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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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Ashmore Family
Papers, 1842-2004.

Organization

General Family Materials

Family History
Family Business Interests
 Skene Lead Mine
 Ashmore Farm
 Ashmore's Vineyard
 Wolf Creek Vineyards

Papers of the Ashmore Family, by generation

Joseph Ashmore
Charles Ashmore (son of Joseph Ashmore)
Henry Ashmore (son of Joseph Ashmore)
 Belle Claypool Ashmore (wife of Henry Ashmore)
 Walter Ashmore (son of Henry and Belle Ashmore)
Arthur L. Ashmore (son of Joseph Ashmore)
 Jessie H. Ashmore (wife of Arthur L. Ashmore)
 Kenneth McKinley Ashmore (son of Arthur and Jessie Ashmore)
 Verona Ashmore (wife of Kenneth McKinley Ashmore)
 Connie Ashmore Fairchild (daughter of K. and V. Ashmore)
 Fred Fairchild (husband of Connie Ashmore Fairchild)
 Casandra Lynn Ashmore (grandniece of C. and F. Fairchild)

Papers of Related Families

Mary Shelton Claypool (mother of Belle Claypool Ashmore)
David Herald (grandfather of Jessie H. Ashmore)
William Logan (uncle of Belle Claypool Ashmore)
Elizabeth Logan (aunt of Belle Claypool Ashmore)
John M. McKinley (father of Jessie H. Ashmore)

General Family Materials

Family History

This file consists of family trees for the Ashmore, McKinley, and Claypool branches of the family and biographical sketches of many family members. The McKinley family history includes the transcript of a Civil War letter, Michael Meres to Hamp Kearney, Nov. 28, 1863, detailing Meres' participation in the Battle of Lookout Mountain. [See also flat storage.]

Family Business Interests

Skene Lead Mine

Note: The Skene Lead Mine was discovered on the Ashmore family's Wolf Creek Farm by Charles Ashmore in 1901. The Ashmore family leased the mine to George Skene, its namesake, from 1901 to 1902. The Ashmores leased the mine to both the Skene Lead Company and the Elizabeth Mining and Milling Company from 1902 to 1907, when it closed due to a decrease in lead prices and an increase in mining costs. During its brief period of activity the mine produced an estimated four million pounds of lead ore.

In 1907 Henry Ashmore sued the Skene Lead Company for possession of the mine tailings that had been left on the property. Following Henry's death in 1908 his widow, Belle, continued the suit. The suit was dropped in 1910 when the court determined that Belle did not have equity in the mine tailings, as they had not been mentioned specifically in Henry's will. The "Legal Papers" section listed below contains an incomplete copy of the case report, as well as two 1910 legal orders from Arthur L. Ashmore to the Skene Lead Company to remove all machinery, buildings, and other company property from the Ashmore farm.

Early Years

Correspondence, 1904-6

Correspondents include J. M. Brown, Secretary, Elizabeth Milling and Mining Company, asking for confidential information about the performance of the mine's superintendent, a Mr. Curtis (June 6, 1904); C. E. Everett, Fiscal Agent, Skene Lead Company, regarding the cutting of timber for use at the mine (Aug. 8, 1905), and asking for

permission to elevate a switch track above high water (Mar. 5 and Mar. 6, 1906); and Z. L. Wheeler, real estate agent, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, offering to represent the Ashmores, should they ever decide to sell the farm and mine (Jan. 29, 1906, and Feb. 22, 1906), and regarding the value of the farm and mine, and royalties paid by the Elizabeth Milling and Mining Company and the Skene Lead Company (Mar. 6, 1906).

Financial Papers

Bills, Earnings Statements, Shipment Notices, 1902-5

Lease Agreements

With George Skene, 1902

With Chas. Kistler, 1916

Legal Papers, 1907-10

Real Estate Papers, 1889, 1905

Later Years

Correspondence, 1945-64

Correspondents include James C. Bradbury, Industrial Minerals Division, Illinois State Geological Survey; Paul Herbert, Tri-State Zinc, Inc., Galena; C. H. Johnson, U.S. Bureau of Mines; John Payne, Jr., Vice President, The American Metal Company of Colorado; George L. Sullivan, Roland F. Beers, Inc.; and George M. Wilson, Educational Extension Section, Illinois State Geological Survey. Subjects include mineral testing, drilling operations, mining equipment, and lease agreements.

