This collection consists of six stock certificates (1924-1928) and a letter to stockholders (1931) for the Shawnee Copper Company at Eminence in Shannon County, Missouri. Officers of the firm included A. Wilbur, Ralph E. Carr, and W. A. Despain.

The Shawnee Copper Company was issued Missouri corporate charter number 42500 on 9 April 1924. Capitalization was $50,000 in a like number of shares valued at $1 each. These certificates of stock are numbered 071 (230 shares, issued on 3 May 1924), 072 (100 shares on 3 May 1924), 155 (25 shares on 23 September 1924), 196 (5 shares on 12 January 1925), 277 (160 shares on 13 June 1928) and 289 (15 shares on 7 September 1928). All were issued to B. W. Hensley of Eminence, with the exception of number 155, which was issued to Mrs. Florence Fanckboner. The certificates were signed by President A. Wilbur and Secretary Ralph E. Carr.

The letter to shareholders dated 15 April 1931 explains that “the $6,000.00 mortgage with accrued interests and costs, against the real estate and assets of the Shawnee Copper Company, now held by some twenty-seven stockholders of the Shawnee Copper Company, will be due and payable on May 25th, 1931.” The letter urges shareholders to contribute to a fund to buy the firm’s property at auction, thus allowing some opportunity for the company to become successful. “There is copper on this property,” says the letter, and “this property will some day be operated as a paying copper mine.” The letterhead lists the officers of the firm as President A. Wilbur, Secretary R. E. Carr, and Treasurer W. A. Despain. Others named as having an interest in the survival of the firm are W. J. Randolph, B. W. Hensley, Claten Culbertson, and Anvil A. Lewis, “all at Eminence, Missouri.”

The Shawnee Copper Company’s charter was declared forfeit on 1 January 1932 by Missouri’s Secretary of State for reason of failure to file an annual report.

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**Index Cards**

Carr, Ralph E.
Copper mines and mining—Missouri—Shannon County
Culbertson, Claten
Despain, W. A.
Eminence (Mo.)
Fanckboner, Florence
Hensley, B. W.
Lewis, Anvil A.
Mines and mineral resources—Missouri—Shannon County
Randolph, W. J.
Shannon County (Mo.)
Shawnee Copper Company
Wilbur, A.