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Knowlton and Bennett Drug Store
Records, 1913-1940

Collection 191

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Sandy Kroeker, January 2024

Creator/Corporate Name: Everett Melvin Knowlton (1852-1920); George M. Bennett (1868-1935)

Inclusive Dates: 1913-1940, bulk 1925-1931

Physical Description: 1 box, (0.5 linear ft.)

Provenance:

The Knowlton and Bennett Drug Store Records were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

Access:

These 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.

Historical Note:

Everett Melvin Knowlton was born May 5, 1852 in Windham County, Vermont. In 1877, Knowlton moved to Urbana and began working for E.H. Cushman & Co., druggists, at 135 West Main Street. He purchased this business in 1885 and two years later, in 1887, entered a business partnership with George M. Bennett, establishing the Knowlton and Bennett Drug Store. Bennett was born September 1, 1868 in Urbana and married Emma C. Yanos in 1890. Also in 1890, Knowlton married Hattie Bennett, George M. Bennett's sister, and they had two children; Miriam and Beth.

After Knowlton passed away in 1920, Bennett continued to run the business along with Knowlton's daughter, Miriam Knowlton Corrie, and son-in-law, Lester Linn Corrie. In 1925, Bennett remodeled the building with the help of his brother, John B. Bennett, as the builder, and Royer, Danely & Smith as architects. The renovated building reopened on December 15, 1926, and continued to serve as a drug store. After Bennett's death in 1935, the Corrie family continued to run the Knowlton and Bennett Drug Store until its closure in 1971.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains financial records, building plans, contracts, almanacs, and ephemera from the Knowlton and Bennett Drug Store at 135 W Main St in Urbana. The records date from 1913 to 1940. Many of the records relate to the 1925-1926 renovation of the Knowlton and Bennett Building.

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged alphabetically by material type.

Related Material:

Special Collections: Corrie Family Collection, 1889-1984; Collection 155



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Subject Terms:

Almanacs, American
Commercial buildings—Urbana
Drugstores—Urbana
Historic buildings—Urbana

Name Terms:

Bennett Building
Bennett, George M.
Bennett, John B.
Danely, Paul J.
Knowlton & Bennett (Urbana, Ill.)
Knowlton & Bennett Building (Urbana, Ill.)
Knowlton, Everett Melvin
Royer, Danely and Smith (Architects)
Royer, Joseph W.
Smith, Hubert

Container List

Box 1

Folder 1: Building Permits and Titles, 1925-1926
Folder 2: Building Plans, 1925
Folder 3: Contractor and Company Records A-L, 1925-1931
Folder 4: Contractor and Company Records M-Z, 1925-1931
Folder 5: Ephemera, 1913 and undated
Folder 6: Interest Payments, 1930-1935
Folder 7: N.A.R.D. Almanacs, 1924-1925
Folder 8: N.A.R.D. Almanacs, 1926-1929
Folder 9: N.A.R.D. Almanacs, 1931-1932
Folder 10: N.A.R.D. Almanacs, 1933-1934
Folder 11: Rexall Family Almanac and Moon Book, 1940