

CRAWFORDSVILLE SEED COMPANY RECORDS, 1914-1918

Collection #:
M 0420

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Processed by
Parker Hubbard Cohen
7 March 1996

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	15 manuscript boxes
COLLECTION DATES:	1914-1918
PROVENANCE:	Donated by Crawfordsville District Public Library, 222 S. Washington St., Crawfordsville, IN, 1984
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
RELATED HOLDINGS:	None
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1984.0908
NOTES:	

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Crawfordsville Seed Company, Crawfordsville, Montgomery County, Indiana, organized and opened for business starting 1 July 1914. The company was one of two seed distributors in Crawfordsville. The 1926 Crawfordsville city directory listed the company partners with A[bn]er Homer Flanigan as president, Shirl Herr as vice-president, and F. Rider Freeman as secretary and treasurer. The business, located at 300 North Green Street, expanded by 1922 to incorporate the buildings between 300 and 312 North Green Street. Flanigan was active in the company as president from the founding in 1914 until his death in 1942. Freeman was active in the company as secretary and treasurer from its founding in 1914. During the summer of 1917, Freeman studied seed analysis in Washington, D.C. Later, he served as the company's vice-president and as president from 1944 until 1959. Family members of the three original partners also worked for the seed company. Edwin Flanigan (exact relationship to Homer Flanigan uncertain) acted as secretary and treasurer in 1940 and eventually became the company president by 1962. Remley Herr, Shirl Herr's son, worked in the company lab during the 1940s, and Richard Freeman was listed as the company's vice-president in 1962. The Crawfordsville Seed Company was sold to the nationally known Northrup King & Company in 1966.

Shirl Herr, vice-president of the Crawfordsville Seed Company, also contributed much to the community and worked as an inventor. Born in Lapland, Boone County, Indiana, on 21 April 1875, Herr came from Pennsylvania-German stock. After a few terms at Lebanon High School, he educated himself in plant culture science. He moved to Crawfordsville in 1906 and worked as foreman for Crabbs, Reynolds Seed Co. and then as a seed cleaner from his home before joining Flanigan and Freeman to form the Crawfordsville Seed Company. Herr made a significant contribution to the seed industry by inventing devices for cleaning seeds, especially clover seeds. He also received recognition for inventing a magnetic balance for locating underground minerals and metals. After many active years in Crawfordsville social organizations, Shirl Herr died of heart disease on 1 October 1936, at the age of 61.

Sources: *Crawfordsville City Directory and Montgomery County Gazetteer, 1912*. (Anderson, IN: Union Directory Co., 1912), p. 82.

Gronert, Theodore G. "Shirl Herr." *Indiana Magazine of History*. Vol. 33. (Bloomington, IN: Indiana Historical Society, March 1937), p. 52.

Gronert, Theodore G. *Sugar Creek Saga, A History and Development of Montgomery County . . .*, (Crawfordsville: Wabash College, 1958), pp. 48, 457.

Leshnick's Crawfordsville City Directory, 1922. (Peoria, IL: Leshnick's Directory Co., 1922), p. 89. Materials in the collection.

Polk's Crawfordsville City Directories., (Chicago: R. L. Polk & Co., 1926, 1940, 1944, 1959, 1966).

Riggs, Constance Kakavelos. *Montgomery County Remembers . . .* (Crawfordsville: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976), pp. 121, 124.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Crawfordsville Seed Company Records consist of business and personal correspondence between the years 1914 and 1918. Letters, postcards, notes, telegrams, envelopes, government publications, and bills found in the company records were originally arranged alphabetically and then chronologically mixed. To facilitate researcher access, the correspondence has been re-arranged alphabetically, then chronologically. Most of the company records center around the mid-western United States, but correspondence can be found with companies all over Europe and the United States. Letters between the company partners, Flanigan, Herr, and Freeman, offer some social and personal insights about their positions and relations. Some of these letters and cards describe business trips. Other correspondence describes Flanigan's family fishing vacation in Michigan and Freeman's experiences during his residence in Washington, D.C. while studying seed analysis.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, A--An
2	Correspondence, Ar--At
3	Correspondence, S. Bash & Co., July--August 1914
4	Correspondence, S. Bash & Co., September 1914--July 1915
5	Correspondence, Bash's Seed Store
6	Correspondence, C. S. Bentley, August 1914--February 1915
7	Correspondence, C. S. Bentley, March--December 1915
8	Correspondence, C. S. Bentley, January--April 1916
9	Correspondence, C. S. Bentley, October--December 1916
10	Correspondence, C. S. Bentley, January--March 1917
11	Correspondence, C. S. Bentley, April--June 1917
12	Correspondence, Blackman & Griffin Co.
13	Correspondence, Bloomington Milling Co.
14	Correspondence, Geo. T. Bowen
15	Correspondence, C. S. Brent
16	Correspondence, C. S. Brent Seed Co.

