

Title: Widmeyer, Jacob Collection

Reference Code: Mss-1552

Inclusive Dates: 1883 – 1942

Quantity: 0.41 cu. ft. total

Location: WHS, Sh. B017 (0.4 cu. ft.)
MV, Sh. 55 (0.01 cu. ft.)
OS LG “W” (2 items)

Abstract: Jacob Widmeyer was born in 1862 on a farm near Kewaskum and served an apprenticeship before coming to work in a Milwaukee blacksmith shop in 1883. Four years later, he opened his own business. As automobiles became more prevalent in the early 20th century and the number of horses in Milwaukee steadily declined, Widmeyer successfully transitioned his business from horseshoeing to servicing automobiles. Widmeyer died on February 19, 1942.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of business papers, pamphlets, photos, legal/financial material and ledgers related to Widmeyer’s business that prospered for more than 50 years.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English

Notes: The collection was donated by Edwin J. Widmeyer, August 1985.

Arrangement:

Folder Heading	Box #	File #
PHOTOS – Portraits of Jacob Widmeyer (1 large, 1 small) – Widmeyer places of business (24 total) – Widmeyer family – Interior of blacksmith shop – Horse on farm – Jacob Widmeyer with automobile – Group portrait – Miscellaneous snapshot of the late 1930s	1	
INCORPORATION PAPERS, 1918-1922 – Service Auto Spring Company – Widmeyer Auto Spring Co.	1	
HORSESHOERS’ NATIONAL PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION – Reprint of paper read at 1894 convention – Printed memos from the Association to Milwaukee Local No. 30	1	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Memo from Association president, 1896 - Certificate of membership, 1896 - Program from 9th Annual Convention of Master Horseshoers Protective Association, Milwaukee, Oct. 15-19, 1900 - (See Oversize LG "W" for 1917 & 1918 membership certificates) 		
<p>WIDMEYER CO. BUSINESS PAPERS, 1883-1939</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - J. Widmeyer stationery, dated 189- - Picture advertising cards - Advertising cards with horseshoe and name - Newspaper article on parking garage - Envelope with return address on 5th St. - Horseshoers' price lists from Suelflohn & Seefeld, Milwaukee - Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Blacksmith shop for sale, 1883 o From a creditor, 1932 o From Baldwin-Duckworth Chain Corp., 1938 o From SKF Industries, Inc., cancelling Widmeyer's distributorship, 1934 o Employee's letter of resignation, 1934 - Legal papers (copy) regarding sale of spring business to Babcock Auto Spring Co., 1939 - Invoices from investment and insurance companies, 1921-1927 (14) - Advertising items – Atlas Ball Co. & Toledo-Ford Tire Co. - Bank statement – First Wis. National Bank, 1930 - "Ledger," 1907-1911 - Price and purchase book, 1915 	1	
<p>CARDS AND NOTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Postcards (15), 1920-1939 - Greeting cards (17) and notes (4), ca. 1919-1941 	1	
<p>WIDMEYER – PERSONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engraver's plate – "Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Widmeyer" - Biographical clipping on J. Widmeyer business career, ca. 1920s - Philanthropic items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o St. Joseph's Hospital Benefactor's Certificate, 1928 o Thanks from St. Charles Boys' Home, 1941 - Memberships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Merchants & Manufacturers Association of Milwaukee, 1907 o Speedway Club of Milwaukee, 1908 o Master Horseshoers Protective Association of Milwaukee, 1912 o Independence Lodge No. 80, 1922 o Old Settlers' Club of Milwaukee, invitation and 1932 by-laws, 1941 receipt 	1	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal card: "J. Widmeyer, 943 North 33rd Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin" - Invoice for shirts and collars from Newell of New York, 1940 - 2 items from lawyer Hugo J. Trost, 1940 - J. Widmeyer last will and testament, May 15, 1941 - Wisconsin Telephone Company contract, June 11, 1906 - Funeral items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Funeral card for Jacob Widmeyer, 1942 o Blueprint for Widmeyer monument, copyright, 1927 o Ornamentation on Widmeyer monument o Invoice, Badger Monument Co., Sept. 11, 1933 & Dec. 28, 1933 o Guardian Memorial Guarantee Bond, Pinelawn Cemetery, June 19, 1934 o Newspaper obituary, Eliza Widmeyer, 1937 o Receipts from Eliza Widmeyer's funeral - Wisconsin National Bank: savings book for Jacob Widmeyer, guardian for Harvey Widmeyer, minor, 1917-1926 - First Wisconsin National Bank: savings book for Jacob Widmeyer, guardian for Harvey Widmeyer, 1926-1927 		
<p>JACOB WIDMEYER ESTATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estate of Jacob Widmeyer papers - Petition & account in the matter of the last will and testament of Jacob Widmeyer 	1	
OVERSIZE ITEMS	LOCATION	
Widmeyer Spring Co. Calendar, 1931 (in Oversize Box)	MV. Sh. 55	
Membership certificate in Master Horseshoers' National Protective Association, Jan. 3, 1917	OS LG "W"	
Membership certificate in Master Horseshoers' National Protective Association, Jan. 2, 1918	OS LG "W"	