

Hill, Mary T. -- Estate Papers Stack VI -Tier 4
11 boxes

This is a heterogeneous collection of documents relating to the settlement of Mary T. Hill's (Mrs James J. Hill's) estate after her death, Nov.22, 1921. Much of the settlement was contingent on the settlement of the estate of her husband, who died May 29, 1916, without leaving a will, at least a legal will. (A copy of a will (a draft in J.J. Hill's handwriting leaving L.W.Hill \$40,000,000) is mentioned in Box 7). The papers are in chaotic condition as a result, having been utilized by L.W.Hill, his lawyers in the many lawsuits that ensued, and by the courts. Therefore a

given document may appear a dozen times, because needed by different persons at different times. One cannot assemble all the forms of a given document in one place because to do so would remove enclosures mentioned in covering letters or docs or break up important files. They have been left therefore as Hill assembled them and a reader must investigate eleven boxes of them to be sure he has found everything pertinent to a given matter. Catalogue cards for important docs. have been made, but the lack of a card does not necessarily mean that there is no data on a given subject. Some of the major topics are: lack of a will by J.J.Hill; his picture collection and its final disposal, quite different from what he and

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his widow had wished and planned; his farm, North Oaks, and the trouble it caused after his death among his heirs; the lawsuits about its disposal; the testimonies of many persons about these matters before probate and other courts; the notoriety thus produced between 1916 and 1929; the enmity among members of the family; copies of the diaries of Mrs. Hill and Mrs. L. W. Hill produced in inheritance tax lawsuits and others to prove mental competence of Mrs. Hill in making bequests and gifts; and many others.

Box 1 Inventories of Mary T. Hill's homes in great detail (stocks & other securities, furniture

pictures, jewels, autos & other vehicles
draperies, glass, silver, ornaments, live-
stock, etc.) and the drawing of lots and dis-
tribution among the heirs.

Box 2 Much of this box is devoted to proof that
Mrs. Hill made her bequests not "in contempla-
tion of death" as the Fed. Govt. claimed in
demanding ca. \$3,000,000 inheritance tax but
to rid herself of trouble. The lawsuit brough
by the heirs in 1925, 1926, & 1927 is prominent
in correspondence and other docs. In April,
1928 the heirs won a reduction by \$1,100,000
A doc. of May 13, 1937 relates to Mrs. Hill's
bequest to the diocese of North St. Paul to
the Christian Bros. who then desired to sell.

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Docs. of 1929 relate to "Final Distribution"
of her estate; and L.W.Hill's final recovery
from the Northwestern Trust Co. of silverware
ornaments, etc. from her estate left there by
him.

Box 3 Samuel Hill, husband of Mary Hill, his last
days, his death, his strange will, the disposal
of his ashes, correspondence between Mary and
her brother Louis about Samuel and between
LWH and Sam's cousin Edgar Hill. Ruth Hill
Beard's marriage (after Anson Beard's death
in 1929) to Pierre Lorillard; J.J.Hill's let-
ter of Aug. 4, 1856 to his grandmother upon his
arrival in St. Paul and Mrs. Hall's sending
the letter to L.W.Hill; several of Mary Hill

Hill's letters to L.W.H. re their mother
sister, Mrs. Phelps, all and rather destitute
and more or less ignored by Mrs. Hill's brother
James N. and Walter and her several sisters;
L.W.H.'s letters to his sister, including one
stating that Northwestern Trust Co. was in
financial straits (Dec. 9, 1925); some letters
from M.H.'s son James N.B. Hill; much material
on Walter Hill, his marriages and divorces,
portrait of Dorothy Barrows Hill, dau. of Mor-
ton Barrows, St. Paul lawyer; data on his second
and third wives, Pauline Sawyer Gillison, Dec.
1922, sister of James N. Hill's wife, Marguerite
and Mildred Richardson, a former "Follies" girl
May 18, 1927; also suit against Walter brought
by Mrs. Bessie Gottlob. See card 4

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Box 3 James N. Hill's will (Feb.17,1927); death of
Mrs. James P. Phelps (nee Anna Mehegan), Jany.
31,1933; Mary Hill Hill's letter to L.W.H.
April 4,1933, referring to his illness and his
inability to be present "in California when
Maudie [his dau.] was married" Helen Phelps
Horrigan's letter to LW.H. [in 1932 ?] ap-
pealing for financial assistance to get an
education [she was granddaughter of Mrs. Anna
Box Phelps].

