

Title: Friend, Jacob Elias Papers

Call Number: Mss-0392

Bulk: 0.4 cu. ft.

Location: CV, Sh. 187

Historical Note: Jacob Elias Friend was born in Milwaukee on December 6, 1857 and died in Perugia, Italy on April 20, 1912. He was the only son of Elias and Rosa (Stern) Friend. Elias was born in Bavaria and Rosa in Albany, New York. Elias came to the United States in 1840 with his brother, Henry, and moved to Milwaukee in 1847. Jacob attended Columbia Law School in 1878 and became the president of the Nordberg Manufacturing Company in 1895. He had previously been a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly from 1883 – 1887.

Friend became involved with an “Engine Deal” (attempt to combine the largest steam engine companies in the United States.) which began in Providence, RI in February 1899 after the purchase of the Corliss Steam Engine Works by a syndicate of capitalists from Boston, New York, Providence, and Philadelphia with the Cramps of Philadelphia holding the largest interest. At the same time, Jacob Friend, then president of Nordberg was working with Max Pam, an attorney from Chicago, and Judge Elbert H. Gary and others to conclude more consolidation deals.

Abstract: The collection consists of letters, telegrams, documents, and clippings concerning an attempt to combine the largest steam engine companies in the United States.

Administrative Note: The collection was reprocessed on November 29, 2007 by L. Chasco. The finding aid was retyped on July 19, 2011 by Jenny Stevenson.

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