

IHLC MS 988

**Ashmore Family
Papers, 1824-2004.**

Manuscript Collection Inventory

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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Illinois History and Lincoln Collections
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Box 1

General Family Materials

Family history.

This section consists of family trees for the Ashmore, McKinley, and Claypool branches of the family, as well as biographical sketches of many family members. The McKinley family history includes the transcript of a letter from the Civil War written by Michael Meres to Hamp Kearney, dated 28 November 1863. The letter details Meres' participation in the Battle of Lookout Mountain. See also flat storage.

Family business interests.

Skene Lead Mine.

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. They then leased 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, 1904-1906.

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, 1902-1905.

Lease agreements

with George Skene, 1902.

with Charles Kistler, 1916.

Legal Papers, 1907-1910.

Real Estate Papers, 1889, 1905.

Later Years

Correspondence, 1945-1964.

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, 1939-1956.

With U.S. Bureau of Mines, The American Metal Company of Colorado, Roland F. Beers, Inc., and the State of Illinois

Ashmore Properties drilling records, 1945-1947.

Map, zinc-lead district of Northwestern Illinois, 1955. See flat storage.

Record of lead discovery, Wolf Creek Range, Arthur Ashmore Farm, 1959-1960. [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, circa 1959-1960. 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.

Family Papers, by generation

Joseph Ashmore, 1787-1868.

- Biographical material
 "Pageant scene based on incident in Kett, *History of Jo Daviess County*, 1878." Includes reference to Joseph Ashmore.
- Real estate papers (photocopies), 1842, 1848
- Charles Ashmore, 1829-1925. Son of Joseph Ashmore.
- Biographical material
 Biographical sketch and photos (photocopies).
 Estate papers, 1910-1934
 Real estate papers, 1868-1890, 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.
 Property tax receipt, 1890.
 Real estate papers. 1868, 1871, 1889, 1893, 1904, 1904, 1909. See flat storage.
- Belle Claypool Ashmore, 1850-1925. Wife of Henry Ashmore.
 Correspondence, 1911. Regarding a book purchase and magazine subscription.
 Estate papers. 1910, 1912, 1925, 1916, 1928. See also flat storage.
 Cancelled checks. 1910you, 1914, 1919, 1924, 1925.
- Walter Ashmore, 1879-1960. Son of Henry and Belle Ashmore.
 Application for Old Age Assistance, 1944.
 Financial papers, 1925-1945.
 Bank statements, cancelled checks, receipts.
- Arthur L. Ashmore, 1882-1969. Son of Joseph Ashmore.
- Biographical material
 Obituary, 2 May 1969. *The Telegraph-Herald*, Dubuque, Iowa.
 Funeral memory book, 1969.
 Marriage certificate, 1911. See flat storage.
 Portrait, circa 1890s.
 Correspondence, 1910. Relating to the business interests of Mary Claypool.
 Estate papers, 1959-1971.
 Financial Papers, 1942-1948
 Account book pages, tax receipts
 Insurance papers. 1915, 1922, 1936, 1946.
 Real estate papers, 1909-1950. See also flat storage.
- Jessie H. Ashmore, 1887-1972. Wife of Arthur L. Ashmore.
 Funeral memory book and bulletin. 19 April 1972.
 High school diploma, 1906. Hanover, Illinois High School. See flat storage.
 Estate papers, 1959-1973.
- Kenneth McKinley Ashmore, 1915-2004. Son of Arthur and Jessie Ashmore.
- Biographical material
 Funeral bulletin. 5 February 2004.
 Photographs.
 Sibling group photo circa 1922, wedding photo with Verona Marie Heidenreich, November 25, 1937.
 Certificate of baptism, 1915. See flat storage.

Correspondences. 1968-1969, 1973, 1970, 1986, 1994.

Includes James Ashmore (grandson), Jessie H. Ashmore (mother), and Connie Fairchild (daughter).

Estate papers. 1962, 1973, 2004.

Financial papers, 1976-1977.

Bills, tax notices.

Professional papers, 1973-1975.

Includes correspondence, certificates, contracts, job applications, and letters of recommendation regarding Ashmore's career as a water sanitation specialist in Elizabeth, Illinois.

Real estate papers, 1963.

Sale inventory of household goods, 1993.

Verona M. Ashmore, 1918-1962. Wife of Kenneth McKinley Ashmore.

Biographical material.

Obituary, December 8, 1962. *Freeport Journal-Standard*, Freeport, Illinois.

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.

Champaign-Urbana Herb Society.

News-Gazette (Champaign, Illinois) article, July 27, 1995. Regarding the Herb Society's gardening work in Urbana's Meadowbrook Park.

Freeway Watch Committee Bulletin, circa 1994.

Stephenson County (Illinois) Historical Society Administrative Papers, 1992-1999.

Mission and Goals, Board of Directors, undated.

Correspondence.

Connie Fairchild member card, 1999.

Newsletters, 1992-1998.

Publicity Materials, 1995-1998.

Stephenson County one-room schools, research.

Research Papers

"Illinois State Hospital/Jacksonville Developmental Center," 1992

"Sousa in Illinois," for Illinois History Symposium, 1995.

Includes correspondence, drafts, illustrations, notes, and photocopies of manuscripts. Also includes copies of Phyllis Danner's "John Philip Sousa: The Illinois Connection."

Stephenson County, Illinois and Jo Daviess County, Illinois history newspaper articles, 1953-1966.

On the Chicago Great Western Railway derailment at Pearl City, May 13, 1953.

On the Mississippi River flood of 1965.

On 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].

Lincoln Home 1995 Summer Program Schedule.

- Fred Fairchild, 1940--. Husband of Connie Ashmore Fairchild.
 Photographs, Jacksonville, Illinois Bandstand. National Museum of American History, Washington, D.C., 1992.
- Casandra Lynn Ashmore, 1985--. Grandniece of Connie and Fred Fairchild.
 River Ridge, Illinois, middle school (2000) and high school (2004) graduation announcements.

Papers of Related Families

- Mary Shelton Claypool, 1829-circa 1910. Mother of Belle Claypool Ashmore.
 Photographs, circa 1910. Photocopies. See also flat storage.
- David Herald, 1818-1902. Grandfather of Jessie H. Ashmore.
 U.S. Naturalization Certificate, 5 June 1874.
 Estate papers, 1881, 1890, 1896, 1920.
 Real estate papers, 1863, 1883.
- William Logan, 1813-1855. Uncle of Belle Claypool Ashmore.
 Real estate papers, 1848.
- Sarah Elizabeth Loga, 1822-1893. Aunt of Belle Claypool Ashmore.
 Estate papers, 1890, 1893.
- John M. McKinley, 1860-1930. Father of Jessie H. Ashmore.
 Marriage certificate, 1886. See flat storage.