4 Mostly data given to Judge C. V. Shearn in N.Y.
LWH's lawyer in case brought against him by
his brother James N Hill & others. Included
is a copy of James J. Hill's letter to
the woman J.N.H. was marrying in 1912 warning

her against marrying his son; data obtained by LWH from his uncle, Alex. D. S. Hill in Canada re James J.'s intentions re disposal of his property; Mary T. Hill's cancelled will; George Macpherson's testimony re his friendship over many yrs. with JJH and latter's plan for willing his estate; copy of Mary Hill's letter re her mother's plans for North Oaks; and J. N. Hill's suit vs. L. W. Hill involving Walter legal residence, occasioning copies of his marriage licenses, their dates, the facts about his second and third wives, etc.

Box 5 Largely the suit of LWH's brothers and sisters vs. him in an endeavor to recover North Oaks and rr. bonds given LWH by his mother after she had bought the farm from her child-

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ren, including questions and answers in long sessions between LWH and his lawyer, Judge C.S. Shearn, involving copies of proceedings of the probate court hearings regarding the appointment of an administrator for Mrs. Hill's estate.

Box Probate Court minutes in 1922 with index to 6 the examination of witnesses (members of the family & others) and the arguments on both sides. Also exhibits. Record of Mrs. Hill's Box investments and copies of her bequests, etc.

7 Another copy of questions and answers between LWH and his lawyer; data on Henry C. Lawton supt. of North Oaks Farm in 1916-18; more

re Mary Hill Hill's letter re her mother's plans for North Oaks; clipping "Attorney Bares Will Draw in Jim Hill's Handwriting Leaving Louis \$40,000,000." and willingness of JJH's lawyer, Solicitor Gen. W.D. Mitchell to testify (St. Paul Pioneer Press, Jany, 24, 1926) if J.N. Hill's suit agst. his brother had not been dropped. Suit dropped on recommendation of former governor N.L. Miller of N.Y. atty. for plaintiffs: "Minn. law states that an interested person is not permitted to testify" and all supporters of case were interested. Folder 4 states date of graveside ceremony of 400 Vets. was Sept. 16, 1916 with lunch thereafter at L.W.H.'s home.

See card 6

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Box (cont'd) Sale of 240 Summit Ave. former home
7 of JJH and MTH; also more on Walter's family
life and JNH's suit against LWH.

Box Brief for inheritance tax lawsuit; W.D.
8 Mitchell's memorandum of Oct. 7, 1924, re
James N. Hill's suit vs. LWH; data on Henry C.
Lawton; testimony of Phasailde Van Den Broeke
deposition of Katherine McMillan Beals, dau.
of former Sen. S. J. R. McMillan, re JJH's not
being a Catholic as reason for burial in
North Oaks; statement of Nurse Sarah Trott
(much re Mrs. Hill's habits and personality;

Minutes of Probate Court hearings (this is
one of at least 3 copies in these papers)

Box Copies of extracts from MTH's diaries (1916,
9 1919, 1920); also the assembled proof of docs.
used in JNH's court suit vs. LWH. with dupli-
cates.

Box Charlotte Slade's will; deposition of Alex.
10 D.S. Hill, bro. of JJH and of Emma his wife,
Dec. 10, 1924 [1876 seems to have been the
date of death of little Margaret(?) Hill, dau.
and 10th child of JJH and MTH] Emma was 78 yrs
old in 1924; Emma A. Raguet and her friendship
with Mrs. JJH, for over 70 yrs from June 20,
1924, when she testified;

See card 7

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Toomey's memoranda of Nov. 26, 1921 which lists
Box proposed gifts of MTH: hospital for incurable
11 \$400,000; J.J.Hill Memorial or Art Museum to
be organized \$3,000,000 with details of all
the paintings owned by Mrs. Hill in her house
and other art objects; 240 Summit to be free
residence of the Boeckmanns for six yrs. and
then to go, land and bldg. to city of St. Paul
with \$500,000 to Hill Reference Library; also
\$96,000 to Charlotte and \$45,000 to Rachel
daughters, "in addition to regular allowance."
[Every quarter the allowances to his children
appear in the cash books of J.J.Hill in his
papers in the Hill Ref. Lib.] also lists

of the securities in MTH's possession just before her death.