

IHLC MS 421

**Clarence W. Alvord
Collection, 1906-1920**

Manuscript Collection Inventory

Illinois History and Lincoln Collections
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Note: Unless otherwise specified, documents and other materials listed on the following pages are available for research at the Illinois Historical and Lincoln Collections, located in the Main Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Additional background information about the manuscript collection inventoried is recorded in the [Manuscript Collections Database \(http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/archon/index.php\)](http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/archon/index.php) under the collection title; search by the name listed at the top of the inventory to locate the corresponding collection record in the database.

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**Clarence W. Alvord.
Collection, 1906-1920.**

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Box 1

I. Projects

Folder 1: Kaskaskia Commons Case and Economy Light and Power Company (Des Plaines River)

1. Letters from Emery Andrews, Attorney to C. W. Alvord on aspects of the case; a summary of the background of the case; a summary of the decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois; a statement of Alvord's contribution to the case; and Alvord's explanation of the term "parish," 1906-1909 (14 items)
2. Correspondence with lawyers R. E. Schreiber and Merritt Starr, and with Reuben G. Thwaites of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin concerning the gathering of information for the *United States v. the Economy Light and Power Company*, and also relative to Thwaites' claims for remuneration for services rendered; a clipping from the *Champaign News* on the case; and Alvord's membership certificate in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (20 items)
- 2a. A series of extracts from histories of Kane County containing water descriptions (9 items)

Folder 2: Vandalia Land Company

Fifty-nine-page, handwritten draft entitled "Vandalia Land Company"

Folder 3: Notes on "Case of the Petitioners"

Over 125 pages of notes on the "Statement of Petitioners," pamphlets of the Walpole Company [The notes may have been gathered for possible publication of the Walpole pamphlets. A note at the beginning states "of no great value now."]

Folder 4: The Illinois Country

Thirty-five-page, typewritten draft of Chapter III of *The Illinois Country*, vol. I of the *Centennial History of Illinois*, entitled "The Age of Discovery"

Folder 5: Alvord, C. W. "Genesis of the Proclamation Line of 1763," and "An Unrecognized Father Marquette Letter"

Three copies (one typed and two carbon) of "The Genesis of the Proclamation of 1763," which appeared in the *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections*, vol. 36 (1908), pages 20-52; and two copies of "An Unrecognized Father Marquette Letter,"

- reprinted from the "Notes and Suggestions" section of the American Historical Review 25:4 (July 1920)
- Folder 6: Notes for the British Series
Notes on the British Series of the Illinois Historical Collections, compiled "by various people from various places"
- Folder 7: Personal - Minnesota Appointment
Six-page, typewritten paper "The Problem of Archive Centralization with Reference to Local Conditions in a Middle Western State;" correspondence regarding the appointment of Alvord to the History Department of the University of Minnesota, including letters by Alvord, S. J. Buck, G. S. Ford, and L. B. Shippee, April-May 1920
- Folder 8: Joint Project with Lee Bidgood, "First Explorations"
Correspondence regarding The First Explorations of the Trans-Allegheny Region by the Virginians, 1650-1674: correspondents include Alvord, Bidgood, Leland, J. F. Jameson, V. H. Paltsits, and others, 1906-1915; file also includes a set of notes and quotations from various sources on the book
- Folder 9: Personal Project: Biographical--Pioneers of the West
1. Letters from C. R. Nutter of D. Appleton and Company concerning the publication of the series Pioneers of the West and also a copy of the contract, 1909-1910 (19 items)
 2. Complete and incomplete drafts of Alvord's circular letters as editor of the series and three blank contracts (15 items)
 3. Letters to Alvord regarding writers' participation in the series: correspondents include C. L. Cox, L. F. Kellogg, O. G. Libby, C. M. McIlwain, F. L. Paxson, J. Robertson, and B. F. Shambaugh, 1909-1910 (55 items)

Box 2

- Folder 10: Personal Projects: Shepherd, "Woman's History of the World"
Concerns a projected study, "The Woman's History of the World," to be promoted by Elizabeth Murray Shepherd and directed by C. W. Alvord
The first part (6 items) includes Shepherd's poem "The Spirit of Illinois," a 12-page description of the work by Shepherd, and four copies of a prospectus of the study by C. W. Alvord; the second part (63 items) consists of correspondence (1917-1920) related to the projected study, mainly between Alvord and Shepherd.
- Folder 11: Alvord, "The Old Kaskaskia Records" [incomplete]
Two typewritten copies of "The Old Kaskaskia Record," an address read before the Chicago Historical Society by C. W. Alvord on February 2, 1906
- Folder 12: Alvord, Notes and Correspondence on The Mississippi Valley in British Politics
Notes and two letters (1909) between Alvord and Charles A. N. Pownall related to Walpole, Thomas Pownall, and British politics.
- Folder 13: Alvord on Albert Shaw Lectures
Alvord's notes (mainly handwritten) on the Albert Shaw lectures

