



## **Tibbe-Cuthbertson Family Papers (C3711)**

**Collection Number:** C3711

**Collection Title:** Tibbe-Cuthbertson Family Papers

**Dates:** 1846-1986

**Creator:** Tibbe-Cuthbertson family

**Abstract:** The papers of a Washington, Missouri, family whose patriarch, Henry Tibbe, and his son, Anton, founded the Missouri Meerschaum Company, include family and business correspondence, genealogy and family history, property deeds, an early history of the Missouri Meerschaum Company, material on a patent infringement dispute, pipe catalogs, clippings, and photographs.

**Collection Size:** 1.2 cubic feet, 2 oversize items  
(59 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](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center-columbia). If you would like more information, please contact us at [columbia@shsmo.org](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The donor has relinquished their rights in the records and authorized their release to the public domain.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Tibbe-Cuthbertson Family Papers* (C3711); 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 State Historical Society of Missouri by Anna T. Tibbe on September 14, 1979 (Accession No. CA2261). Additions were made on January 11, 1980 (Accession No. CA2289), November 15, 1982 (Accession No. CA2450), January 24, 1986 (Accession No. CA2591), August 12, 1988 (Accession No. CA2705), and May 10, 1993 (Accession No. 2962).

**Processed by:** Processed by Paula Quirk, September 26, 1983. Finding aid revised by Nicholas Raya, February 3, 2023.

**Historical Note:**

The history of the Tibbe-Cuthbertson family focuses on Henry Tibbe and his son, Anton, who founded the Missouri Meerschaum Company in Washington, Missouri, in the early 1870s. Henry's 1878 patent for improvement in pipes radically changed the traditional corncob pipe from a rural make-do object into a commercial product.

The Tibbe family not only produced a high quality tobacco pipe but also was instrumental in improving the quality of life in Washington, Missouri. In 1891 Anton A. Tibbe built the first electric light plant, which not only provided power to manufacture pipes, but also provided the town with power and light. In the same building he also began a telephone company.

The history of the Tibbe-Cuthbertson family focuses on Henry Tibbe, a Dutch woodturner who emigrated to America from Enschede, Holland, in 1867. After fire destroyed his home and factory in Holland, he brought his wife, Joanna, his eight-year-old son Anton Arnold, his brother Frederick, and his skill as a woodturner, eventually settling in Washington, Missouri, a small community located on the Missouri River fifty miles west of St. Louis. Soon thereafter, he set up a small woodworking business making spinning wheels, wooden handles, and furniture. Sometime in 1869 Henry Tibbe turned his first corncob on his lathe, inserted a reed for a stem, and created a smooth version of the traditional corncob pipe.

The contribution Henry Tibbe made to the tobacco pipe industry was his idea for fireproofing the traditional corncob pipe, which tended to burn out easily. Tibbe's 1878 patent describes his process for fireproofing by filling the interstices of the cob from the outside with a plaster of paris type substance. This procedure not only fire-proofed the cob but also hardened it, allowing it to be worked on a lathe.

By 1878, with increasing demand for his corncob pipes, Tibbe had moved his business to a new location and increased his production by employing a steam engine to turn the lathes and operate the other machinery. By this time eighteen-year-old Anton had become a full partner in H. Tibbe and Son. In January 1883 Henry and Anton applied for a U.S. patent for a trademark for their pipe, calling it the *Missouri Meerschaum*.

*Meerschaum*, German for "foam of the sea" is a fine white claylike mineral, soft and light enough to float in water and found chiefly in Asia Minor and especially suited for intricately carved tobacco pipes. No doubt Henry Tibbe remembered the elaborate meerschaum pipes produced in Holland and felt his American invention merited a name tied to both countries.

