



The Urbana Free Library

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James Family Collection,  
1850-1974

Collection 146

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Creator/Corporate name:** James Family Collection

**Inclusive Dates:** 1850-1974

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Provenance:**

The James Family collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

**Access:**

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

**Biographical/Historical Note:**

Thomas Jefferson James was born on July 19, 1830 in Vigo County, Ind. to Joseph and Rebecca (Rebekah) Hathaway James. He worked as either a farmer or a blacksmith, and furniture maker. He married Almeda Ransdell on March 25, 1855 in Terre Haute, Ind. and they had 10 children together, 3 of whom died in infancy. Thomas died on March 26, 1892 in Stanton Township, Ill.

One of Thomas and Almeda's surviving children was Chauncey, who was born on August 6, 1869 in Vigo County, Ind. Chauncey married Fannie Clements on October 18, 1893, and they had 7 children together. Chauncey worked as a mail carrier in Thomasboro, Ill. and later as the Highway Commissioner of that township. He died on December 17, 1933 in Washington, D.C.

One of Chauncey and Fannie's sons, Leslie L., was born on January 13, 1900 near Thomasboro, Ill. He married Jessie Elizabeth Waters on August 21, 1926, and worked as a building trade's instructor for inmates in the Federal Prison System for 25 years. He died on November 25, 1985.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The collection contains business ledgers of Thomas Jefferson James and genealogical materials of Leslie James. A meeting minute book of the Champaign County Consumers Council has been removed from this collection. Materials date from 1850 to ca. 1974.

**Name terms:**

Champaign County Consumers Council (Champaign, IL)

James, Thomas J.

Thomas J. James Blacksmith Shop

**Subject Terms:**

Genealogy

Thomasboro (Ill.). Highway Commissioner

**Inventory list:**



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- Thomas J. James – business ledger, 1868-1877
- Thomas J. James – business ledger, 1850-1854
- Thomas J. James - business ledger, 1855-1863
- Leslie James – red ledger book containing genealogical notes and newspaper clippings, ca. 1974
- Champaign County Consumers Council – meeting minute book, 1938-1943 [removed]

**Box ID:** 43

**Annex shelf location:** 64

**Processing notes:** inventory good, some preservation concerns, archivist, FA

**Bib. Record No.:** 489585