

## Finding Aid to the William Abial Scott Papers

### Scott, William Abial, 1856-1917

William Abial Scott Papers, 1884-1927

9.5 linear feet

Collection number: MSS 385

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[Biography](#)

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### OVERVIEW

**Access:** The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the NDSU Archives.

**Provenance:** Donated in 1978 (Acc. 2031).

**Property rights:** The NDSU Archives owns the property rights to this collection.

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**Citation:** [Identification of item]. William Abial Scott Papers (MSS 385) NDSU Archives, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

### BIOGRAPHY/HISTORY

William Abial Scott, a native of Peterboro, New Hampshire, was born on December 8, 1856. He moved to Kansas after his father's death in August 1877. There he worked in the law offices of G. C. Clemens and John S. Searles. He was admitted to the bar on February 8, 1879. From there he became a member of the law firm Sawyer & Scott in Manhattan, Kansas. He became the city attorney for Manhattan as well as chairman of the Republican county central committee of Riley County.

He married Mary Ellen Wright in January 1881. They moved to Topeka, Kansas where Scott worked in the local paying pension office for two and a half years. In 1886 he went to work for the New Hampshire

Trust Company branch located in Topeka. Two years later he was sent to head the company's office in Fargo, North Dakota. Unfortunately due to the financial panic of 1893 the company failed. He then partnered with Governor L. B. Hanna and J. W. Smith in the completion of the Fargo Street Railway and was eventually made vice president of the road. In 1905 Scott became the first president of the state fair in Fargo. He would hold this title from 1905-1909, in 1911, and finally 1913-1914.

Scott helped with the building of the Masonic Temple in Fargo. In 1908 Scott was elected secretary of the Pioneer Life Insurance Company of North Dakota. He became president of the company the following year. Scott also served as director of the First National Bank of Fargo for 15 years. He also was director of the Northern Savings Bank of Fargo and the First National Bank of Moore, Montana. Aside from being a prominent figure in the financial circles of Fargo, Scott began buying farm land in North Dakota and Minnesota in 1890 where he bred shorthorn cattle. Scott died on December 31, 1917 and is buried in Riverside Cemetery in Fargo.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **William Abial Scott Papers** consist of various items documenting the career of William Abial Scott and have been organized into six series: Correspondence; Farm Contracts; Land Management Records; Financial Records; Land Patents, Deeds, and Mortgages; and Personal Records.

The **Correspondence Series** includes correspondence from 1884 to 1924. A portion of the correspondence was already organized alphabetically when donated. One of the folders is the correspondence of Scott's son, Albert D.

The **Farm Contracts Series** consists of farm contracts from 1893 to 1912.

The **Land Management Records Series** includes correspondence, bills, receipts, and other documents used to manage specific farms Scott owned. This series is organized by farm number and ranges from 1892 to 1923.

The **Financial Records Series** contains insurance records, tax records, investment certificates, contracts, applications, bills, receipts, cash journals, and ledgers from Scott's personal life as well as business life dating from 1893 to 1924.

The **Land Patents, Deeds, and Mortgages Series** includes land patents, deeds, and mortgages for land owned by Scott as well as his clients from 1893 to 1912.

The **Personal Records Series** contains livestock information, brochures, mailers, court records, architectural drawings, a stenographer, empty envelopes, and information from the state fair in Fargo, North Dakota.

## SEPERATIONS RECORDS

The following non-manuscript material has been removed from the Willaim Abial Scott Papers and put into the North Dakota Cities and Towns Photograph Collection.

### Photograph

- 1 item: the village of Hastings, North Dakota

## FOLDER LIST

### Folder Content

1/1 Biographical Information, and Finding aid

#### Correspondence Series

1/2	Correspondence A-B, 1902-1905
1/3	Correspondence A-B, 1902-1905
1/4	Correspondence A-B, 1902-1905
1/5	Correspondence C-E, 1897-1905
1/6	Correspondence C-E, 1897-1905
1/7	Correspondence F-H, 1884-1905
1/8	Correspondence F-H, 1884-1905
1/9	Correspondence K-N, 1909-1919
1/10	Correspondence K-N, 1909-1919
1/11	Correspondence K-N, 1909-1919
1/12	Correspondence I-M, 1897-1905
1/13	Correspondence I-M, 1897-1905
1/14	Correspondence N-Q, 1901-1905
1/15	Coreespondence N-Q, 1919-1921
1/16	Correspondence R-S, 1898-1902
2/1	Correspondence R-S, 1898-1902
2/2	Correspondence S-T, 1907-1921
2/3	Correspondence S-T, 1907-1921
2/4	Correspondence T-Z, 1897-1905
2/5	A. D. Correspondence ,1918-1924
2/6	General Correspondence, 1891-1904
2/7	General Correspondence, 1894-1919
2/8	General Correspondence, 1896-1898
2/9	General Correspondence, 1898-1908
2/10	General Correspondence, 1900-1919
2/11	General Correspondence, 1903-1920