During the years that followed, Missouri Meerschaum pipes became increasingly popular. In 1921 Anton Tibbe disposed of his interest in the pipe factory, retired, and moved to California, where he died eight years later. The Tibbe family's direct supervision of the Missouri Meerschaum Company ended but essentially the same company is still in operation in Washington, Missouri, today.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following six series:

Correspondence  
Family History

Land Records  
Business Records  
Photographs and Scrapbooks  
Oversize

### **Scope and Content Note:**

#### **Correspondence**

This series contains correspondence that is primarily between family members in California and Missouri discussing genealogy, travel, fashion, and family matters. Of particular note are letters from Kate Cuthbertson Black when she traveled in Guatemala in 1897-1898; an April 19, 1906, letter from Russel Tibbe to his mother, Wilhelmina Tibbe, describing the 1906 San Francisco earthquake; and letters from the 1960s and 70s discussing the Roehm-Cuthbertson and Tibbe genealogies.

#### **Family History**

This series contains genealogical material including short biographical sketches of some family members, clippings, obituaries, vital records, and certificates; as well as personal documents of family members, including an 1846 autograph book of Auguste Roehm Cuthbertson written in German, a German-English newspaper from Washington, Missouri, "Der Sptizbub," which lampooned members of the Washington community, and a book of memories by Kate Cuthbertson Black written in German about her mother, Auguste Roehm Cuthbertson. Also notable is a 1902 autograph book with clippings and photographs of residences and businesses of Washington, Missouri. This book was given to Madeline Tibbe by family friends.

#### **Land Records**

This series contains abstracts, warranty deeds, deeds of trust, certificates of title, and quitclaim deeds of Tibbe property in Washington, Missouri.

#### **Business Records**

This series contains material related to the business endeavors of the Tibbe family, primarily the Missouri Meerschaum Company. The series includes history, correspondence, financial records, materials documenting the Tibbe patent dispute, pipe catalogs, memorabilia, and clippings.

#### **Photographs and Scrapbooks**

This series contains numerous portraits and snapshots of the Tibbe and Cuthbertson families, particularly documenting Anton and Wilhelmina Cuthbertson Tibbe and their children, Madeline, Russel, Henry, Anton, Cuthbert, and Jan. Other members of the family are also represented, including Auguste Roehm Cuthbertson, Jean Cuthbertson Fleissner and her husband Otto, and Kate Cuthbertson Black. Some images of the family businesses are represented here, as are images of schools, homes, street scenes, and businesses in Washington, Missouri. Also included is a scrapbook of Anton Tibbe Jr. containing photographs and clippings of notable news stories as well as legal cases he was involved with and his career as district attorney in Franklin County.

**Oversize**

This series contains one oversize family photograph and one diploma.

**Container List:****Correspondence Series**

f. 1	1858-1898
f. 2	1901-1905
f. 3	1905-1910
f. 4	1911-1918
f. 5	1918-1939
f. 6	1940-1964
f. 7	1965-1975

**Family History Series**

f. 8	Genealogy, 1907-1977, undated
f. 9	Certificates and vital records, 1886-1950
f. 10	Ephemera, 1893-1963, undated
f. 11	Clippings, 1861-1974
f. 12	Der Spitzbub, circa 1917
f. 13	Henry Tibbe bank account book, 1888-1895
f. 14	Auguste Cuthbertson and Germany, 1854-1939, undated
f. 15-16	Auguste Rohm Cuthbertson autograph book, 1846-1892
f. 17	Kate Cuthbertson Black, 1907, undated
f. 18	Wilhelmina Tibbe, 1930, undated
f. 19	Madeline Tibbe, 1975-1986
f. 20	Madeline Tibbe – Autograph book of Washington, Missouri, 1902
f. 21	Anna Tibbe – Washington University Bryce Collection bookplate design, 1985
f. 22	Anton Tibbe, Jr. – Sorenson case prosecuting argument, 1929

**Land Records Series**

f. 23	Abstract of title, Lot (5), Block (31), of John F. Mense's Addition to the Town, now City, of Washington, Missouri, 1931
f. 24	Certificate of Title, 1915
f. 25	Warranty deeds, 1849-1912
f. 26	Warranty deeds, 1915-1936
f. 27	Deeds of trust, 1915, 1934
f. 28	Quitclaim deeds, 1915

