

MS-42, Middletown Hydraulic Canal Company Records

Collection Number: MS-42

Title: Middletown Hydraulic Canal Company Records

Dates: 1818-1973 (bulk 1851-1969)

Creator: Middletown Hydraulic Canal Company

Summary/Abstract: Contains minutes of the Board of Directors, articles of incorporation, business correspondence and financial records including yearly tax returns for 1910-1969, and an itemized list of the cost of construction of the hydraulic, 1852-1854. Also included are land agreements, leases, indentures and a box of maps and drawings of the hydraulic at different locations.

Quantity/Physical Description: 6 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092.

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-42, Middletown Hydraulic Canal Company Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition: After negotiation and approval from the Board of Trustees of the Sorg Paper Company in Middletown, transfer of the records was made to Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University, in February, 1977.

Custodial History: The Archives learned of the existence of this collection through the Miami Conservancy District, who had recently purchased the land where the hydraulic was situated. Negotiations were initiated with the Sorg Paper Company in Middletown where the records were being stored. Our contact at Sorg was Mr. Robert Arthur and through him arrangements were made to inventory the files in November 1976.

Other Finding Aid: The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collection_guides/guide_files/ms42.pdf. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Related Material:

MS-69 Miamisburg Hydraulic Company Records

Processed by: Robert H. Smith, 1977 June

Arrangement: The collection is divided into 4 series:

Series I: Administrative

Series II: Financial

Series III: Legal

Series IV: General

Scope and Content: The files of the Middletown Hydraulic Company can be divided into four basic record series groups: Administrative; Financial; Legal; and General. The extremely important administrative records are the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Articles of Incorporation, both located in Box 1. The remaining files in the Administrative series, located in Boxes 1-4, consist primarily of correspondence (1851-1969). Unfortunately, much of the earlier correspondence of the company does not exist.

The Financial record group is also quite complete. Cash books and ledgers (1853-1967) elaborately illustrate the growth of the company, the supplies it purchased, who the customers were, etc. Likewise, yearly tax returns (1910-1967) for the company give the researcher a picture of the size of the business. One other very interesting document located in Box 4 is an itemized list of the costs of the construction of the hydraulic (supplies, labor, etc.) from 1852-1854.

Legal files comprise the materials in Boxes 7-10. Boxes 7 and 8 contain legal correspondence as well as court cases against the company. Land agreements, leases and indentures (1851-1955) make up Box 9, while Xerox copies of deeds (1818-1928) for land are housed in Box 10. These land records, of course, are of immense value to the researchers.

Box 11 of the general files consists of miscellaneous records most of which is recent material. There is one interesting file on hydroelectric output that dates from 1872 through 1936. The last Box, No. 12, contains numerous maps, drawings, and blueprints of the hydraulic at different locations. This material is obviously very important and should not be overlooked by the researcher.

Subject Terms:

Organizations/Corporations

Middletown Hydraulic Canal Company -- Archives

Places

Middletown (Ohio) -- History

Subjects (General)

Canals – Ohio – Butler County

Collection Inventory

Series I: Administrative			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Articles of Incorporation; Agreement with the City of Middletown	Undated
	2	Board of Directors, Minutes of Meetings	1854-1855, 1865-1902
	3	Board of Directors, Proxies of Annual Meetings	1936-1944
	4	Correspondence	1851-1859
	5	Correspondence	1860-1871
	6	Correspondence	1873-1879
	7	Correspondence	1882-1898
	8	Correspondence	1903-1904
	9	Correspondence	1905
2	1	Correspondence	1906
	2	Correspondence	1907
	3	Correspondence	1908
	4	Correspondence	1909
	5	Correspondence	1910
	6	Correspondence	1911
	***	Loose-filed: Correspondence, letter press	1904-1915
3	1	Correspondence	1912-1913
	2	Correspondence	1914-1915
	3	Correspondence	1916-1919
	4	Correspondence	1920-1926
	5	Correspondence	1927-1929
	6	Correspondence	1930-1934
	7	Correspondence	1935
	8	Correspondence	1936

