folder 22

United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources, 1949	box 4	folder 23
Verdun, France (collected materials), 1958, n.d.	box 4	folder 24
War Ration Books, c1942-1943	box 4	folder 25

Writings

Title/Description	Instances	
History of the Wildcat Veterans Association [81st Division, American Expeditionary Forces], 1970	box 4	folder 26
"Meditations for a Busy Layman", c1954	box 4	folder 27
"Natural Resources and Our State's History," Educational Television Program, 20 February 1963	box 4	folder 28
Newspaper, Magazine and Journal articles, 1929, 1936, 1941, 1944, 1946, 1951, 1953, c1955-57	box 4	folder 29-31
Newspaper, Magazine and Journal articles, 1958-59, 1961, 1964, 1967, n.d.	box 5	folder 1-4
"Soil Conservation in the Southeast, 1933-1953," drafts, correspondence, and research materials, 1970-1973	box 5	folder 5-9
"South Carolina Methodist Advocate" articles, 1967-70, 1973	box 5	folder 10
Statement - Record of Old Brick House on South Tyger River, Spartanburg, SC, 1934	box 5	folder 11
Sunday School Lessons, 1954	box 5	folder 12

Scrapbook and Photo Album , c1914 - c1918

box 6

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Photographs

box 7

folder 1-5