Box 2:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, John J. Buffington & Co., July 1914--June 1916
2	Correspondence, John J. Buffington & Co., September 1916--June 1917
3	Correspondence, B--Bl
4	Correspondence, Bo--By
5	Correspondence, Campbell & Co.
6	Correspondence, Caughey--Jossman Co.
7	Correspondence, W. F. Cavins, January--March 1915
8	Correspondence, W. F. Cavins, May 1915--April 1917
9	Correspondence, T. H. Cochrane Co., July 1914--February 1915

10	Correspondence, T. H. Cochrane Co., March 1915--January 1916
11	Correspondence, T. H. Cochrane Co., February--December 1916
12	Correspondence, T. H. Cochrane Co., January--March 1917
13	Correspondence, A. B. Cohee & Co.
14	Correspondence, Colfax Grain Co.
15	Correspondence, Courteen Seed Co.
16	Correspondence, E. W. Conklin & Son
17	Correspondence, Craver--Dickinson Seed Co.
18	Correspondence, H. H. Crawford

Box 3:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, C. Cunningham
2	Correspondence, C--Ce
3	Correspondence, Ch--Cl
4	Correspondence, Co--Cou
5	Correspondence, Cov--Cu
6	Correspondence, Davis
7	Correspondence, Albert Dickinson Co., July 1914--February 1915
8	Correspondence, Albert Dickinson Co., March--December 1915
9	Correspondence, Albert Dickinson Co., January 1916
10	Correspondence, Albert Dickinson Co., February 1916
11	Correspondence, Albert Dickinson Co., March 1--15, 1916
12	Correspondence, Albert Dickinson Co., March 16--31, 1916
13	Correspondence, Albert Dickinson Co., April 1916
14	Correspondence, Albert Dickinson Co., May--June 1916
15	Correspondence, Albert Dickinson Co., July--December 1916
16	Correspondence, Albert Dickinson Co., January--April 1917

Box 4:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, Albert Dickinson Co., May 1917--January 1918
2	Correspondence, Albert Dickinson Co., February --June 1918
3	Correspondence, Da--De
4	Correspondence, Di--Du
5	Correspondence, Eb--El
6	Correspondence, Em--Ew
7	Correspondence, Fairbanks, Morse & Co.
8	Correspondence, Farmer Elevator Co.
9	Correspondence, Farmers Grain--Farmers & Traders
10	Correspondence, A. T. Ferrell & Co.
11	Correspondence, A. Homer Flanagan
12	Correspondence, Food Administration
13	Correspondence, W. B. Foresman Co., December 1914--June 1916
14	Correspondence, W. B. Foresman Co., September 1916--April 1917
15	Correspondence, W. B. Foresman Co., September 1917--April 1918
16	Correspondence, Franklin Commission Co.

Box 5:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, Samuel Franks & Sons
2	Correspondence, F. Rider Freeman
3	Correspondence, Furnas--Brown Grain Co.
4	Correspondence, Furr & Cohee
5	Correspondence, Fa--Fi
6	Correspondence, Fl--Fos
7	Correspondence, Fou--Fu
8	Correspondence, Goodrich Bros. Hay & Grain Co.

