

Grand Rapids History & Special Collections

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Finding Aid for the
Ray Lewis Badgley Papers
Collection # 080

September 2009 version

Abstract

The Badgley papers document a twenty year segment(1889-1919), of a successful farm implement sales agent's life, in West Michigan. Ray Lewis Badgley began his career working in his father's agricultural implements store in Lake Odessa, Michigan, and then became a sales agent for International Harvester Company, based in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The papers contain personal and business correspondence, financial records of the Badgley Implement Co. (ca. 1894-1909), order books, sales agreements, time payment schedules, catalogs and sales information letters from International Harvester (1906-1919). Also included are a few items on the various fraternal organizations Badgley joined, to facilitate his traveling sales business. The papers also document Badgley's personal finances and his tenure as Odessa Township Treasurer.

Collection #: 80

Accession #: 00-000

Donor: Blauwkamp, Leonard, 1979

Span dates: 1889-1919, n.d.

Processor: Richard H. Harms, July 1988. Box Summary, Marcella Beck, Sept.14, 2000.

Inventory and location address numbering, Dee Henry, Fall 2001. Finding aid revision, R. Mayne, Jan. 2002 to 2005.

Size: 1.75 linear ft. (21 inches)

Box Summary

Box No.	Description of Contents	Box Description
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Box Inventory 9/2009		
1	Personal & Business Papers	standard legal
2	Day Books continued	standard legal
3	Day Books continued	standard legal
4	Catalogs, Treasurer's Records & photos	standard legal

Biography

Ray Lewis Badgley (1878-1958) was born in Lake Odessa, Ionia County, Michigan. His father, Lewis Badgley, owned the L. Badgley Agricultural Implements firm in Lake Odessa located at 638 4th Street, Lake Odessa. Ray Badgley joined the firm during the 1890s. One of the agricultural suppliers that the Badgley firm represented was International Harvester Company. The Badgley firm's district included southwestern lower Ionia County, southeastern lower Kent County and northern Barry County.

In 1906 Badgley joined the International Harvester Company as a bonded sales agent. His district included Barry, Allegan, Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Newaygo and Mason Counties. His base was at Grand Rapids, the second largest city in the state. By 1909 his sales work was so extensive that he sold the Lake Odessa implement company. In 1912 he became Assistant District Manager for International Harvester's Grand Rapids Office and three years later was appointed district manager. He remained with the firm until retirement in 1938.

Series Descriptions

The collection is divided into three series: personal papers, business papers and photographs.

Series I. Personal Papers

These documents his finances, membership in fraternal organizations including the United Commercial Traveler's of America, resolution of his father's estate, insurance policies on his home and car, and a limited amount of correspondence.

Series II. Business Papers

The business papers document the financial history of the Badgley Implement firm in Lake Odessa and Badgley's years as sales agent for International Harvester. The series contains little on his business life after he was promoted, but it does contain a folder of correspondence and two catalogs of implements and their prices.

Series III. Photographs

The photographs are duplicate portraits of Badgley.

Contents

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
		Series I. Personal Papers, 1896-1919.
1	1	Bank books, 1896-1909.
	2	Correspondence, 1894-1919.
	3	Fraternal organizations, 1904-1918.
	4	Insurance policies, 1911-1918.
	5	Lewis Badgley estate, 1918.
	6	Miscellany, 1903-1919.
	7	Promissory notes, 1909-1910.
	8	Receipts, 1910-1919.
		Series II. Business Papers, 1889-1919.
1		Badgley Implement Company, 1894-1909.
	10	Contracts, receipts, 1904-1909.
	11	Bank drafts, 1899, 1905-1906.
	12	Order Book, 1905.
	vol.1	Order book, 1902 (glued into a Northern Refrigerator Co. catalog) Day Book
	vol.2	1894-1996.
	vol.3	1899-1900.
	vol.4	1900-1901.
2	vol.5	1901-1903.
	vol.6	1903-1904. Ledger
	vol.7	1894-1895.
	vol.8	1896-1899.
3	vol.9	1901.
		International Harvester Company, 1906-1919
3	1	Contracts, correspondence, 1909-1919. Order books
	2	1908-1909.
	3	1910.
	4	1911.
	5	Sales information, price correspondence, 1917.
	6	Price lists, 1906-1917.

4 7 Catalogs, 1912, 1915.
 8 Odessa Township Treasurer's papers, 1889-1905.

Series III. Photographs, n.d.
4 9 People. Badgley, Ray Lewis (2)