These are personal and business papers of George H. Ambrose, a county judge of Lafayette County, Missouri, and president of the Lexington & St. Louis Railroad Company. The collection includes correspondence, legal and business papers, memoranda books, and bank account books.

George H. Ambrose was born ca. 1826 in Ohio. By 1855, he was living with his wife and family in Lafayette County, Missouri, where he was one of the incorporators of the Lafayette County Agricultural and Mechanical Society. In November 1868, Ambrose was elected as one of the judges (now called commissioners) of the Lafayette County Court.

On May 5, 1869, Ambrose was elected president of the Lexington & St. Louis Railroad. This road had been chartered in 1859 to run from Lexington to a junction with the Pacific Railroad of Missouri at Sedalia. Bonds were issued before the Civil War but no work was completed before the conflict. The railroad project was taken up again after the war. Construction began on the Lexington & St. Louis on May 18, 1869. In 1870, the directors negotiated an agreement by which the road was leased to the Pacific Railroad. Ambrose and others also formed a joint stock corporation to build a railroad hotel in Lexington. Irregularities in the issue of the railroad company’s bonds provoked political controversy and resultant litigation which lasted for years. In 1871, Judge Ambrose and Judge E. W. Washburne of Pettis County were indicted for fraud in connection with the sale of railroad bonds. Although Washburne was acquitted and the charges against Ambrose were dropped in 1872, a historian of Lafayette County stated flatly that “the people were betrayed by their most trusted servants.” The hotel project also failed. Ambrose moved to Bronson, Florida, in 1876. Although his reputation in Lafayette County may have been sullied by the controversy surrounding the railroad, he took with him letters of introduction from Dr. J. G. Russell and A. J. Hall.

The Ambrose collection provides a unique source for research on one of the most controversial railroad projects in mid-Missouri. The collection contains personal and business correspondence, family correspondence, legal and business papers, memoranda books, and bank account books. Folder 1 contains correspondence regarding the railroad and the Lexington hotel projects. Among the significant correspondents were D. R. Garrison and R. R. Powell of the Pacific Railroad of Missouri; T. B. Edgar, the fiscal agent of the Lexington & St. Louis; L. H. Waters of Carrollton, Missouri; and George S. Rathbun of Lexington. Folder 2 contains later correspondence of Ambrose’s family, much of which was written to Claudia Ambrose in Florida. Folders 3 and 4 contain legal and business papers. Many of them concern railroad and real estate matters, both official and personal. The memoranda books in folder 5 and the bank account books from the Aull Savings Bank in folder 6 also concern personal business matters as well as those associated with Ambrose’s duties as president of the Lexington & St. Louis.
These are personal and business papers of George H. Ambrose, a county judge of Lafayette County, Missouri, and president of the Lexington & St. Louis Railroad Company. The collection includes correspondence, legal and business papers, memoranda books, and bank account books.

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1858-1889
Folder 2: Correspondence, 1896-1924
Folder 3: Legal papers, 1866-1874
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Folder 6: Bank account books, 1869-1871

Register

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1858-1889

1858 Jul 15 George H. Ambrose, Lexington, Mo., to H. N. Hedges, Circleville, Oh.
1869 Jun 26 D. R. Garrison, St. Louis, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1869 Jul 25 B. F. Jeffries, Kansas City, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1869 Oct 1 A. Green, St. Louis, Mo., to George H. Ambrose. Re stocks and lawsuit against “Saline County men.”
1869 Oct 4 N. W. Letton, St. Louis, to [George H. Ambrose?]. Re sale of bonds.
1869 Oct 5 A. Green, St. Louis, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1869 Nov 24 Garrison & Currier, St. Louis, to George H. Ambrose. Re Pacific Railroad of Missouri.
1870 Mar 14 George H. Ambrose, Lexington, Mo., to D. R. Garrison. Ambrose threatens to resign from board unless Garrison becomes more cooperative.
1870 May -- T. B. Edgar, St. Louis, to Board of Directors, Lexington & St. Louis R.R. Details Edgar’s activities as fiscal agent.
1870 May 5 Telegrams from George H. Ambrose, Lexington, Mo., to the Philadelphia, New York, and Boston stock exchanges. Notification that Edgar had been removed as fiscal agent.
1870 May 19 H. J. Higgins, Lexington, Mo., to [George H. Ambrose?]
1870 May 30 George H. Ambrose, Lexington, Mo., to T. B. Edgar. Re attempts to get Edgar to surrender bonds so railroad can pay subcontractors.
1870 Jul 10 John L. Mirick, Carrollton, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1870 Jul 11 L. H. Waters, Carrollton, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1870  Aug 15  draft copy of above letter
1870  Sep 3  Wm. M. McPherson, St. Louis, Mo., to Board of Directors, Lexington & St. Louis R.R.
1870  Sep 10  Wm. [?] B. Hartley, New York, to George H. Ambrose. Re market conditions and lease of Lexington & St. Louis to Pacific Railroad of Missouri.
1870  Sep 12  Lexington & St. Louis R.R.: certified copy from minutes of meeting of Board of Directors
1870  Oct 18  Geo. E. Leighton, St. Louis, Mo., to [George H. Ambrose?]  
1870  Oct 29  A. W. McMee and J. M. Hackett, St. Louis, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1870  Nov 1  Receipt to George H. Ambrose, Lexington, Mo., for bonds delivered to United States Express Co.
1871  Jan 19  Hudson E. Bridge [?], St. Louis, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1871  May 20  George H. Ambrose, Lexington, Mo., to W. A. Miller, Darbyville Oh.
1871  May 23  Llewellyn Davis, Lexington, Mo., to County Court of Lafayette County, Mo. Re extension of railroad from Sedalia to Rolla for shipment of iron ore.
1871  Jul 8  L. H. Waters, Carrollton, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1871  Jul 10  L. H. Waters, Carrollton, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1871  Jul 11  L. H. Waters, Carrollton, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1871  Jul 13  L. H. Waters, Carrollton, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1871  Jul 27  L. H. Waters, Carrollton, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1871  Aug 2  L. H. Waters, Carrollton, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1871  Sep 11  L. H. Waters, Carrollton, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1872  Dec 13  I. J. Pollard, St. Louis, Mo., to George H. Ambrose
1875  Jan 13  D. R. Garrison, St. Louis, Mo., to Thomas Allen. Letter of introduction for Ambrose.
1876  Feb 3  J. G. Russell, Lexington, Mo., letter of recommendation for George H. Ambrose
1877  Feb 19  George H. Rathbun, Lexington, Mo., to George H. Ambrose. Re various legal matters.
1889  Nov 18  [unknown—fragment], Lexington, Mo., to George H. Ambrose