II. *Mississippi Valley in British Politics*

- Folder 14: Preface and Miscellaneous Notes on various chapters
- Folder 15: Pease letter on Volume 9 [draft]
- Folder 16: Chapter 1
- Folder 17: Chapter 2 (2 copies)

Folder 18: Chapter 3 (2 copies)

Box 3

Folder 19: Chapter 5
 Folder 20: Chapter 6 (3 copies)
 Folder 21: Chapter 7 (2 copies)
 Folder 22: Chapter 8
 Folder 23: Chapter 9 (2 copies)
 Folder 24: Chapter 10 (2 copies)
 Folder 25: Chapter 11
 Folder 26: Chapter 12
 Folder 27: Chapter 13 (5 copies)

Box 4

Folder 28: Chapter 14 (3 copies)
 Folder 29: Chapter 15 (2 copies)
 Folder 30: Chapter 16 (2 copies)
 Folder 31: Chapter 17 (2 copies)
 Folder 32: Chapter 18
 Folder 33: Chapter 19 (2 copies)
 Folder 34: Chapter 20

Box 5

III. Correspondence

Folder 35: Armstrong, George B., Jr., 1914 (3 items)

Armstrong to Alvord, concerning the inauguration, by Congress, of the railway post office service in Illinois in 1914. Armstrong's father was a pioneer in the sorting of mail in special railroad cars called "post offices on wheels." The letters discuss the use of a monograph on the railway mail service in the preparation of *The Centennial History of Illinois*.

Folder 36: Doughty, Arthur G. (1860-1936), 1918. (12 items)

Doughty, Archivist of the Dominion of Canada, to Alvord, regarding the flags of France; includes eleven photocopies of flag illustrations and describes designs from the time of Cartier to the capitulation of Canada in 1763. (Before the French Revolution, there was no one national flag of France; under Louis XIV, sixty-eight different flags were drawn up for ships, official funerals, the cavalry, the state, and so on.)

Folder 37: Koons, G. J. Letter, October 16, 1915

Koons, from Murphysboro, to Alvord, regarding Matthew Duncan, supplementing a biographical note in *Scott, Newspapers and Periodicals of Illinois, 1814-1879* (Illinois Historical Collections, Vol. 6).

Folder 38: Lemen, J. B, 1907-1916 (27 items)

Lemen, of O'Fallon, Illinois, to Alvord, concerning his grandfather James Lemen, and his alleged compact with Jefferson to prevent slavery in the Northwest Territory; folder also includes letters between Alvord and the U. S. War Department, Alvord and the Archivist of the Virginia State Library concerning the Revolutionary service of Robert Lemen and James Lemen, and a letter from the Rev. J. M. Peck to the Rev. J. M. Lemen about the anti-slavery activities of the Lemen's father.

Further materials in this collection are transcripts and clippings: J. M. Peck's "History of Bethel Church;" an article about early Baptist churches and anti-slavery activity from the *Western Star*, May 5, 1845; a story about the 140th anniversary of Bethel Baptist Church from the *Chicago Tribune*, September 25, 1949; "The Jefferson-Lemen Compact" by Willard C. MacNaul (1915); and a review of MacNaul's article by Theodore C. Pease, published in *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, September, 1916.

Folder 39: Rice, Wallace (1859-1939), 1918-1819 (29 items)

Relates to flags used in French Illinois; also, a letter to Alvord, written with the concurrence of Clarence Darrow, regarding the throwing of the bomb in Haymarket Square

Folder 40: Salisbury, Herbert Spencer, 1918 (4 items)

Salisbury and Frederick M. Smith to Alvord, and from Alvord to Smith, concerning disputed points in Mormon history, and the Nauvoo city charter, in particular; also includes typed excerpts from *The History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints*.

Folder 41: Thrall, William Flint, March 6, 1911

Thrall, librarian of McKendree College (Lebanon, Illinois), to Alvord, describing the papers of Augustus C. French, ninth governor of Illinois, 1846-1852. The papers, then in the possession of McKendree College, are not in the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield, Illinois

Folder 42: Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1901-1920 (12 items)

This correspondence has been removed from the Illinois Historical Survey Archives since it relates to personal matters and projects. (This file will be greatly expanded when a more detailed examination and weeding of the Survey's archives can be undertaken.)

