

# Forest Industries

A Guide to the Resources in the Michigan State University  
Archives

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The purpose of this resource guide is to familiarize visitors of the MSU Archives with some of the available resources related to the forestry and associated industries such as commercial logging. Note that this guide is not a comprehensive listing of all the available sources, but is intended to be a starting point from which visitors can begin their research according to their specific needs.

## ***Logging Businesses***

- 1. Hackley and Hume Papers, 1859-1955. 00097**
  - 83 cu. ft.
  - Correspondence, land patents, log receipts, financial material, and other records, of J. N. Hackley and Company (1859-66), Hackley & Sons (1866-77), Hackley & McGordon (1866-80), C. H. Hackley & Company (1876-86), and Hackley and Hume (1881-1905), Michigan based lumber firms, including material on white pine forests in Michigan, Santee Swamp basin in South Carolina, and cypress and yellow pine stands in Louisiana; papers relating to investments of the family of Thomas Hume (1848-1920), including the investment holding companies Thomas Hume & Company (1907-54) and Hume, Hefferan & Company (1907-42), and material on lands in North Carolina and California, particularly redwood forests of the Sierra Nevada Mountains; probate reports, court orders, bequests, and other estate papers of Charles Henry Hackley, Thomas Hume, their families and business partners, and other residents of Muskegon, Mich.; and labor reports, financial records, bond issues, and corporate records of 43 business firms, kept by Hackley, Hume and Hume's sons, George A. and Thomas H. Hume, as trustees of funds of the Greater Muskegon Chamber of Commerce.
  
- 2. Huron Log Booming Company Records, 1864. c00167**
  - 1 folder
  - This collection consists of the articles of association of the Huron Log Booming Company, which was involved in the running, booming, and rafting of logs on the Cass, Shiawassee, and Saginaw Rivers in Michigan.
  
- 3. Josiah Littlefield Papers, 1879-1958. c00188**
  - 1 folder, 4 volumes
  - This collection contains a portion of Josiah Littlefield's unpublished autobiography, which describes his early life on a farm in Monroe County, Michigan (1850-1865). The collection also contains four ledgers from Littlefield's lumber mill, recording workers' hours and business transactions; tax receipts; biographical information about Littlefield; and a map showing Littlefield property in Clare County, Michigan.
  
- 4. Michigan Bean Company Records, 1906-1980. 00010**
  - 5 cu. ft., 11 volumes
  - Correspondence, memoranda, and articles on agricultural topics affecting the Michigan Bean Company, including state and federal legislation, cooperative marketing, advertising, and research. Also documentation of the company's

1955 merger with the Wickes Corporation. Much of the correspondence is to or from A.L. Riedel, one of the company's founders. Records and papers of agricultural organizations including the Michigan Agricultural Export Association and the National Dried Bean Council, and papers from the United States Defense Department's Quartermaster Corps, for which Riedel was a consultant during World War II. Also some personal papers of Riedel, and records of the companies merged to form the Michigan Bean Company, including Vestaburg Elevator Company and Boslo Grain Company. The Michigan Bean Company was founded in 1915 by William J. Orr, Frank W. Merrick, Alfred R. Chamberlain, Gustav Hill, Albert L. Riedel, William J. Dufty, and Normal L. Wales. They purchased and combined Owendale Grain and Lumber Company, Vestaburg Elevator Company, Boslo Grain Company, and Port Huron Producers' Elevator, and they made their headquarters in Bay City, Michigan. Orr, the first president, died in 1921, and was succeeded in office by Merrick, who died in 1937. When Riedel became president in 1938, he moved the company's headquarters to Saginaw, Michigan. The Michigan Bean Company became Michigan's largest grain exporter by 1955, when it was merged with the Wickes Corporation.

**5. Pere Marquette Lumber Company records, 1860-1912. 00031**

- 3 cu. ft., 17 volumes
- This collection consists of tax receipts, deeds, ledgers, cash books, correspondence, and miscellaneous legal papers having to do with the Pere Marquette Lumber Company. There is also a journal and cash book of the company store, cash book of the Ludington Water Supply Company, and miscellaneous papers of the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad.

**6. Dean S. Smith Collection, 1859-1934. c00502**

- 2 Folders, 14 Vols.
- This collection contains account books and ledgers concerning Carmi R. Smith and R.T. Twombly. Smith's materials consist of class notes while at Albion College, account books and ledgers from a lumber business in Niles, Michigan, and expense records. Twombly's materials include daybooks and an account book concerning general stores in Niles and Buchanan, Michigan. A shipping list from one of his stores is also included.