4	1	Correspondence	1937-1938
	2	Correspondence	1939-1941
	3	Correspondence	1942-1947
	4	Correspondence	1951-1954
	5	Correspondence	1956-1959
	6	Correspondence	1960-1969
	7	Correspondence	Undated
	8	Newsclippings	Undated
	9	Itemized listing of costs of Hydraulic Canal	1852-1854

Series II: Financial

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	10	Miscellaneous Financial Records	1840's, 1866, 1873-1876
5	1	Financial Statements	1887-1899
	2	Financial Statements	1900-1920
	3	Financial Statements	1921-1936
	4	Financial Statements	1944-1969
	5	Financial Statements	Undated
	6	Financial Statements, Traveler's Expense Register	1904-1905
	7	Financial Statements – List of Stockholders and Letters to Stockholders	1954-1969, 1957-1968
	8	Financial Statements – Stockholders – Misc.	Undated
	9	Financial Statements – Tax Return – Domestic Corp., Annual Reports; and Capital Stock	1910-1955, 1914-1945
6	1	Financial Tax Returns	1910-1919
	2	Financial Tax Returns	1920-1923, 1929
	3	Financial Tax Returns	1930-1939
	4	Financial Tax Returns	1940-1947
	5	Financial Tax Returns	1951-1959
	6	Financial Tax Returns	1960-1967
shelf		Cash Book (1 Volume)	1853-1973
shelf		Cash Books and Journals (3 Volumes)	1885-1964
shelf		Ledgers – Dividends, Expenses, Etc. (4 Volumes)	1855-1967
shelf		Trial Balance Books (3 Volumes)	1904-1938
shelf		Account Book (1 Volume)	1932
shelf		Weekly Time Book (1 Volume)	1936-1938
shelf		Stock Ledger (1 Volume)	1885-1958

Series III: Legal			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
7	1	Legal Files – Correspondence	1899, 1904, 1910, 1925
	2	Legal Files – Correspondence	1926
	3	Legal Files – Correspondence	1927, 1942
	4	Legal Files – Crabbe vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co.	ca. 1965
	5	Legal Files – Crabbe vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co. Testimony	Undated
7	6	Legal Files – Crabbe vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co. Testimony	Undated
8	1	Legal Files – Colin Gardner Paper Co. vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co.	ca. 1900
	2	Legal Files – Tytus-Gardner Paper Co. vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co.	ca. 1895
	3	Legal Files – Richard H. Henderson vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co.	ca. 1860
	4	Legal Files – Joseph Sutphin vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co.; District Court	ca. 1882
	5	Legal Files – Joseph Sutphin vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co.; Common Pleas Court	ca. 1882
	6	Legal Files – Joseph Sutphin vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co.; Common Pleas Court	ca. 1882
	7	Legal Files – Miscellaneous Cases	Undated
9	1	Legal Files – Lawyers Case Notes (Misc.)	Undated
	2	Legal Files – Agreements, Leases, Indentures	1851-1853
	3	Legal Files – Agreements, Leases, Indentures	1854-1869
	4	Legal Files – Agreements, Leases, Indentures	1870-1898
	5	Legal Files – Agreements, Leases, Indentures	1900-1910
	6	Legal Files – Agreements, Leases, Indentures	1911-1917
	7	Legal Files – Agreements, Leases, Indentures	1918-1926
	8	Legal Files – Agreements, Leases, Indentures	1927-1955, Undated
10	1	Legal Files - Deeds	1818, 1823, 1848-1950
	2	Legal Files - Deeds	1852-1953
	3	Legal Files - Deeds	1855-1859
	4	Legal Files - Deeds	1860-1869
	5	Legal Files - Deeds	1870-1882
	6	Legal Files - Deeds	1883-1928

10	7	Legal Files - Miscellaneous	Undated
Series IV: General			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
11	1	Columbia Bridge Improvement	1960-1963
	2	Sorg-City Electric Transit Line	1954-1963
	3	American Insurance Co. and Butler Insurance Co.	1933-1954, 1860-1862
	4	Board of Public Works Co.	1900
	5	Hydro-Electric Power Output	1872-1936
	6	Miscellaneous	Undated
	7	Photographs	Undated
12	***	Loose Filed: Misc. Maps, Drawings, Blueprints	Undated