Lease Agreements with U.S. Bureau of Mines, The American Metal Company of Colorado, Roland F. Beers, Inc., and the State of Illinois, 1939-56

Drilling Records for Ashmore Properties, 1945-47

Map of Zinc-Lead District of Northwestern Illinois, 1955 [see flat storage]

"Record of Lead Discovery - Wolf Creek Range, Arthur Ashmore Farm," 1959-60 [Kenneth Ashmore drilled for lead on the family farm in the late 1950s and early 1960s, but found few mineral deposits.]

Kenneth Ashmore's Notes on Drilling, ca. 1959-60 [see flat storage]

Reference Materials

On Geology and Mining in Northwestern Illinois

On Geology in Iowa-Illinois and Wisconsin

Ashmore Farm

Maps, 1994

Ashmore's Vineyard

[operated by Stanley and Kenneth Ashmore]

Wine Bottle Labels, 1974, 1980 (photocopies)

Wolf Creek Vineyards

[operated by Stanley and Kenneth Ashmore]

Price List, 1980

Papers of Ashmore Family, by generationJoseph Ashmore (1787-1868)

Biographical Material

"Pageant scene based on incident in Kett, *History of Jo Daviess County, 1878*," including reference to Joseph Ashmore
Real Estate Papers, 1842, 1848 [photocopies]

Charles Ashmore (1829-1925; son of Joseph Ashmore)

Biographical Material

Biographical Sketch and Photos [photocopies]
Estate Papers, 1910-34
Real Estate Papers, 1868-90, 1923 [see also flat storage]

Henry Ashmore (1842-1908; son of Joseph Ashmore)

Biographical Material

Biographical Sketch, *Portrait and Biographical Album of Jo Daviess and Carroll Counties, Illinois* (1889)
Estate Papers, 1909
Financial Papers
Property Tax Receipt, 1890
Real Estate Papers, 1868, 1871, 1889, 1893, 1903-4, 1909 [see flat storage]

Belle Claypool Ashmore (1850-1925; wife of Henry Ashmore)

Correspondence, regarding a book purchase and magazine subscription, 1911
 Estate Papers, 1910, 1912, 1925-26, 1928 [see also flat storage]
 Financial Papers
 Cancelled Checks, 1910, 1914, 1919, 1924-25

Walter Ashmore (1879-1960; son of Henry and Belle Ashmore)

Biographical Material
 Application for Old Age Assistance, 1944
 Financial Papers
 Bank Statements, Cancelled Checks, Receipts, 1925-45

Arthur L. Ashmore (1882-1969; son of Joseph Ashmore)

Biographical Material
 Obituary, *The Telegraph-Herald* [Dubuque, Iowa], May 2, 1969
 Funeral Memory Book, 1969
 Marriage Certificate, 1911 [see flat storage]
 Portrait, ca. 1890s
 Correspondence, relating to the business interests of Mary Claypool, 1910
 Estate Papers, 1959-71
 Financial Papers
 Account Book Pages, Tax Receipts, 1942-48
 Insurance Papers, 1915, 1922, 1936, 1946
 Real Estate Papers, 1909-50 [see also flat storage]

Jessie H. Ashmore (1887-1972; wife of Arthur L. Ashmore)

Biographical Material
 Funeral Memory Book and Bulletin, Apr. 19, 1972
 Education Papers
 Diploma, Hanover (Ill.) High School, 1906 [see flat storage]
 Estate Papers, 1959-73

Kenneth McKinley Ashmore
 (1915-2004; son of Arthur and Jessie Ashmore)

Biographical Material

Funeral Bulletin, Feb. 5, 2004

Photographs [group photo of Kenneth and siblings Belle, Helen, Pearl, and Jeanne, ca. 1922, and wedding photo with Verona Marie Heidenreich, Nov. 25, 1937]

Certificate of Baptism, 1915 [see flat storage]

Correspondence, 1968-69, 1973, 1979, 1986, 1994

Correspondents include James Ashmore (grandson), regarding a video about lead production and the objectives of the Freeway Watch Committee, which hoped to stop the Illinois Department of Transportation from building a four-lane freeway through Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties; Jessie H. Ashmore (mother), regarding family news and the estate of Arthur L. Ashmore; and Connie Fairchild (daughter), regarding Kenneth and Ruby Ashmore's vacation to Alaska and genealogical information.

