

MS 2 Walter Ireland Dawkins Papers (1912-31)

History

Walter Ireland Dawkins was a judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore from 1911 to 1934. Dawkins was born in Leonardtown, Maryland on October 21, 1858, the son of Young Paran Dawkins, a St. Mary's County farmer, merchant, judge of the Orphan's Court, and member of the Board of County Commissioners. He received a B.S. in 1880 and M.A. in 1883 from St. John's College and practiced law briefly in St. Mary's County. Dawkins then moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee and returned to Baltimore City in 1887. In Baltimore he built up a solid law practice and was on several occasions considered as a potential mayoral candidate. He was defeated in the Democratic primary in 1906 for a berth on the supreme bench, but was appointed to the bench in 1911 to fill a vacant term. Later that year he was elected to a fifteen year term and re-elected in 1926. In 1928 the state extended his term six years past the normal retirement age of seventy. He retired in 1934 and died two years later. Dawkins was active in numerous local organizations and served one term as President of the Maryland State Bar Association.

Manuscript Summary

These materials consist of Dawkins' case notes, along with jury lists and newspaper clippings. The archives obtained the files sometime in the 1950s.

Series

1. Case Notes. 1912-31. 5 lin. ft. (41 vols.).
Arranged by document type and chronologically thereunder.

MS 3 "The Baltimore Monumental Subscription Book" (1815)

History

The Battle Monument (or Baltimore Monument) was constructed from 1815 to 1825 to serve as a memorial to the thirty-nine Baltimoreans who died in September 1814 defending the city against British attack. The Committee of Vigilance and Safety, a municipally sponsored group that had mobilized the city for defense, collected funds for the monument (see RG 22). The municipal government completed the monument when private collections were completely exhausted. The monument was the first American-made war memorial and was designed by the French architect Maximilian Godefroy. The monument also was selected for use in the municipal government's official seal in 1827 and official flag in 1915.