**Business Records Series**

f. 29	Missouri Meerschaum Company histories, 1903-1981
f. 30	Missouri Meerschaum Company correspondence, 1883-1971
f. 31	Missouri Meerschaum Company financial records, 1881-1937
f. 32	Tibbe patent for improvement in pipes, 1878-1890

- f. 33 Patent infringement, Henry Tibbe vs. William L. Heineken, circa 1890
- f. 34 Pipe catalogs.
- f. 35 Business cards and advertising.
- f. 36 Tibbe Electric Company history and correspondence, 1907, 1955
- f. 37 Company memorabilia, 1930-1982
- f. 38 Clippings – Missouri Meerschaum, 1948-1980, undated
- f. 39 Clippings – Tibbe Electric Light, 1892-1954, undated

### Photographs and Scrapbooks Series

- f. 40-43 Photographs of the Tibbe and Cuthbertson families
- f. 44 Portraits of the Alter and Tibbe families
- f. 45 Washington, Missouri, schools, homes, and street scenes
- f. 46 Washington, Missouri, businesses
- f. 47-49 Photographs of the Tibbe and Cuthbertson families and their businesses
- f. 50-51 Madeline Tibbe photographs, 1892-1970
- f. 52-54 Photographs of the Tibbe and Cuthbertson families and their businesses
- f. 55 Wilhelmina and Anton Tibbe photographs
- f. 56-57 Anton Tibbe, Jr. scrapbook, 1898-1965
- f. 58 Postcards
- f. 59 Negatives

### Oversize Series

- Item #1 Arno Tibbe, colorized portrait as a young child
- Item #2 University of Missouri diploma for Anton Arnold Tibbe, Jr., 1921

### Index:

Index Terms	Folders	Oversize Items	Image
African Americans	53		Yes
Alter family	45		Yes
Alter, Edith	45		Yes
Architecture, Domestic, Missouri, Washington	7, 42		Yes
Autograph books	15-16		
Automobiles, 1920s	46, 53		Yes
Automobiles, 1930s	53		Yes
Automobiles, 1940s	53		Yes
Automobiles, Franklin County	7		
Black, Harold	53		Yes
Black, Kate Cuthbertson ( -1926)	1,3, 17		
Black, Kate Cuthbertson ( -1926)	50, 53, 55		Yes
Bradley, Frank A.	45		Yes
Bryan, Kate	2,5		
Business cards	35		
Cabinet cards	40-41		Yes

Index Terms	Folders	Oversize Items	Image
California, Chula Vista	51		Yes
Camp Custer, Michigan, 1918	5		
Carriages and carts	40, 42		Yes
Cartes de visite	40		Yes
Catalogs, Pipe	34		
Clemens, Samuel Langhorne (1835-1910)	7		
Corncob Pipes	34,43, 46		Yes
Corncob pipes	29-35, 37-38		
Crime--Missouri, Franklin County	56		
Cuba, Havana	51		Yes
Cuthbertson family	40-43, 47-49, 52-54, 55		Yes
Cuthbertson family	1-59		
Cuthbertson family--Genealogy	5, 6, 8, 14		
Cuthbertson, August Roehm (1830-1907)	14, 17, 40, 50		Yes
Cuthbertson, Auguste Roehm (1830-1907)	1,2,6, 15-16		
Cuthbertson, John	40		Yes
Cuthbertson, Poddie (1867-1932)	40		Yes
Cuthbertson, Poddie (1867-1932)	1,3,4, 5		
Earthquakes, California, San Francisco, 1906	3		
Fashion, 1890s	1		
Fleissner, Cuthbert M. (1882- )	7, 8		
Fleissner, Jean Cuthbertson (1866-1938)	47-48, 50-51, 53, 55, 57		Yes
Fleissner, Otto (1858-1944)	47, 50, 57		Yes
Fraternities and sororities--Beta Theta Pi, 1920s	44, 52-53		Yes
Genelli Photo Studio, St. Louis, Missouri	40-41		Yes
German Heritage Archives	12, 14-17, 20		
German language	12, 14-17, 20		
Guatemala, 1890s	1		
Guatemala--Description and travel, 1890s	1		
Hawaii, Honolulu	50-51		Yes
Hotels, Kansas	1		Yes
Houses--Missouri, Washington	7, 42, 44, 47, 51, 53-54		Yes
Immigration and emigration, 1850s	5, 9, 14-16		
Kahmann, George H.	30		
Maule, Dollie Henrie	45		Yes
Missouri Meerscham Company, Washington, Missouri	30, 35, 42, 47, 52, 55		Yes

