



# Guide to the Virgil Lusk Edwards papers, 1920s-1940s

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Durham 27708

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URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Virgil Lusk Edwards papers, 1920s-1940s

**Creator:**

Edwards, Virgil L. (Virgil Lusk), 1878-1965

**Abstract:**

Virgil Lusk Edwards (1878-1965) was a white American resident of Yancey County, N.C. Among his many pursuits, he owned and operated a printing press. This collection contains documents, broadsides, and samples he printed for various businesses, government offices, and community events in Yancey County (N.C.) and surrounding Appalachian communities.

**Extent:**

1.0 Linear Feet (1 box and 1 oversize folder)

**Language:**

Materials in English.

**Collection ID:**

RL.13165

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m10t8k>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Virgil Lusk Edwards papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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**Scope and Content**

The collection contains items printed by Edwards, appearing to be largely created on his original steam-powered printing press, that document his career as well as provide a look at Yancey County and surrounding areas during the 1930s-1940s. Includes broadsides for local revivals, auctions, and other gatherings; high school and family newspapers; receipts and stationery letterheads; and other documents. Some newspaper titles include scattered

issues and fragments of The Mountain Log (Burnsville, N.C.), The District Postmaster (Salley, S.C.), and the Edwards Broadcaster (Burnsville, N.C.). The collection also contains a few pieces of correspondence, and three pages of handwritten text, presumably written by Edwards.

## **Biographical/Historical**

Virgil Lusk Edwards (1878-1965) was a white American resident of Yancey County, N.C. He was a self-taught printer and publisher who operated Edwards Press in Yancey County. He was a local personality: his obituaries note his work as a historian, dentist, writer and editor; he also owned and operated a saw mill, a farm, and served as a justice of the peace. He was active in the Republican Party and the Presbyterian Church. Some of his newspapers include The Blue Ridge Rocket, Blue Ridge Sun, The American Vim, The Mountain Log, and the War Lion. Edwards married Minnie Belle Letterman in 1904 and the couple had five children.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

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### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

### **Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the Rubenstein Library's Citations, Permissions, and Copyright guide.

## Acquisition Information

The Virgil Lusk Edwards papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase (from Ebay) in 2003.

## Processing Information

Processed by Meghan Lyon, September 2025

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2003-0193

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## Names and Subjects

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- Private presses -- United States
- Printers -- United States
- Printing -- North Carolina
- Yancey County (N.C.) -- Periodicals
- Appalachian region -- Social life and customs

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## Collection Inventory

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Printing samples and blank sheets, 1930s-1940s	Box 1
Printing samples and broadsides, 1930s-1940s	Oversize-folder 1
Edwards Printing Company correspondence, flyers, documents, 1933-1940s	Box 1
American Vim newspaper fragments, 1918	Box 1
Edwards' Proof Sheet newspaper fragments, 1928 June	Box 1
The Edwards' Broadcaster newspaper issues (poor condition), 1931-1938	Box 1

**Scope and Contents**

Includes: Vol. XV (Jan. 1931); Jan. 1933; Vol. XVI (1934 Aug.-Sept.); Vol. XVIII (1936); 2 copies of Vol. XX (1938 July-Aug.).

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Clearmont Echoes newspaper issue, Green Mountain, N.C., 1940 May 01

Box 1

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North Cove Hi-Lite student newspaper issues, North Cove, N.C., 1943-1944

Box 1

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**Scope and Contents**

Includes: Vol. 3 n. 1-3.

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The Mountain Log newspaper issues, Burnsville, N.C., 1943-1959

Oversize-folder 1

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**Scope and Contents**

Includes: Autumn 1943; Vol. 1953; Vol. 1959. "A mountain paper with a long name and a long purpose, published now and then, devoted to good, business, & cheer." Another issue notes: "Organ of Edwards Family Association."

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The Yancey Record newspaper issue, Burnsville, N.C., 1948 September 02

Box 1

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**Scope and Contents**

Vol. 13 no. 6.

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The District Postmaster newsletter issues, Salley, S.C., 1943-1944

Box 1

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**Scope and Contents**

Vol. 1 no. 4, Vol. 2 no. 1-2.