

Inventory of the

H.W. Colwill
Creston, Illinois

Collection

In the

Regional History Center

RC 47

INTRODUCTION

Mr. H.W. Colwill, Creston, Illinois, donated this collection to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on November 10, 1978.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to materials in the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 21.25
Number of Containers: 22 boxes + 2 volumes
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
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SCOPE AND CONTENT

The H.W. Colwill Collection documents the business activity of the Creston Grain Elevator (1932-1977) and Leader Oil Company (1944-1967) in Creston, Illinois. Documents are arranged in several series: personal records (including some business items), general business files, and account and ledger books. Several arrangements were used throughout the collection to organize the records.

Series 1 consists of materials related to the personal activities of H.W. Colwill during the years 1930-1977. Included are correspondences, tax records, estate settlement records and grain speculation records (e.g., files under Rice, Lamson, Schulenburg). Also included are catalogs and advertisements.

Included in series two are the majority of general business files of the grain elevator, coal, lumber and supply businesses from 1946-1961. Included with this series are correspondences, receipts, lists, and a small amount of printed material. Arrangement is chronological and within that, alphabetical. The first files for each year consist of letters, miscellaneous receipts and general files. These are followed by supplier files.

Series three commences houses accounts and ledger books. Materials in this series consist of business inventories, 1962, 1967; account/account receivable books, 1952, 1959, 1966; debit/credit accounts, 1932-1951; grain purchase and receipt books, 1962-1967; and three items (accounts, inventory) from the Leader Oil Company, 1959-1962.

The series continues with ledger sheets of the Colwill's grain and feed operation, 1940-1969 and the Leader Oil Company, 1944-1967. Arrangement in series three is chronological and within that alphabetical. Also housed in this series are two oversized business ledgers, 1932-1933, 1932-1940.

The researcher should note portions of Colwill's business records were discarded before the Center was able to obtain the the materials making up this collection. For a related collection, please see Lindenwood Grain Elevator Collection, RC 11.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

H.W. (Hap) Colwill was born in Dement Township, Illinois, on December 10, 1896, son of John Colwill and Jane (Tamlyn) Colwill. He was educated in rural schools of DeKalb County, and in 1911-1912 finished his schooling by taking a three month bookkeeping course. Until 1920 Colwill worked for the grain elevator and on local farms. In 1922 he became bookkeeper of the elevator as well as its operator and manager.

On October 16, 1922, Colwill, in partnership with Ralph Lewis, purchased the grain elevator and coal business, and one year later added a lumber yard as well. In 1924 Colwill bought out his partner, Lewis, to become sole owner of the elevator operation. On February 1, 1936, Colwill and Grant Hendrickson started the Leader Oil Company to sell gasoline and fuel oil and one year later (March 1, 1937) Hendrickson sold out his share of the oil company. Colwill continued to operate both the elevator and the oil company as sole owner until 1977.

Colwill married Agnes Dorothy Anderson on October 10, 1925. They had three children: Herbert William, Sally Ann (Chabucos), and John Arthur.

Active in numerous civic affairs, Colwill served on the board of the Creston Methodist Episcopal Church for thirty years and spent eight years on the Ogle County School Board including a term as president (1960). Colwill was also appointed administrator of three estates.

Among his fraternal memberships were Masonic Lodge 320, Royal Arch Mason Chapter 158, Rochelle, Knights Templar, Tebala Temple Shrine and B.P.O. Elks. Colwill also belonged to two professional groups, the Royal Order of Woodmen and the Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Coal Trade
Colwill, H.W.
Creston
Creston Grain Elevator
Grain
Hendrickson, Grant
Leader Oil Company
Lewis, Ralph
Lumber Trade
Oil Industries
Ogle County

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Personal Records		
1	1	Colwill Letters, 1930-1969
	2	Colwill Personal Taxes, 1953-1967
	3	Insurance Policies, 1952-1962
	4	Fraternal Organizations, 1954-1977
	5	Telephone Record, 1948-1950
		Tamlyn Estate:
	6	Lillian Tamlyn Letters, 1941
	7	Addresses of Heirs and Payments, 1934-1947
	8	Letters to H.W. Colwill, 1942-1947
	9	Correspondence Outgoing, 1944-1947
	10-11	Landsale, 1945
	12	Conservatory Estates, 1949-1950
	13	Phelps/Berg Estates, 1954-1969
		Ogle County School Board of Trustees:
	14	Correspondence, 1954-1963
	15	Petitions to the Board, 1954-1963
	16	Minutes, (1955-1963)
	17	Assorted Papers, 1957-1963
	18	Resolutions, n.d.
	19	Litigations, 1963
	20	Illinois School Association Publications, 1962-1963
	21	Rochelle Advisory Council, 1953-1954
	22	Creston Ordinance & Tax Levy, 1957
	23	Bankruptcy Proceedings, 1958-1967
	24	Colwill Personal Business Letters, 1954-1967
	25	Colwill Business Auction, 1977
	26	Colwill Mailing List, 1955
	27	Outgoing Correspondence, 1948-1975
	28-35	Incoming Correspondence, 1954-1968
	33-34	Grain Speculation, 1948-1958
	35	Wages Taxable, n.d.
	36	Quarterly Federal Excise Tax, 1954-1958
	37-39	Price Lists, n.d.
2	1	Moisture Tests, n.d.
	2	Professor Halpin' s "Poultry Page", n.d.
	3	Operating Manuals, n.d.