**7. Wyman's School of the Woods Publication, 1911.c00372**

- 1 folder  
This collection contains a pamphlet describing Wyman's School of the Woods in Munising, Michigan. It lists courses offered, tuition, and graduates of the school.  
Note: The school was organized in 1909 to teach forestry, logging, and natural science. It was under the direction of Thomas B. Wyman, Chief Forester of the Northern Forest Protective Association.

## ***Related Collections***

- 8. Harry L. Bancroft Scrapbook, 1909-1912. UA 10.3.132**
  - 1 item
  - Bancroft's scrapbook consists mainly of photographs which depict M.A.C. forestry expeditions, campus scenes, sports and other student activities. Other items include newspaper articles and membership cards to various organizations.
  
- 9. Marley R. Brown research report, 1981. C00583**
  - 3 folders
  - This collection consists of one copy of the Final Report, titled, An Historical Overview of Redwood Logging Resources within the Hume Lake Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest, California. The Final Report is an historical overview of the redwood lumber areas of the Hume Lake Ranger District of the Sequoia National Forest. Note: Sonoma State University Academic Foundation was awarded a contract entitled "Redwood Logging Research on the Hume Lake Ranger District" by the U.S. Forest Service in October 1980. The Final Report is primarily based on primary and secondary documents and/or oral accounts.
  
- 10. Department of Forestry Records, 1903-1973. UA 16.51**
  - 1 cu. ft.
  - The records of the Forestry Department consist of annual reports from 1903-1935 and 1959-1969, research papers, correspondence, pamphlets, and field reports from various counties in Michigan. Also included is a folder of correspondence from C.O. Willets to the Agriculture Research Service, history of the Conservation Nursery at MSU, and materials about maple syrup including correspondence and reports. Other notable topics include Michigan Agriculture Experiment Station and Xi Sigma Pi, the forestry honor society.
  
- 11. Malcolm Gordon Dickinson Papers, 1910-1915. UA 10.3.26**
  - 1 vol. 2 folders
  - The Malcolm Dickinson papers consist of a scrapbook (1910-1915), Michigan Agricultural College programs (1911-1915), and a letter from a friend encouraging Dickinson in his studies. The scrapbook contains photographs of family, friends, athletic events, campus life, and forestry camp, as well as postcards, receipts, report cards, a class of 1915 rivalry poster, and miscellaneous memorabilia.
  
- 12. George K. Fisher collection 1913, 1953. UA 10.3.225**
  - 2 folders
  - The collection contains photographs from the summer 1913 Michigan Agricultural College forestry students at a lumbering camp in Cheboygan County, Michigan. Also included is an account of the camp's activities written by Fisher in 1953.

**13. Forest Products Department Records, 1958 – 1960. UA 22.30**

- 4 folders
- The collection consists of a scrapbook of photographs, newspaper and magazine clippings, and news releases about an experimental house in Okemos, Michigan built in association with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). The house was made with pre-fabricated materials. The Articles folder contains additional articles about the house, and a booklet from the NAHB about the house. The brochure folder contains a brochure about the forest products department. The Forest Products department first appeared in the college catalog for the 1952-1953 school year. The department had previously been called the Department of Wood Utilization in the conservation division of the College of Agriculture. In 1957, the packaging curriculum separated from the Department of Forest Products. The Department of Forest Products last appeared in the college catalog in 1969.

**14. Jacob Gerrish Papers, 1836-1867. c00273**

- 2 folders, 6 vols.
- This collection contains diaries kept by Jacob Gerrish to record his work as a carpenter and blacksmith. Also included are his dealings in lumber and land, agriculture and trade, daily expenses, and religious and social activities during the time he lived in New Buffalo, Michigan. In addition, deeds and tax receipts for land in Berrien and Van Buren, Michigan, as well as Laporte County, Indiana are included.

**15. Richard Henry Harms papers, 1983-1984. UA 17.159**

- 2 folders.
- Collection consists of 2 manuscripts by Harms, an article entitled "Farmers Versus Scientists: The Samuel Johnson Episode" (1983); and "Life After Lumbering: Charles Henry Hackley and the Emergence of Muskegon, Michigan" (1984); The latter was Harms' Ph.D. dissertation.

