

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG2617.AM: Stolley, William 1831-1911

Papers: 1852-1942

Hall County, Neb.: Pioneer

Size: 2 cu. ft

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Stolley was born in Wardner, Germany, in the Duchy of Holstein. In 1848, he took part in the War of Schleswig-Holstein, and when his term of service expired in 1849 he joined a group of his countrymen in immigrating to America. After a business failure with a fellow immigrant, Wilhelm Hagge, he became interested in a proposed settlement to be established on land near where the transcontinental railroad was expected to pass. Stolley was chosen by the project backers to be the leader of the settlement. The Davenport Company located at what was to become the present city of Grand Island, in Hall County. Stolley remained there throughout his life, engaged in the nursery business, farming, and raising bees.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is arranged in six series: 1) correspondence, 1852-1942; 2) business records, 1821-1889; 3) manuscripts; 4) miscellany, 5) Olga Palmer Stolley Diaries; and 6), Olga Palmer Stolley reminiscences.

The bulk of this collection consists of correspondence dated between 1852 and 1894. Much of this material is written in German script and is very difficult to translate. The correspondence is from and to family and friends concerning personal and business affairs--specifically to business and living conditions in Nebraska during this period. The extensive file of business papers relates specifically to Stolley's nursery business, and comprises an index of Grand Island business development over a number of years.

Acc.1940; 2002

DESCRIPTION

SERIES 1: CORRESPONDENCE

Box 1

1852-1878

Box 2

1879-1894 Includes also: 1 file of correspondence dated between 1937-1942 which concerns the gathering and publication of "The History of the First Settlement of Hall County" for a special issue of Nebraska History in 1946.

SERIES TWO: BUSINESS PAPERS

Box 3

Five folders of material including receipts, vouchers, and contracts

SERIES THREE: MANUSCRIPTS

Box 3

Three folders of drafts of Stolley's history of Hall County

SERIES FOUR: USDA AGRICULTURE STATISTICAL CIRCULARS 1865-1879

Box 4

One folder containing circulars from USDA concerning agricultural statistics

SERIES FIVE: MISCELLANY

Box 4

Includes assorted printed matter, programs, and one folder of commercial information about nursery stock and agricultural implements.
Miscellaneous manuscripts of primarily U.S./Iowa History

SERIES SIX: OLGA PALMER STOLLEY DIARIES

Box 5

| | |
|-----|-----------|
| V1 | 1920-1949 |
| V2 | 1948-1951 |
| V3 | 1952 |
| V4 | 1953 |
| V5 | 1954 |
| V6 | 1955 |
| V7 | 1956 |
| V8 | 1957 |
| V9 | 1958 |
| V10 | 1959 |
| V11 | 1960 |
| V12 | 1961 |
| V13 | 1962 |
| V14 | 1963 |
| V15 | 1964 |
| V16 | 1965 |
| V17 | 1966 |

V18 1967
V19 1968
V20 1969
V21 1970
V22 1971
V23 1972
V24 1973
V25 1974

SERIES 6: OLGA PALMER STOLLEY REMINISCENCES

Box 5

F1 Olga Palmer Stolley Reminiscences

Rev. KFK 11-14-2002

Added entries:

BEEKEEPING

DIARIES

GERMAN AMERICANS--NEBRASKA--HALL COUNTY

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA--HISTORY

GRASSHOPPERS

Hagge, Wilhelm

HALL COUNTY, NEBRASKA--HISTORY

HORTICULTURE

Palmer, Olga Stolley [note: Olga's diaries are a major chunk of this collection]