Folder 2: Correspondence, 1896-1924

1896  Aug 13  J. W. Savage, Philadelphia, to Adelia Thompson
1897  Jul 27  Carrie B. Farrell, Bridgeport, Conn., to Adelia Thompson
1898  May 3  “Mabel,” Springfield, Mo., to Adelia Thompson
1907  Mar 25  Letter of recommendation for Claudia Ambrose, by J. L. Kelley
1907  Jul 28  Claudia [Ambrose], Waldo, Fla., to Adelia Thompson
1908  12 May  J. L. Skipper, Lakeland, Fla., to Claudia Ambrose
1909  May 12  D. B. Dickson, Lakeland, Fla., to Claudia Ambrose
1910  Jun 16  Mary Sheats, Lakeland, Fla., to Claudia Ambrose
1910  Aug 1  William N. Sheats, Lakeland, Fla., to Claudia Ambrose
1912  Jul 30  J. L. Kelley, Gainesville, Fla., to Claudia Ambrose
1917  Jan 29  Carrie [?], Seattle, Wash., to Jesse S. Collins, Webster, Fla.
1924  Jul 30  Adelia M. (Dee) Hall, Lewiston, Mont., to Adelia Thompson and Claudia Ambrose

fragments and undated:
Ambrose, George H. Papers, 1858-1924

Folder 3: Legal papers: 1866-1874

1866 Nov 27 Deed, Lafayette County, Mo.: Edward R. and Sarah Mulkey to Charles Bailey
1867 Jul 7 Warranty Deed, Carroll County, Mo.: John B. and Sarah Jane Strong to James Rigney
1868 Jun -- Letter of release: Farmers Bank of Missouri to George H. Ambrose
1870 Sep 30 Swamp Land sale: Lafayette County, Mo., to George H. Ambrose, assignee of Harvey D. Smithson
1870 May -- Petition for injunction, State of Missouri vs. Lafayette County, Mo.
1870 Nov 12 Subpoena: case of Mulkey vs. Hill
1870 Nov 17 Notice for taking depositions: Mulkey vs. Hill & Ambrose
1871 Jan 10 Deed: distribution of estate of Joseph Roberts, Lafayette County, Mo., and sale of portion to George H. Ambrose
1871 Apr 3 Agreement between P. C. Patterson and George H. Ambrose to form P. C. Patterson & Co., a grocery firm
1871 Jun -- Deed of Trust, Lafayette County, Mo.: Leroy W. and Mary Hill to William H. Chiles
1871 Aug 31 Quit Claim Deed, Lafayette County, Mo.: Nancy and L. A. J. Mulkey to George H. Ambrose
1872 Jan 23 Circuit Court Proceedings: acquittal notice in State of Missouri vs. E. W. Washburn and George H. Ambrose (two copies). Washburn was acquitted and the case against Ambrose was dismissed.
1872 Mar 20 Subpoena, Lafayette County, Mo., in case of Lexington & St. Louis Railroad Co. vs. the County Court of Lafayette County. Re restraining order to prevent County from forcing election of new board of directors for railroad.
1873 Jan 16 Deed of Trust, Lafayette County, Mo.: Isaac and Elvina M. Reed to Clifton B. Daniels and George H. Ambrose
1873 Feb 13 Article of Agreement, Lexington, Mo.: Dissolution of partnership of P. C. Patterson, George H. Ambrose, and Emanuel Easter in the firm styled E. Easter & Co.
1873 Apr 9 Receipt for payment in case of Easter, Patterson & Ambrose vs. Lillis
1873 Aug -- Fee bill, Lafayette County, Mo.: case of Leroy W. Hill vs. Andrew J. Mulkey
1873 Aug 14 Lafayette County, Mo.: agreement to settle suit of Emanuel Easter & George H. Ambrose vs. P. C. Patterson and Lafayette Patterson
1874 Mar 14 Contract, Lafayette County, Mo.: land contract between John B. Jones and George H. Ambrose
1874 Jul 9 Receipt for payment in case of Joseph Hook vs. Leroy L. Hill & George H. Ambrose
undated Statement regarding business transactions of Aletta [S.] Ambrose
undated Instructions for taking depositions to be used in Missouri
undated Interrogation to be used in case involving Andrew J. Mulkey and Leroy W. Hill
undated Fee bill, Lafayette County, Mo.: case of Charles Bailey vs. Nancy J. Mulkey et al.
Notation: “Judge Ambrose to pay.”