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
	4-5	Advertisements
	6	E.D. Davis, Coal Value Table, 1927
	7	E.D. Davis, Grain Value Table, 1926
	8	<u>Home Maintenance & Improvement</u> , 1955-1958
	9	<u>American Lumberman</u> , 1957
	10	House Plan Magazines, n.d.
	11	Product Catalogs, 1961-1974
	12	<u>Modern Equipment for Filling Stations and Garages</u> , 1936
	13	Grain periodicals, 1956, 1957
Series II. General Business Files		
	14-15	Letters, 1946-1950
	16	Miscellaneous Receipts, 1946-1948
	17	Family Doctor Receipts, 1946-1947
	18	Elevator Operations, 1946-1947
	19	Lumber Records, 1946-1947
	20	Milk Receipts, 1946-1947
	21	Truck Repair, 1946-1947
	22	Illinois Department of Agriculture, 1946-1947
	23	Withholding tax, 1946-1948
	24-26	Suppliers, A-Conco, 1946-1948
3	1-8	Suppliers, Conour-Z, 1946-1948 C.I. Schulenburg-Lamson Brothers:
	9	Correspondence, 1946-1948
	10	Receipts, 1946-1948.
	11	Personal Receipts, 1948-1950
	12	Miscellaneous Receipts, 1948-1950
4	1	State of Illinois, 1948-1950
	2-9	Suppliers, 1948-1950
	10	Correspondence, Price Lists, Order, 1952-1953
	11	CNW Rail Shipment Records, 1952-1954
	12	Feed Taxes, 1952-1953
	13	Tax records, Personal, 1952-1953
	17	Transportation Tax, 1952-1953
	15-17	Suppliers, A-Hines, 1952-1953
5	1-9	Suppliers, Hines-Z, 1952-1953
	10-11	Correspondence, Price Lists, Orders, 1955-1957
	12	Community Lean Corporation, 1946-1948
	13	Employees Withholding and Social Security Tax, 1956-1959
	14-15	Suppliers, A-Darling, 1955-1957

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
6	1-11 12	Suppliers, Deehan-Z, 1955-1957 Correspondence, Advertisements, Reports, 1959-1960
7	1 2 3 4 5-15 16	Ogle County School Board, 1954-1959 Receipts and Orders, 1959-1960 Price Lists, Room Plans, 1959-1960 Martin Heirs Oil Lease, 1949-1959 Suppliers, 1959-1960 Correspondence, 1960-1961
8	1-2 3-12	Receipts, Orders, Advertisements, 1960-1961 Suppliers, A-Teweles, 1960-1961
9	1 2	Suppliers, Thiede-Z, 1960-1961 Hayden, Stone, and Company, 1960-1961
Series III. Account and Ledger Books		
		H.W. Colwill:
	3 1 volume	Debit/credit Account Sheets, 1951-1968 Debit/credit Accounts, 1932-1951
	4	Account Books, 1952-1961, 1966
	5-6	Grain Purchase Notebooks, 1964-1967
	7	Inventory Books, 1962, 1967
	8	Warehouse Receipts, 1962-1963
		Leader Oil Company:
	9	Account Books, 1959-1963
	10	Inventory Book, 1961
		Colwill Grain and Feed Operation:
	11-13	A-D, 1940-1942 Two Rubber Business Stamps
Oversize	2 volumes	General ledgers, 1932-1933, 1932-1940
10		Colwill Grain and Feed Operation
	1-7	E-Z, 1940-1942
	8-16	A-S, 1942-1943
11	1-2 13-14 15	S-Z, 1942-1943 A-Z, 1944-1946 A-C, 1946-1949
12	1-11 12-16	C-Z, 1946-1949 A-G, 1949-1952

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
13	1-8 9-16	G-Z, 1949-1952 A-L, 1952-1954
14	1-4 5-16	M-Z, 1952-1954 A-S, 1954-1957
15	1 2-14 15-16	S-Z, 1954-1957 A-Z, 1957-1960 A-B, 1960-1962
16	1-11 12-16	C-Z, 1960-1962 A-G, 1962-1965
17	1-8 9-17	G-Z, 1962-1965 A-I, 1965-1969
18	1-7 8 9-17	J-Z, 1965-1969 Leader Oil Company Ledger Sheets: Balance Sheets, 1944-1953 A-L, 1944-1953
19	1-4 5-6 7-16	M-Z, 1944-1953 Balance Sheets, 1953-1959 A-Z, 1953-1959
20	1-2 3-7	Balance Sheets, 1960-1967 A-F, 1960-1967
21	1-6	G-Q, 1960-1967
22	1-3	R-Z, 1960-1967

Also part of this collection, but housed with the plat books are:
Plat Book of Lee County, Illinois, Plat Book and Farmers' Directory of DeKalb County, Illinois;
and Plat Book and Farmers' Directory of Ogle County, Illinois