2/12 General Correspondence, 1904-1920

3/1 Correspondence T-Z, 1897-1905

**Farm Contracts Series**

3/2 Farm Contracts, 1891-1903

3/3 Farm Contracts, 1891-1903

3/4 Farm Contracts, 1893-1903

3/5 Farm Contracts, 1893-1903

3/6 Farm Contracts, 1894-1903

3/7 Farm Contracts, 1909-1912

**Land Management Records Series**

3/8 Land 9, 1899-1906

3/9 Land 9, 1919-1923

3/10 Land 353, 1906-1914

3/11 Land 353, 1906-1914

3/12 Land Lists, 1909

4/1 Land 9, 1906-1908

4/2 Land 9, 1906-1908

4/3 Land 9, 1906-1908

4/4 Land 9, 1914-1923

4/5 Land 9, 1914-1923

4/6 Land 9, 1914-1923

4/7 Land 14-17, 1917-1920

4/8 Land 24, 1916

4/9 Land 32, 1900-1902

4/10 Land 32, 1900-1902

4/11 Land 36, 1907-1920

4/12 Land 43/45/338/661/1532/1219/2445, 1906-1923

4/13 Land 47, 1917

4/14 Land 58, 1906-1909

4/15 Land 58, 1906-1909

4/16 Land 62, 1909-1914

4/17 Land 65, 1913-1914

4/18 Land 80-84, 1921

4/19 Land 200, 1920

4/20 Land 778, 1912

4/21 Land 1316, 1917

4/22 Land 1435, 1906-1909

4/23 Land 1574, 1917-1924

4/24 Land 1583, 1924  
 4/25 Land 1584/1586, 1910-1923  
 4/26 Land 1584/1586, 1910-1923  
  
 5/1 Land 1778, 1923  
 5/2 Land 1778, 1923  
 5/3 Land 1817, 1902-1913  
 5/4 Land 2019, 1908-1914  
 5/5 Land 2019, 1908-1914  
 5/6 Land 5712, 1912-1923

**Financial Records Series**

5/7 Bills & Receipts for Land 32, 1893-1894  
 5/8 Bills & Receipts, 1898-1908  
 5/9 Bills & Receipts, 1902-1906  
 5/10 Bills & Receipts, 1919-1923  
 5/11 Bills & Receipts, 1925-1927  
 5/12 Taxes, 1920  
 5/13 Life Insurance, 1917-1924  
 5/14 Casselton District Shares, 1919-1920

6/1 Bills & Receipts, 1888-1920  
 6/2 Bills & Receipts, 1898-1906  
 6/3 Auto Insurance, 1922-1923  
 6/4 Other Insurance, 1922-1923  
 6/5 Investment Certificates, 1921-1922  
 6/6 General Contract, 1908-1909  
 6/7 Application for Bond of Public Depository, 1908  
 6/8 Taxes, 1895-1911

7 Cash Journal, 1896-1897  
 7 Cash Journal, 1897-1898  
 10 Accounts Ledger, 1890s-1900s  
 11 Lands Ledger, 1890s-1900s  
 11 Lands Ledger, 1890s-1900s

9/1 Homestead Certificate, 1899  
 9/2 Life Insurance, 1923-1924  
 9/3 Audit Reports, 1927

**Land Patents, Deeds, and Mortgages Series**

6/9 Land Patents, 1894-1902

6/10 Swamp Land Patent, 1893  
6/11 Swamp Land Patent, 1908  
6/12 Quit Claim Deed, 1894  
6/13 Tax Deed, 1896-1910  
6/14 Tax Deed, 1906  
6/15 Land Deed, 1902-1908  
6/16 Land Deed, 1898-1905  
6/17 Land Deed, 1906  
6/18 Deeds, 1888-1912  
6/19 Mortgage, 1897-1900  
6/20 Chattel Mortgage, 1893-1897  
6/21 Chattel Mortgage, 1897-1899  
6/22 Chattel Mortgage, 1901-1907  
6/23 Chattel Mortgage, 1908  
  
9/4 Chattel Mortgage, 1896-1908

**Personal Records Series**

8/1 Empty Envelopes  
8/2 Empty Envelopes  
8/3 Empty Envelopes  
8/4 Empty Envelopes  
8/5 Ephemera  
8/6 Stenographer, 1925  
8/7 Masonic Mutual Benefit Society, 1894-1901  
8/8 Brochures & Mailers, 1918-1920  
8/9 Architectural Drawings, 1917  
8/10 Livestock Information, 1919-1921  
8/11 Cattle Sale, 1902  
8/12 Court Records, 1898-1907  
8/13 List of Names  
8/14 North Dakota State Fair, 1919  
  
9/5 Masonic Mutual Benefit Society Certificate, 1896  
9/6 Advertisements, 1920  
9/7 Pedigree, 1917  
9/8 Newspapers, 1919-1923