Information Sheet

R Springfield Wagon Company.
1188 Papers, 1878-1888.
   One folder, photocopies.

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

These are miscellaneous papers of the Springfield Wagon Company at Springfield in Greene County, Missouri. Included are letters to the company from wagon dealers and parts suppliers in Arkansas and Missouri.

Businessmen and merchants at Springfield, Missouri, organized the Springfield Wagon Company in 1872. After a brush with bankruptcy, Homer F. Fellows, Norris W. Fellows, and Ezekiel Boyden reorganized the company in 1875 and began managing the firm. They became sole owners in late 1875 after a controversial lawsuit. The new managers improved the supply and sales departments, gradually expanding their marketing area from Missouri and Arkansas to Kansas, Indian Territory, and Texas. Despite setbacks including a fire that destroyed the factory in 1884, the company ultimately thrived in the fiercely competitive wagon market. By 1890 it enjoyed a virtual monopoly on the wagon business in its region. The company enjoyed extensive business with the U. S. Army during World War One, and successfully made the transition to steel wagons and farm vehicles in the 1920s. The Phipps Lumber Company of Fayetteville, Arkansas, a former supplier of hardwoods for wagon construction, purchased the company in 1941. Phipps continued to produce wagons until 1951.

This collection consists of twenty-five items of routine business correspondence. Much of the correspondence is from David Dunlap, a wagon dealer in Lead Hill, Arkansas. Suppliers represented include the St. Louis Tent & Awning Company, J. A. Fay & Company of St. Louis, the Defiance Machine Works of Ohio, and the Sligo Iron Store of St. Louis.

An extensive collection of the company’s records, the originals of which are at The History Museum for Springfield-Greene County in Springfield, have been previously microfilmed as WHMC-Rolla collection R059.

Shelf List

22 March 2006    David H. Jones    Loaned for photocopying

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 Feb 1878</td>
<td>St. Louis Tent Manufacturing Co., to Springfield Wagon Co.</td>
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<td>04 May 1878</td>
<td>Hurlbut &amp; Co., Racine, Wis., to Springfield Wagon Co.</td>
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<td>25 Jul 1878</td>
<td>Thomas Morrison, St. Louis Tent and Awning Co., to Springfield Wagon Co.</td>
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31 Aug 1886  David Dunlap, Lead Hill, Ark., to Springfield Wagon Co.
04 Sep 1886  Springfield Wagon Co., Springfield, Mo., to Bank of Rogers, Rogers, Ark.
09 Sep 1886  David Dunlap, Lead Hill, Ark., to Springfield Wagon Co.
10 Sep 1886  Dyer Brothers, Rogers, Ark., to Springfield Wagon Co.
16 Sep 1886  David Dunlap, Lead Hill Ark., to Springfield Wagon Co.
18 Sep 1886  David Dunlap, Lead Hill, Ark., to Springfield Wagon Co.
18 Sep 1886  David Dunlap, Lead Hill, Ark., to Springfield Wagon Co.
28 Sep 1886  David Dunlap, Lead Hill, Ark., to Springfield Wagon Co.
02 Oct 1886  W. A. Dale, Cane Hill, Mo., to Springfield Wagon Co.
15 Oct 1886  David Dunlap, Lead Hill Ark., to Springfield Wagon Co.
18 Oct 1886  Defiance Machine Works, Defiance, Oh., to Springfield Wagon Co.
22 Oct 1886  David Dunlap, Lead Hill, Ark., to Springfield Wagon Co.
23 Oct 1886  Defiance Machine Works, Defiance, Oh., to Springfield Wagon Co.
28 Oct 1886  Dyer Brothers, Rogers, Ark.
19 Jul 1887  Abraham Carlin, Purdy, Mo., to Springfield Wagon Co.

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