Index Terms	Folders	Oversize Items	Image
Missouri Meerscham Company, Washington, Missouri	29-35, 37-38		
Missouri, Washington	20, 44-46 50, 58		Yes
Missouri, Washington	7, 11, 23		
Missouri, Washington--Bleckman Machine Supply Company	46		Yes
Missouri, Washington--Gamble's Store, 1967	46		Yes
Missouri, Washington--High School	53		Yes
Missouri, Washington--Peter's Soda Water Service Company	46		Yes
Mullgardt, Louis Christian (1866-1942)	37		
Netherlands, Enschede	47		Yes
Newport (Steamship)	1		
Photographers, Missouri, St. Louis	28, 29		Yes
Photographers, Missouri, Washington	28, 30		Yes
Postcards	42, 58		Yes
Postcards--Missouri	58		Yes
Public schools--Missouri, Washington	44		Yes
S.S. Amerika (Steamer)	44		Yes
Saint Louis (Mo.)	52, 58		Yes
Schnarke, Henry	7		
Sim, Margaret Cuthbertson	2-4		
Tibbe Electric Company, Washington, Missouri	36, 37, 39		
Tibbe Electric Company, Washington, Missouri	40, 46, 52		Yes
Tibbe family	40-44, 47-59		Yes
Tibbe family	1-59		
Tibbe, Anna T. (1907-2009)	49, 51		Yes
Tibbe, Anton Arnold (1859-1929)	40, 41, 49, 52-53, 55		Yes
Tibbe, Anton Arnold (1859-1929)	1, 8-11		
Tibbe, Anton Arnold, II (1898-1977)	2, 4-10, 22, 56	Item #2	
Tibbe, Anton Arnold, II (1898-1977)	48-49, 51, 53, 57		Yes
Tibbe, Arnold (1890-1893)	50	Item #1	Yes
Tibbe, Cuthbert Pierce (1902-1962)	48-51, 53		Yes
Tibbe, Cuthbert Pierce (1902-1962)	2, 8, 11		
Tibbe, Frederick (1841-1886)	7, 30, 41		Yes
Tibbe, Henry (1819-1896)	8, 13, 30, 32, 33		
Tibbe, Henry (1819-1896)	41, 47, 51, 53, 55		Yes
Tibbe, Henry J. (1896-1974)	8, 11		
Tibbe, Henry J. (1896-1974)	48-49, 52		Yes

Index Terms	Folders	Oversize Items	Image
Tibbe, Jan (1907-1975)	6, 8, 11, 56		
Tibbe, Jan (1907-1975)	48-51, 53		Yes
Tibbe, Johanna Yaegers (1820-1904)	41		Yes
Tibbe, Madeliene (1891-1982)	45, 47-53, 55, 57		Yes
Tibbe, Madeline (1891-1982)	2, 6, 7		
Tibbe, Russel J.	2-5, 8, 9, 11		
Tibbe, Russel J.	45, 48-49, 51-55		Yes
Tibbe, Wilhelmina Cuthbertson (1867-1932)	40, 48, 50, 52-55		Yes
Tibbe, Wilhelmina Cuthbertson (1867-1932)	1, 3-5, 9, 18		
Tibbe-Cuthbertson family	1-59		
Tibbe-Cuthbertson family--Genealogy	7, 8, 10, 11		
Tobacco pipes	34, 43		Yes
Trademarks	32		
University of Missouri - Columbia	44, 50, 52-53		Yes
Vest, George	53		Yes
Warranty Deeds, Missouri, Washington	25, 26		
World War, 1914-1918, U.S. Army, Signal Corps, 1918	5		
Yerbury, E. R. (Photographer)	40		Yes
Zoff, E. (Photographer)	40, 42, 47-55		Yes