Information Sheet

R  McCanse Brothers.
355  Records, 1886-1933.
     Six volumes.

MICROFILM

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are journals, cash books, and ledgers from the mercantile operations of the McCanse family at Mount Vernon, Lawrence County, Missouri. Included are records of the firm styled McCanse Brothers, 1886-ca. 1899, and those of Charles A. McCanse, ca. 1899-1933.

The McCanse brothers were sons of William Alexander McCanse (1821-1911), a prominent early merchant of Lawrence County, Missouri. Charles A. (1864- ?), George A. (1860-1934), and William Cotter McCanse (1856- ?) formally organized the firm McCanse Brothers on 29 April 1887. Its stated purpose was “the prosecution of a hardware and house furnishing goods business” in Mount Vernon. The new combination appears to have been an expansion of a previously existing partnership in the general merchandise trade. Charles A. McCanse seems to have taken over George’s interests in 1890, and was sole operator by 1899.

The McCanse records reflect typical general merchandise operations in small Missouri towns at the turn of the century. The records consist of standard financial records of the McCanse brothers operation at Mount Vernon, and, later, those of Charles A. McCanse. Some volumes include records of both. Volume 2 bears a notation regarding the partnership of the McCanse Brothers. Entries in Volume 5 indicate the changes leading to sole operation by Charles A. McCanse. Particularly useful are the statements of loss and gain, assets and liabilities, and dividends recorded in Volume 3 for the period 1889-1932. They reveal a prosperous enterprise at Mount Vernon which sustained a loss only in 1891, caused by fire.

The original volumes are part of a collection of mercantile records held by the Lawrence County Historical Society at the Jones Memorial Chapel near Mount Vernon, Missouri. Earlier records from this collection, including some for William Alexander McCanse, have been microfilmed as Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Rolla numbers R315, R332, R333, and R345.

r437  13 March 1989  Lawrence County Historical Society  Loaned for microfilming

Shelf List

These are journals, cash books, and ledgers from the mercantile operations of the McCanse family at Mount Vernon, Lawrence County, Missouri. Included are records of the firm styled McCanse Brothers, 1866-ca. 1899, and those of Charles A. McCanse, ca. 1899-1933.

Volume 1: McCanse Brothers/Charles A. McCanse, 1886-1933.
   Part 2: Charles A. McCanse, ledger, 1932-1933 (pp. 102-118).

Volume 2: McCanse Brothers, Cash Book A, ser. 2, 1887-1890 (pp. 1-113).

Volume 3: McCanse Brothers/Charles A. McCanse, 1887-1932.
Part 3: Statements of assets and liabilities, losses and gains, and dividends paid to Charles A. McCanse, 1889-1932 (pp. 319-431).


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McCanse Brothers
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McCanse, George A., 1860-1934
McCanse, William C., 1856-
Mount Vernon (Mo.)