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Montgomery, James Alexander Papers

Background:

James Alexander Montgomery was born at Grassy Meadows, West Virginia on October 25, 1869. Orphaned as a child, he came to Jefferson County at the age of 20. In September, 1888, he helped organize and became a major stockholder of the Mary Lee Coal And Railway Company. It mined and sold coal sand and iron ore and diversified into the sale of coke, iron, and steel. Montgomery was later associated with the Birmingham, Powderly, and Bessemer Railway Company; formed in August, 1896, to carry freight and passenger. It had formerly been known as the Birmingham, Powderly, and Bessemer St Railroad, which had employed Montgomery as an operator at an earlier date to run a dummy engine. In January, 1910, the Montgomery Coal Washing and Manufacturing Company was organized from the capital assets of the dissolved Bessemer Coal, Iron and Land Company. Montgomery was president and general manager of the firm, and its equipment was sold in many parts of the country to the coal and steel industry. Mr. Montgomery was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church and his residence was allocated at 1426 30th St. ,No. He died on November9, 1960. As an inventor and industrial Engineer, Montgomery was an important figure in the development of Birmingham and Jefferson County as a leader of the coal and steel industry.

Residence: 1426 30th St. No.

Scope and Content:

The J.A. Montgomery Papers contain 2 subgroups: Personal Files (1892-1944), and Business Files (1865-1930); each subgroup having a separate chronological arrangement. The entire collection consists of 1040 items and 1831 leaves. The bulk of the material is contained within the Business Files and consists of correspondence, legal documents, Financial accounts, business forms, and etc. Business records for the year 1893 are subdivided as follows: (Jan.3-June 29, 1893) and (July6- Dec.26, 1893), and reflects peak business activity. Personal Files includes limited correspondence, receipts, two high school yearbooks: Central High School (1918), and Minor High School (1926). Items of historical interest in this collection are 2 booklets on the proposed Nicaraguan Canal of the late 19th century. Miscellaneous and undated materials are included in both subgroups.

Related Collections:

First Presbyterian Church

Size: 1 box

Source: Madelyn Bainbridge

Restrictions: Standard preservation and copyright restrictions.

Guide Prepared By: Paul Breck

Contents:

Begins File:

File Number:

Description:

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| 158.1.1 | Program of the Franklin Institute meeting, June8, 1892.
Related information on need for canal system in isthmus of Central America. Proceedings of Nicaraguan Canal Convention, St. Louis, Mo. June2-3, 1892. (January 8,1892 to June3,1892) |
| 158.1.2 | Correspondence. Membership receipt in Alabama Club (May 6, 1893 to September 2, 1893) |
| 158.1.3 | Receipts. Grocery, drugs, clothing, ect. (February 8, 1895 to December 31,1895) |
| 158.1.4 | Receipts. Clothing, grocery, doctors visits. Correspondence (January1, 1896 to December14, 1896) |
| 158.1.5 | Receipts. Magazines, shoes, laundry, ect. (January3, 1897 to May 4, 1898) |
| 158.1.6 | Correspondence. Receipts: laundry, meats, ect. (January 11, 1898 to May4, 1898) |
| 158.1.7 | Report Card: Paul Hayne School, June3, 1918 |
| 158.1.8 | Yearbook: Central High School, 1918 |
| 158.1.9 | Yearbook: Minor High School, 1926. |
| 158.1.10 | Report Card: Kennedy School, 1929-1930. |

- 158.1.11 Receipt February 25, 1942
- 158.1.12 Correspondence: George D. Pollock to Rosalie Weaver, January 20, 1942
- 158.1.13 Music Test, January 25, 1944
- 158.1.14 Miscellaneous undated newspaper clippings, advertisements, opera program, school lesson, bill of sale. Correspondence, undated.

BUSINESS FILES

- 158.1.15 Title abstract Conveyance of Property from U.S.A. to Samuel S. Earle and Following, August 24, 1865 to December 31, 1897.
- 158.1.16 Advertisements: International Exhibitions of 1876 and Berlin Tramway Company.
- 158.1.17 Advertisements: John Stephenson Company; Gold Medal, Paris, 1878.
- 158.1.18 Warranty Deed: Wilson to Suzlsby, December 23, 1886.
- 158.1.19 Distributive Journal, November 15, 1888 to July 31, 1890
- 158.1.20 Correspondence. Telegram, July 29, 1890 to October 1, 1890
- 158.1.21 Correspondence Ledger sheet, receipts, correspondence reflects problems related to business transactions, January 23, 1891 to December 30, 1891
- 158.1.22 Correspondence Telegrams, legal documents, ect January 2, 1892 to December 30, 1892
- 158.1.23 Correspondence: Business activity at peak cycle, January 3, 1893 to June 29, 1893
- 158.1.24 Correspondence: Legal documents reflecting court fight, Mary Lee vs. Mercantile Trust Company, July 6, 1893 to December 26, 1893
- 158.1.25 Correspondence: receipts, telegrams, ect., January 6, 1894 to September 17, 1894
- 158.1.26 Correspondence: receipts, ect., March 1, 1895 to December 31, 1895

- 158.1.27 Receipts, telegrams, January1, 1896 to July 24, 1896
- 158.1.28 Correspondence: telegrams, receipts, ect., January1, 1897 to December30, 1897
- 158.1.29 Correspondence: telegrams, receipts, January5, 1898 to December22, 1898
- 158.1.30 Correspondence: receipts, January26, 1899 to October18, 1899
- 158.1.31 Receipt, March 15, 1900
- 158.1.32 Correspondence: receipts, March22, 1901 to June20, 1901
- 158.1.33 Receipts and receipt book, March 15, 1902
- 158.1.34 Warranty Deed, July 31, 1903
- 158.1.35 Receipts, Mortgage and check, January9, 1905 to June 23, 1905
- 158.1.36 Receipts, mortgage, April 10, 1906 to July2, 1906
- 158.1.37 Deed, tax assement, and insurance policy, November11, 1907 to December16, 1907
- 158.1.38 Insurance policy, July 16, 1909
- 158.1.39 Mortgages and checks, June1, 1911 to June15, 1911
- 158.1.40 Transfer slip, January23, 1912
- 158.1.41 Correspondence: Freight bill, bill of sale, June3, 1916
- 158.1.42 Mortgage foreclosure, receipts, newspaper clippings, February1, 1922 to August9, 1922
- 158.1.43 Correspondence, January17, 1925
- 158.1.44 Bank statement, July 2, 1928
- 158.1.45 Employee Count Birmingham News and Age Herald, April12, 1930
- 158.1.46 Miscellaneous un dated advertisements, blank tax book, correspondence, and telegrams

