

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
Roanoke Water Supply**

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Title: Roanoke Water Supply

Physical Characteristics: One slim document storage case

Donated by: Philip H. Trout

Arrangement: Single item

Creator: Philip H. Trout

Reproduction Restrictions: No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

Processor: Angela Stiefbold, June 2026

Historical Note:

Philip H. Trout (1873-1964) was born in Staunton, Virginia, and earned a degree in engineering from Lehigh University. Trout came to Roanoke in the 1910s, and worked for the Virginia Bridge and Iron Co.

The Virginia Water Company began construction of the dam that created the Carvins Cove Reservoir in 1926. In 1936 the Roanoke Water Works purchased the assets of the Virginia Water Company, including the dam and reservoir. The City of Roanoke purchased the Roanoke Water Works in 1938, including the Carvins Cove facilities. In 1944 city residents approved a \$2 million bond measure to connect the Carvins Cove reservoir to the city water system; the project was completed in 1947.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of a scrapbook compiled by Philip H. Trout. It contains newspaper clippings, magazine articles and other ephemera related to the Roanoke City Water System in the years 1943-1952, with a focus on the connection of the Carvins Cove Reservoir to the city's distribution system. Other topics covered include the recreational use of the Carvins Cove watershed and reservoir, improvement of the water distribution system within the City of Roanoke, and the provision of water supply to the Town of Vinton.

Container List:

Box 1 of 1

Scrapbook, "Water Supply for Roanoke City 1943-1952"