Estate Papers, 1962, 1973, 2004

Financial Papers

Bills, Tax Notices, 1976-77

Professional Papers, 1973-75, including correspondence, certificates, contracts, job applications, and letters of recommendation regarding Ashmore's career as a water sanitation specialist with the Village of Elizabeth, Illinois

Real Estate Papers, 1963

Sale Inventory of Household Goods, 1993

Verona M. Ashmore (1918-62; wife of Kenneth McKinley Ashmore)

Biographical Material

Obituary, *Freeport (Ill.) Journal-Standard*, Dec. 8, 1962

Funeral Memorial Book, Record Book, Flower Cards, 1962

Estate Papers, 1962

Connie Ashmore Fairchild

(1938-; daughter of Kenneth and Verona Ashmore)

Correspondence, regarding genealogy, 1996

Organizational Papers

C-U [Champaign-Urbana] Herb Society

Champaign News-Gazette article about the Society's gardening work in Urbana's Meadowbrook Park, July 27, 1995

Freeway Watch Committee

Bulletin, ca. 1994
 Stephenson County (Ill.) Historical Society
 Administrative Papers
 Mission and Goals/Board of Directors, undated
 Correspondence, 1997-98
 Member Card, Connie Fairchild, ca. 1999
 Newsletter, 1992-98 [incomplete]
 Publicity Materials, 1995-98
 Writings about One Room Schools in Stephenson County
 Research Papers
 "Illinois State Hospital/Jacksonville Developmental Center,"
 1992
 "Sousa in Illinois," for Illinois History Symposium, including
 correspondence, drafts, illustrations, notes, and
 photocopies of manuscripts [also includes copies of Phyllis
 Danner, "John Philip Sousa: The Illinois Connection"], 1995
 Stephenson County and Jo Daviess County (Ill.) history newspaper
 articles, 1953-66, regarding the Chicago Great Western Railway
 derailment at Pearl City, May 13, 1953, the Mississippi River
 flood of 1965, nineteenth-century homes in Galena, Grant in
 Galena, early settlers of Stephenson County, the Taylor Park
 Circus in Freeport, 1915, and the Lena campgrounds [collected
 by Connie Fairchild]
 Ephemera
 Lincoln Home 1995 Summer Program Schedule

Fred Fairchild

(1940-; husband of Connie Ashmore Fairchild)

Photographs of the Jacksonville (Ill.) Bandstand, National
 Museum of American History, Washington, D.C., 1992

Casandra Lynn Ashmore

(1985-; grandniece of Connie and Fred Fairchild)

Education Papers

River Ridge (Ill.) High School and Middle School Graduation
 Announcements, 2000, 2004

Papers of Related Families

Mary Shelton Claypool

(1829-ca. 1910; mother of Belle Claypool Ashmore)

Biographical Material

Photographs, ca. 1900 [photocopies, see also flat storage]

David Herald (1818-1902; grandfather of Jessie H. Ashmore)

U.S. Naturalization Certificate, June 5, 1874

Estate Papers, 1881, 1890, 1896, 1920

Real Estate Papers, 1863, 1883

William Logan (1813-55; uncle of Belle Claypool Ashmore)

Real Estate Papers, 1848

Sarah Elizabeth Logan (1822-93; aunt of Belle Claypool Ashmore)

Estate Papers, 1890, 1893

John M. McKinley (1860-1930; father of Jessie H. Ashmore)

Biographical Material

Marriage Certificate, 1886 [see flat storage]