



The Urbana Free Library

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Corrie Family Collection,
1889-1984

Collection 155

Champaign County Historical Archives

Creator/Corporate name: Corrie Family

Inclusive Dates: 1889-1984

Physical Description: 1 box, 1.1 linear feet

Provenance:

The Corrie family collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

*Note: The box contains a slip of paper stating 'From Mrs. Corrie,' most likely referring to Miriam Knowlton Corrie. It is unknown whether this information pertains only to particular items within the box, or to the entire collection.

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:

Lester Linn 'Lum' Corrie was born on March 15, 1896 in Wabash County, Ind. to Harlan Bliss and Martha Corrie. He served in World War I and graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. in agriculture in 1920. He married Miriam Knowlton, daughter of Everett Knowlton and Hattie Bennett, in 1922. He worked in farming and farm management for a number of years and in many capacities. He worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and served as president of the Urbana Association of Commerce, until his retirement. He and his wife also took over ownership and management of his father-in-law's drugstore, Knowlton & Bennett, for a number of years. Corrie died on September 19, 1984.

Everett M. Knowlton, father of Miriam Knowlton Corrie, came to Urbana from Vermont in 1877 and purchased a drug business in 1884. He expanded the merchandise to include school supplies and paints, and his brother-in-law George M. Bennett became his business partner in 1886. After Bennett's death, Knowlton became sole proprietor of the business from 1924 to 1935.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains business correspondence, financial documents, appraisals, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other business materials pertaining to Lester Corrie and other family members involved in the operation of Knowlton & Bennett in Urbana, Ill. It also contains personal correspondence and ephemera. Materials date from 1889 to 1984.

Name Terms:

Bennett, Hattie

Bliss, Harlan

Corrie, Lester Linn 'Lum'

Corrie, Martha

Knowlton, Miriam

Knowlton, Everett



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Knowlton & Bennett (Urbana, Ill.)
Urbana Association of Commerce (Urbana, Ill.)
United States. Department of Agriculture

Inventory list:

- Slate fragment inscribed with 'FROM OLD UNI-HALL, SAVE', undated
- Folder containing a photograph of Lester Corrie and others (identified) and personal and business correspondence of Corrie, 1938-1954
- Envelope containing business materials and legal documents of Otis K. Karr Insurance Agency in Seymour, Ill., 1908-1947
- Brown envelope containing photograph of L. L. Corrie and others (most identified), undated
- Plastic bag containing an issue of The Illini (September 19, 1906), correspondence (1942), and address book (1951)
- Appraisal of Knowlton & Bennett, June 5, 1968
- Envelope labeled 'Knowlton & Bennett' – business correspondence and invoices, 1925-1926
- Advertising contracts, political flyers, business pamphlets, solicitations, documents and annual reports for various organizations including the Urbana Association of Commerce, maps, correspondence, newspaper clippings, greeting cards, programs, and materials pertaining to philanthropic activities of Lester Corrie and Knowlton & Bennett, 1924-1984
- Expense logs, receipts, correspondence, and financial documents of George Bennett and Hattie Knowlton, will of Hattie Knowlton, and estate receipts of Mrs. A. Bennett (mother of George), 1889-1939
- Wooden block labeled 'City Bldg. Urbana, Oct. 25, 1965'
- Wooden block labeled 'Old City Bldg., Oct. 27 '65'
- Wooden block labeled 'City Builder [sic] & Urbana, Oct. 25, 1965'
- Wooden signature stamp of 'Geo M Bennett', undated
- Metal University of Illinois Airport dedication block, October 26, 1945
- Plastic coin holder from Steer's Grocery, Urbana
- L.L. Corrie materials. Includes photographs
- Black book – Local Service Men's Register, 1944-1945
- Black ledger book of Knowlton & Bennett, 1917-1928
- Black finance journal of Knowlton & Bennett, 1921-1953
- Newspaper clippings of Knowlton & Bennett advertisements and correspondence, 1924-1963

Box ID: 94

Annex shelf location: 36

Processing notes: Finding aid in progress, needs to be processed, lots of small items

Bib. Record No.: 489636