S0841 LEONARD MATTHEWS FAMILY PAPERS, 1861-2003

10 Folders

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

PROVENANCE

The Leonard Matthews Family Papers are drawn partially from S0440 Matthews-Chambers Papers and through accessions donated by Patricia Boykin in 2003 and 2005.

HISTORY

Leonard Matthews was born in Baltimore, Maryland on December 17, 1828 and died in St. Louis, Missouri on May 5, 1931 at the age of 102 as the result of a heart attack. He was a prominent St. Louis businessman, community leader, and traveler. Matthews associated with notable persons of his time such as General U.S. Grant and President William Howard Taft. He visited Missouri for the first time in 1842 and his family owned a farm near Hannibal, MO. Leonard Matthews took part in the 1849 California Gold Rush where he made $2,500. He made $25,000 in a San Francisco, CA business venture and moved to St. Louis in 1851.

Matthews spent the remainder of his life in the city where he pursued ventures as a druggist and investment banker. He studied chemistry at Pope Medical College from 1854-1856. Matthews founded a drug company with his two brothers and sold it to Meyer Brothers Drug Company in 1865. On January 31, 1870, he and General A.G. Edwards founded the brokerage firm Edwards & Matthews. In 1874 Edwards Whitaker joined as a partner and the firm became Matthews and Whitaker. The investment banking company later became Whitaker & Co. when Leonard Matthews retired around 1905. Matthews also played an important role in the community. He served as a trustee of Shaws Garden (Missouri Botanical Garden), fiscal agent, charity commissioner, and on numerous boards. He settled into a house at 5477 Cabanne Ave. in 1890 where he lived the rest of his life and tended his garden. Matthews married Mary Spotswood Nisbet in 1861 and he survived her 1918 death by 13 years. They had seven children which included four sons and three daughters. Their family also included 25 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

SCOPE & CONTENT

The Leonard Matthews Family Papers is divided into 10 folders. The collection consists of documents and photographs that pertain to Leonard Matthews and his family history.

COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS

No known copyright restrictions.

FOLDER LIST

1. Letter, William Nisbet to Leonard Matthews, June 11, 1861
2. Birth Records, Matthews Family, 1862-1880


5. Mary N. Matthews Journal, New Orleans, LA, November 30, 1865


7. Unidentified letter fragment
   Report of the estate of Leonard Matthews
   Photocopy of Matthews house
   Poetry recollections by Leonard Matthews
   Life Magazine, January 23, 1950, Patricia Stehlin Boykin on page 100
   News clipping, re: Patricia Stehlin Boykin, Leonard Matthews' great granddaughter, Mary Chambers Wiese, Stratford Lee Morton, and Robert Lee Morton

8. Index for "A Long Life in Review" by Leonard Matthews, edited by Patricia S. Boykin

9. Ponte Vedra Beach: How It Got the Name and the Driving Force behind the Development of Jacksonville Beach, 1929-1934 by Patricia Sarah Stehlin Boykin, October 1998; Reprint, August 2003

10. Photographs, 841.1 - 841.37

11. A Long Life in Revue by Leonard Matthews, 1927

Book: The 1903 Egyptian Rebirth of the Necromancer by Edward Heron-Allen, 2014

INDEX

Shaw's Gardens, f. 4

St. Louis History--19th Century

St. Louis History--Social Conditions