



S.P. Atkinson Monument Co. Records

COLLECTION 91

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Ruth Slagle, December 2015

Creator/Corporate name: S.P. Atkinson Monument Company

Inclusive Dates: 1891-Jan. 1894, 1912-1913, 1917-1918, & 1931-1934

Physical Description: 1 box, (0.5 linear feet)

Provenance:

The S.P. Atkinson Monument Co. Records were 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.

Historical Note:

Samuel Peabody (S.P.) Atkinson (1844-1937) grew up in Central Ohio and enlisted in the 135th Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the American Civil War in 1864. He moved to Champaign in 1868 where he worked as a farmer and school teacher until 1880. He became a partner in J.W. Booker's Champaign Marble and Granite Company in 1881 after serving for a year as a salesman. In 1884 he sold his partnership interest to Booker and formed his own company, S.P. Atkinson Monument Company, located at 71 N Neil Street (the intersection of Neil and Hickory). In 1901, the building was demolished to make way for the Flat Iron Building which would become home to the *Champaign Daily Gazette*, the forerunner of the *News-Gazette*.

In 1904, the S.P. Atkinson Monument Co. took up permanent residence at 106 South Neil Street commissioned by Atkinson in order to properly display his handiwork. The building is an example of Richardson Romanesque architecture in Champaign. Along with S.P. Atkinson Monument Company, he kept up several rental properties along Neil Street.

During his time in Champaign, he married twice. His first marriage was to Rena Shobe on September 15, 1870, which lasted until her death in 1893. After her death he married again, to Emma Schultz on August 8, 1894. He and Emma had two sons: Donald and Joseph. The business operated under S.P. Atkinson until his death in 1937 and remained in the Atkinson family until the death of Joseph M. Atkinson in 1983. In the intervening years the company was managed by: Joseph E. Atkinson (son) 1927-1966, Joseph M. Atkinson (grandson) 1966-1983.

Barbara Hopper bought S.P. Atkinson Monument Co. in 1984. She had worked for Joseph M. Atkinson from 1977-1983. In August 1987, she filed for bankruptcy. The building and business were bought by Jeff Mellander in 1989.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains sales books, invoices, and records regarding rental properties owned by Atkinson. The sales book includes descriptions and sometimes diagrams of the gravestones, material(s)



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used, inscriptions, who purchased the stone, and payment information. The sales books have been indexed in [Local History Online](#) and are searchable by individual names.

Invoices are included from 1909-1913 for granite and monument work as well as regular business for the company. Some personal bills are included also. The information regarding the rental properties date from 1930-1935 and includes an account book and correspondence with tenants. The majority of the individuals listed lived on Neil Street where S.P. Atkinson's business was located.

Related material:

"S.P. Atkinson Monument Co. (Champaign)" File in the Local History Ephemera Series and "S.P. Atkinson Monument Co. (Champaign)" Photographs Envelope.

Names:

Atkinson, Joseph E.
Atkinson, Joseph M.
Atkinson, Samuel P.

Subjects Terms:

Neil St (Champaign), South, 106
S.P. Atkinson Monument Co. (Champaign, Ill.)
Sepulchral Monuments Industry--Champaign
Stone Industry and Trade--Champaign

Container List:

Box 1

Folders 1-7: Invoices 1909-1914, and undated
Folder 8: Rental property account book, 1931-1934
Folder 9: Rental property correspondence, 1930-1935
Folder 10: Sales book, 1887-1889
Folder 11: Sales book, 1891-1892, shipping record, 1892-1894 [original]
Folder 12: Sales book, 1891-1892, shipping record, 1892-1894 [photocopy]
Folder 13: Sales book, 1898
Folder 14: Sales book, 1901
Folder 15: Sales book, 1902
Folder 16: Sales book, 1904
Folder 17: Sales book, 1905
Folder 18: Sales book, 1917-1918