Charles Lewis Harrison Papers
(C0112)

Collection Number: C0112

Collection Title: Charles Lewis Harrison Papers

Dates: 1847-1921

Creator: Harrison, Charles Lewis, 1857-1912

Abstract: Papers of a New York City consulting engineer, horse breeder, and club member. Harrison assisted in the construction of the East River tunnels and the Cheesman Dam in Denver, Colorado.

Collection Size: 0.3 cubic feet
(26 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shs.mo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor’s works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Charles Lewis Harrison Papers (C0112); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Mrs. J. Harrison on February 1, 1944 (Accession No. 91).

Processed by: Processed by the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia Staff, date unknow. Finding aid revised by Laura Jolley on April 13, 2020.
Historical Note:

Charlies Lewis Harrison was born in Auxvasse, Missouri, on March 5, 1857, one of twelve children to Thomas and Catherine (Maddox) Harrison. The family emigrated from Virginia in 1817 and took up farming in Callaway County. Harrison attended public schools and entered the University of Missouri in 1876. He earned degrees in engineering in 1879 and 1880.

Upon graduation, Harrison worked for the Mississippi River Commission measuring discharge amounts from the Mississippi River. In 1882 he worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers doing topographical surveys. Harrison worked on numerous engineering projects in the 1880s and 1890s. He assisted in several dam construction projects and in 1890 began work for the Sanitary District of Chicago and was an engineer for the Chicago Drainage Canal. In 1897 he was the first engineer on the U. S. Board of Engineers Deep Waterway Project which attempted to survey the deep waterways of the Great Lakes region. He was the chief engineer for the Denver Union Water Company between 1900-1902 and built the Cheesman Dam. In 1902, Harrison became the Principal Assistant Engineer of the East River Division of the New York Terminal of the Pennsylvania Railroad which was responsible for creating four tunnels under the East River.

An injury to his heart from the tunnel project in 1908 prevented Harrison from resuming work. He died at his home in New York City on September 14, 1912. He is buried in the family plot in Auxvasse.

(Sources: Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers, vol. 76, 1913; US Find A Grave)

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following series:

Personal Papers

Scope and Content Note:

Personal Papers

This series contains materials related to Harrison’s career on various dam projects throughout the United States and the tunnel project on the East River in New York in addition to his interest in horses breeding.

Container List:

f.1-6  Personal Papers, 1901-1912, 1921. Recommendations, requests for prepared papers, invitations, friendly letters, etc., make up this group. One 1921 letter from W.H. Brown, Columbia, Missouri, to Jack Harrison, Auxvasse, Missouri, about locating a home.

f.7-10  Business Papers, 1902-1912. Letters and papers concerned with engineering projects Harrison was interested in. Salmon River Dam, Twin Falls County, Idaho; Shashone Dam on Detroit River; Panama Canal; Cleveland M & L Co., Denver, Colorado.
Chessman Dam Papers, 1902-1905. Papers concerned with specifications and construction off the Cheesman Dam and Reservoir near Denver, Colorado.

East River Tunnels Material, 1906-1908. Eight letters concerned with the construction of the tunnels under the East River, New York.

Horse Breeding, 1906-1912. Letters, records, charts, pictures, etc., pertaining to Harrison's race horses.

Horse Training Accounts, 1908-1912. Accounts and receipts for board, training, medical attention, etc., for Harrison's race horses.

Alumni Association Papers, 1902-1909. Papers of the University Club, N.Y.C., 1902-1906; Missouri Society, N.Y.C., 1903-1908; and the University of Missouri Alumni Association of N.Y, 1907-1909.

American Society of Civil Engineers, 1902-1912. Minutes, reports, letters, and receipts for membership. Also there are three receipts for membership in the Western Society of Engineers, Chicago, and three in the Engineers Club, New York.

Receipts, General, 1902-1912. For taxes, imported cigars, hotel bills, telephone service, stationary, etc.


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