9	Correspondence, Grain Dealers Journal
10	Correspondence, B. F. Gump Co., 1914--1915
11	Correspondence, B. F. Gump Co., 1916--1917
12	Correspondence, F. G. Gutmann
13	Correspondence, Gae--Gay
14	Correspondence, Ge--Go
15	Correspondence, Gra--Grif

Box 6:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, Grim--Gw
2	Correspondence, Halstead Brothers, 1914--1916
3	Correspondence, Halstead Brothers, 1917--1918
4	Correspondence, Hardin, Hamilton & Lewman, 1914--June 1915
5	Correspondence, Hardin, Hamilton & Lewman, August 1915--June 1918
6	Correspondence, Shirl Herr, 1915--1916
7	Correspondence, Shirl Herr, 1917--1918, n.d.
8	Correspondence, Hesse Envelope Co.
9	Correspondence, Hide, Leather & Belting Co.
10	Correspondence, H. E. Hill
11	Correspondence, Hillsboro Hardware Co.
12	Correspondence, Henry Hirsch, 1914--1916
13	Correspondence, Henry Hirsch, 1917--1918
14	Correspondence, Hobbs Grain Co.
15	Correspondence, Hoermann's Seed Store
16	Correspondence, Huntley Manufacturing Co.
17	Correspondence, Hutchinson & Son
18	Correspondence, Hyde Seed Farms
19	Correspondence, Hac--Hal

Box 7:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, Ham--Har
2	Correspondence, Has--Het
3	Correspondence, Hi--Hom
4	Correspondence, Hoo--Huf
5	Correspondence, Hug--Hy
6	Correspondence, Illinois Seed Co.
7	Correspondence, Indiana Grain Dealers Assoc.
8	Correspondence, Indiana Seed Co.
9	Correspondence, Insurance Papers
10	Correspondence, I
11	Correspondence, Jacot & Mullen, Inc., 1914--1915
12	Correspondence, Jacot & Mullen, Inc., 1916
13	Correspondence, Jenkins & Cohee
14	Correspondence, Johnson Hardware Co.
15	Correspondence, J. W. Johnson
16	Correspondence, J
17	Correspondence, Kinsey Bros.
18	Correspondence, Knox and Boyd, 1915--1916
19	Correspondence, Knox and Boyd, 1917--1918
20	Correspondence, Knox & Potter

Box 8:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, Kraus & Apfelbaum
2	Correspondence, Ka--Ker
3	Correspondence, Kes--Ki

4	Correspondence, Kl--Ku
5	Correspondence, Lacy Seed & Hay Co.
6	Correspondence, Laman Bros.
7	Correspondence, J. B. Leveille
8	Correspondence, Lewis & Chambers
9	Correspondence, Loewith, Larsen & Co.
10	Correspondence, Loughry Bros. Milling & Grain Co.
11	Correspondence, Louisville Seed Co., 1914--1915
12	Correspondence, Louisville Seed Co., 1916--1918
13	Correspondence, La--Lay
14	Correspondence, Le--Lew
15	Correspondence, Li--Ly
16	Correspondence, Mangelsdorf Bros., 1914--1915
17	Correspondence, Mangelsdorf Bros., 1916--1918

Box 9:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, McBane & McBane
2	Correspondence, McCorkle & Riley
3	Correspondence, J. Chas. McCullough Seed Co., 1914--August 1915
4	Correspondence, J. Chas. McCullough Seed Co., September 1915--June 1916
5	Correspondence, J. Chas. McCullough Seed Co., July 1916--1918
6	Correspondence, J. M. McCullough's Sons Co.
7	Correspondence, Milwaukee Seed Co.
8	Correspondence, Minneapolis Seed Co.
9	Correspondence, Mitchell Brothers Publishing Co.
10	Correspondence, Moss Grain Co.
11	Correspondence, Ma--Maz
12	Correspondence, McA--McC
13	Correspondence, McD--McL

14	Correspondence, Me--Mit
15	Correspondence, Mo--My
16	Correspondence, National Seed Co., 1914--April 1916
17	Correspondence, National Seed Co., September 1916--1918