Folder 4: Business papers, 1867-1875

1867 Feb 27 Redemption certificate for real estate taxes of L. W. Hill in Lafayette County, Mo.
1867 Aug 31 Receipt for clothing bought for Mr. Mulkey, deceased
1869 Account of bonds left with Edgar and Aull by Lexington & St. Louis R.R.
1869 Apr 6  Loan note to Harvey D. Smithson on Lafayette County school fund
1869 Apr 7  Receipt for bond sales to Lafayette County, Mo., by Lexington & St. Louis R.R.
1869 Jul 31  Due bill: Lexington & St. Louis R.R. to National Loan Bank, St. Louis
1869 Sep 29  Account of George H. Ambrose with Marshall & Easter
1870 Letter of instruction regarding Lexington & St. Louis R.R. bonds in Europe, and lease of railroad by Pacific Railroad of Missouri
1870 “Proposition for completion of Lexington & St. Louis Rail Road”
1870 Jan 6  Promissory note: Lexington & St. Louis R.R. to J. O. Graves
1870 Jan 28  Receipt for piano lessons
1870 Mar 4  Account statement: Lexington & St. Louis R.R. with Banking House of Robert Aull
1870 Apr 19  Account statement: Lexington & St. Louis R.R. with Banking House of Robert Aull
1870 Jun 8  Late payment notice: Lexington & St. Louis R.R. with National Loan Bank
1870 Jul 18  Extract from minutes of Board of Directors, Lexington & St. Louis R.R. re cancellation of old bonds and reissue of new ones
1870 Jul 18  Extract from minutes of Board of Directors, Lexington & St. Louis R.R. re lease of road to Pacific Railroad of Missouri
1870 Jul 18  Extract from minutes of Board of Directors, Lexington & St. Louis R.R. re appointments of fiscal agents
1870 Jul 30  Receipt for musical instruction of “Miss Lillie”
1870 Sep 8  Order of Pettis County Court to pay interest on bonds issued to Lexington & St. Louis
1870 Sep 12  Extract from minutes of Board of Directors, Lexington & St. Louis R.R. requesting Garrison & Currier to settle accounts
1870 Sep 12  Receipt from W. R. Blair for payment on account of Garrison & Currier
1870 Oct -- Announcement of appointment of R. M. Renick & Co. of St. Louis to negotiate settlement with Union National Bank regarding bonds of Lexington & St. Louis R.R.
1871 Mar 4  Statement of export of rails from Great Britain by S. W. Hopkins & Co., London
1871 Apr 8  Report of citizens’ investigating committee of the Lexington & St. Louis R.R.
1871 Jun 10  Settlement of account of George H. Ambrose with Marshall & Easter
1871 Jul 21  Promissory note: George H. Ambrose to Aull Savings Bank, Lexington, Mo.
1872 Jan 1  Statement of account of George H. Ambrose with J. H. Adringer, Lexington, Mo.
1872 Jan 9  Statement of public administrator in estate of James Rigney, Lafayette County, Mo.
1872 Mar 23  Promissory note: Charles Potts to George H. Ambrose
1873 Aug 14 List of accounts signed over to George H. Ambrose by P. C. Patterson and Lafayette Patterson, Lexington, Mo.
1874 Oct 16 Receipt for payment of Lafayette County real estate taxes of George H. Ambrose
1875 Feb 9  Receipt to George H. Ambrose by Wilson & Ballard for payment for construction
undated ledger sheet
undated notes on costs

Folder 5: Memoranda books, 1864-1890
1864 Memoranda book (Missouri)
1885-1888 Memoranda book (Florida)

Folder 6: Bank account books, 1869-1871
1869 Account book: includes accounts of Banking House of William Limrick with George H. Ambrose and the Lexington & St. Louis R.R.
1871 Aull Savings Bank in account with George H. Ambrose (April—September). Includes accounts of Alice H. Rigney and estate of James Rigney
1871-1872 Aull Savings Bank in account with George H. Ambrose (December 1871—September 1872)

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