Folder 43: Miscellaneous Papers and Note, no date.

These papers and notes were found in the Survey's archives among the Alvord-Carter Correspondence, 1907-1915. They consist mainly of copied French and British documents; also included are a few notes and lists. The former label was: Illinois Historical Collections. British Series. Alvord-Carter Correspondence, 1907-1915.

Folder 44: Miscellaneous Pamphlets, no date. (9 items)

These pamphlets were found in the Survey archives.

IV. Notebooks

Many of these notebooks represent the early research efforts leading up to the Illinois Historical Collections.

Notebook 1: "Notebook of Southern Illinois trip August and September 1905"

Handwritten, loose leaf, string-tied notebook containing notes on documents, collections, and names of people to consult.

Notebook 2: "Alvord-Original notes on St. Clair Co. records"

Handwritten, bound notebook describing holdings of county offices and documents of various types

Notebook 3: "Historical and Genealogical Society, 18 Somerset St., Boston and Worcester Notebook. August 1907"

- Handwritten, loose leaf, string-tied notebook listing and/or describing various documents, newspapers, and collections at the Historical and Genealogical Society in Boston, Mass.
- Notebook 4: "Albany and New York Note-Book. August 1907"
Handwritten, loose leaf, string-tied notebook describing various collections; also quotes a few documents
- Notebook 5: "Detroit and Canadian Notebooks. August 1907"
Handwritten, loose leaf, string-tied notebook listing and/or describing documents and collections in various depositories
- Notebook 6: "Philadelphia Note-Book, August-September 1907"
Handwritten, loose leaf, string-tied notebook which listing and describing holdings of various depositories
- Notebook 7: "Pittsburgh Notebook. September 1907"
Handwritten, loose leaf, string-tied notebook which describing holdings of various depositories; also quotes a few manuscripts
- Notebook 8: "Madison Notes Volume 1: June 1906"
Handwritten, loose leaf, unbound set of notes describing various documents, including the Draper Collection
- Notebook 9: "Notes on Pamphlet Bibliography for Mississippi Valley and British Politics"
Handwritten, loose leaf, hard cover notebook describing letters and pamphlets on British Western land policy
- Notebook 10: Untitled
Handwritten, loose leaf, string-tied notebook listing and sometimes quoting papers in the George Rogers Clark Papers of the Durrett Collection, Louisville
- Notebook 11: Untitled
Handwritten, loose leaf, metal-clipped notebook describing such documents as the Journal of N. W. Commissioners; Baynton, Wharton, and Morgan records; and Virginia records, primarily concerning the West
- Notebook 12: Untitled
Handwritten set of loose leaf notes on letters in the Register of Official Letters, Volume II; Letters of the Executive, 9928-34, Volume 3; and Gov. Ford's Letterbook, "Executive Letters," Volume 4, 1810-5; also includes a set of notes on various state officers, including A. P. Field and Governor Reynolds.

Box 6

V. Miscellaneous Notes

- 1 package of cards listing persons mentioned in Kaskaskia and Cahokia Records; 3 packages of miscellaneous notes (mostly disorganized, some possibly belonging to the first package)

VI. Notes

- Set 1. "Alvord's Bibliography and notes on the Explorations of the English in New York and in the 18th Century" (3x5 cards)

Box 7

- Set 2: Calendar of Forsyth Papers (5x8 cards)

Box 7 (cont.) and Box 8

Set 3: Notes for The Illinois Country

Divided by topic and including many primary source quotes; some notes compiled by Louise Kellogg and Wayne Stevens as well as by Alvord (5x8 cards)

Box 9

Set 4: Notes on The French Regime, 1697-1764

On primary sources, compiled by Alvord (3x5 cards)

Box 9 (cont.) and 10

Set 5: Notes on The British Regime, 1765-1780

On primary sources, compiled by Alvord (3x5 cards)

Box 10

Set 6: Notes on The Mississippi Valley in British Politics; Notes on dramtis personae

Alphabetically arranged list of characters mentioned in the book, with notes to biographical references (3x5 cards)

Box 10 (cont.) and 11

Set 7: Notes on The Mississippi Valley in British Politics; Notes on Correspondence

Chronologically arranged set of notes on the correspondence used for the book (3x5 cards)

Box 12

Set 8: Notes on The Mississippi Valley in British Politics; Notes on miscellaneous collections of sources

Set of notes on the book (3x5 cards)

Box 13

Set 9: German-American Settlement Notes and Bibliography

Compiled in or before 1915 by Miss Janice Kile and sent by Alvord to book dealers in an effort to obtain books for the Survey and the University Library