Box 10:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, Northern Elevator Co., 1914--April 1915
2	Correspondence, Northern Elevator Co., August--December 1915
3	Correspondence, Northern Elevator Co., January--March 1916
4	Correspondence, Northern Elevator Co., July 1916--1918
5	Correspondence, Northrup, King & Co., 1914--1916
6	Correspondence, Northrup, King & Co., 1917--1918
7	Correspondence, Nungesser--Dickinson Seed Co., 1914--October 1916
8	Correspondence, Nungesser--Dickinson Seed Co., November 1916--1918
9	Correspondence, Na--Ne
10	Correspondence, Ni--No
11	Correspondence, L. L. Olds Seed Co.
12	Correspondence, Oxley Seed Co.
13	Correspondence, O
14	Correspondence, J. G. Peppard Seed Co., 1914--May 1915
15	Correspondence, J. G. Peppard Seed Co., July 1915--1917
16	Correspondence, Pfeiffer Grain & Seed Co.
17	Correspondence, Philadelphia Seed Co.
18	Correspondence, Plant Seed Co.
19	Correspondence, Porter Brothers

Box 11:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
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1	Correspondence, Potter & Sawyer
2	Correspondence, Price Current Grain Reporter
3	Correspondence, Pa--Ph
4	Correspondence, Pi--Pos
5	Correspondence, Pow--Py
6	Correspondence, I. L. Radwaner
7	Correspondence, Railroad Bills of Lading
8	Correspondence, Railroad Business
9	Correspondence, Ray & Rice
10	Correspondence, Ross Seed Co., 1914--April 1915
11	Correspondence, Ross Seed Co., July 1915--November 1916
12	Correspondence, Ross Seed Co., 1917--1918
13	Correspondence, Rudy--Patrick Seed Co.
14	Correspondence, Ra--Ron
15	Correspondence, Ros--Ry

Box 12:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, Samples Mailed
2	Correspondence, Wm. G. Scarlett & Co., 1914--1915
3	Correspondence, Wm. G. Scarlett & Co., January--June 1916
4	Correspondence, Wm. G. Scarlett & Co., July 1916--June 1917
5	Correspondence, Wm. G. Scarlett & Co., August 1917--1918
6	Correspondence, J. H. Schuman
7	Correspondence, W. A. Simpson Co.
8	Correspondence, W. H. Small & Co.
9	Correspondence, Southworth & Co., 1914--March 1915
10	Correspondence, Southworth & Co., April--August 1915
11	Correspondence, Southworth & Co., September--December 1915
12	Correspondence, Southworth & Co., January--March 1916

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|----|---|
| 13 | Correspondence, Southworth & Co., April--October 1916 |
| 14 | Correspondence, Southworth & Co., November 1916--October 1917 |
| 15 | Correspondence, Southworth & Co., November 1917--1918 |

Box 13:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, Springfield Seed Co.
2	Correspondence, R. S. Stall & Co.
3	Correspondence, Stanford Seed Co.
4	Correspondence, Swayzee Milling Co.
5	Correspondence, Sa--Sch
6	Correspondence, Sci--Seed
7	Correspondence, Seeg--She
8	Correspondence, Shi--Shu
9	Correspondence, Si--Sm
10	Correspondence, Sn--Stan
11	Correspondence, Star--Ste
12	Correspondence, Sti--Sto
13	Correspondence, Str--Sy
14	Correspondence, L. Teweles & Co., 1914--1915
15	Correspondence, L. Teweles & Co., 1916--1918

Box 14:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, Ed. Throckmorton
2	Correspondence, Ta--Ti
3	Correspondence, To--Ty
4	Correspondence, U
5	Correspondence, Wm. Vollbracht

6	Correspondence, V
7	Correspondence, W. G. Ward Lumber Co.
8	Correspondence, F. A. Warren
9	Correspondence, Weaver Mailing Envelope & Box Co.
10	Correspondence, Whitaker Grocery Co.
11	Correspondence, Wilkinson Bros.
12	Correspondence, Witt Vehicle Co.
13	Correspondence, Wood, Stubbs & Co.
14	Correspondence, T. W. Wood & Sons
15	Correspondence, Wab--Wau

Box 15:

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, Way--White
2	Correspondence, Whitney--Whitt
3	Correspondence, Wib--Wind
4	Correspondence, Wine--Wo
5	Correspondence, Young--Randolph Seed Co., 1914-1915
6	Correspondence, Young--Randolph Seed Co., 1916-1917
7	Correspondence, Y
8	Correspondence, P. L. Zimmermann Co.
9	Correspondence, Z

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4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related

materials.

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