

LAUREL STEAM STONE COMPANY RECORDS, 1900-1904

Collection #
SC 2403

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Processed by
Charles Latham
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USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 items

COLLECTION DATES: 1900-1904

PROVENANCE: James P. Mullin, Brookville IN, 13 September 1993

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 93.0671

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Laurel Steam Stone Company was organized in April 1900. At that time it purchased from John O'Hair and Joel W. Pusey, receivers, property which had belonged to the Derbyshire Falls Stone and Cement Company. Directors of the new company were to be Caleb W. and Joel B. Pusey, Edgar and John O'Hair, and Oscar Derbyshire. At that time there was an active limestone quarry three miles west of Laurel, with a railroad spur over which it was shipping up to

fifteen carloads of dressed stone a day. It employed from 100 to 150 men. The limestone was used mainly for sidewalk paving.

By 1903 the company was in trouble. There seem to have been disagreements between Edgar O'Hair and the Pusey brothers on one side and John O'Hair and the Derbyshire family on the other. Money was owed to Edgar O'Hair and the Puseys for quarry equipment, rights of way, and tracks which the company had purchased. To settle this debt, the company and its assets were sold in September 1904 to Edgar O'Hair and the Puseys. By 1915 it had disappeared, apparently made obsolete by the growing use of cement for sidewalks.

Edgar O'Hair was a prominent attorney in Laurel. John O'Hair (1853-1914), his brother, published the *Laurel Review* from 1885 on. The Pusey family do not appear in any Franklin County histories.

Sources: *Franklin County History* (1915), esp. pp. 730-733

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of three items: a company board minute book (1900-1904), a separate board resolution ending the company in 1904, and a photograph of the quarry, stored in Visual Collections. Meetings of the board were infrequent, and the same people were frequently involved on both sides of a transaction, so that it is difficult to tell what went wrong with the company.

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Laurel Steam Stone Company

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Laurel Steam Stone Company

O'Hair, John, 1853-1914

O'Hair, Edgar

Pusey, Joel B.

Pusey, Caleb W.

Derbyshire, Oscar

Quarries and quarrying--Indiana--Laurel--Photographs

Stone industry and trade--Indiana--Laurel

Business records--Indiana--Laurel

Laurel (Ind.)

Franklin County (Ind.)

END