**16. Leon George Johnson Papers, 1905-1911. UA 10.3.62**

- 1 volume 4 folders
- Leon Johnson papers consist of a scrapbook, letters, speeches, and memorabilia. Scrapbook contains athletic, dance, theatre, and semi-centennial programs; receipts and tickets; letters; college songs; greeting cards and ribbons; news clippings; posters, including class rivalry posters by the classes of 1910, 1911, and 1912; and postcards and photographs of Michigan Agricultural College life, Forestry Camp, and friends. Memorabilia include M.A.C. programs and calendars.

**17. MSU Forestry Club Collection, 1903 – 1953. UA 12.3.2**

- 3 folders
- This collection contains a minute book which contains the constitution and bylaws of the club at its creation, attendance rolls and minutes of the

meetings. The minutes for 1912-1913 contain receipts and dues as well as meeting information. The Papers folder contains a financial statement of the club and correspondence with the Intercollegiate Association of Forestry Clubs. The MSU Forestry Club was established in 1903 under the name of MAC Foresters. The club's original purpose was to promote the interests of forestry. The group created three publications, "Backlog," "Pine Needles" and starting in 1955 the "Michigan State Forester." The Forestry club is still active today.

**18. Horace D. Moore Papers, 1851-1925. c00407**

- 1 folder, 53 vols.
- This collection contains papers dealing with the various business enterprises of Horace D. Moore. Included are account books and miscellaneous papers relating to his general store operations, his hotel (the Sherman House), and to his personal and household accounts.

**19. William Overlease Collection, 1890-1973. 00100**

- 0.33 cu. ft., 29 Tapes
- Summary Transcripts of oral history interviews, together with original tape recordings and supplementary photos, collected by William and Edith Overlease, documenting the history of hardwood logging and lumbering in Benzie County, Mich., including the communities of Benzonia, Frankfort, and Honor.

**20. George Rupp papers, 1891-1916. 00135**

- 0.66 cu. ft.
- The collection includes a number of mineral maps of Gogebic and Ontonagan Counties and the Upper Peninsula; 3 letterpress books of correspondence; an account book of lands purchased in 1902; 2 lumber grading booklets; an 1880 land deed; the agreement between Rupp and Olson; some land redemption correspondence (1913 and 1915).

**21. Harvey C. Saunders Papers, between 1878-1934. c00313**

- 1 folder
- This collection contains photocopies of notes written by Saunders. Along with descriptions of life in the logging camps, details are given on the building of dams, the format and operation of lumber companies, and the founding and growth of settlements.

**22. S.C. Overpack Company advertising brochures, 1907. C00095**

- 1 folder
- This collection consists of advertising brochures for the S.C. Overpack Company of Manistee, Michigan, a manufacturer of logging wheels. The brochures contain pictures of the wheels and testimonials from users.

**23. Slafter Family Papers, 1855-1891. 00037**

- 14 folders
- Primarily personal correspondence among members of the Slafter family and their family and friends. Discusses financial, agricultural, economic, and moral topics. Letters and an essay (by Anna Slafter) discuss the Civil War in a negative view. A recruiting letter promises recruits they will not be sent out of Michigan. A Greenback newspaper containing a speech by Senator Allen G. Thurman is included. One letter discusses Fenians in Connecticut. Several letters discuss logging and the lumber trade in Michigan. One extols Vermont as a copper mining region, and another tells of the fertile land and climate of Kansas. Of interest is a letter from the Utah territory which describes current wages and gives a personal and unflattering opinion of Brigham Young. Also includes various legal documents pertaining to real estate, insurance, taxes, and legal practice in Michigan.

**24. John Baptiste Soucie papers, 1884-1996. c00581**

- 4 folders, 17 photographs.
- The John Baptiste Soucie papers contain three versions of Soucie's autobiographical manuscript, *Forty Years a Cookin'*. There is an original, unfinished handwritten copy that was told to Soucie's friend Guy Lavigne; a typed version of the handwritten copy; and a spiral bound volume of the manuscript that was completed by Soucie's daughter Vera Oliver. There are also several photographs of Oscoda, Michigan; Lost Lake; Coline Dam; and various lumbering camp photographs.

**25. Dora Hall Stockman Papers, 1910-1948. 00109**

- 1.66 cu. ft.
- Primarily Grange-related papers of Dora Hall Stockman, a writer, teacher, community leader, and member of the Michigan State Board of Agriculture. Grange materials include Michigan Rosters, various handbooks and guidelines, including a booklet on Juvenile Granges, handbooks and reports of the Home Economics Committee, issues of the MICHIGAN PATRON (the official Grange newspaper) containing articles and poems she wrote, and newsletters and clippings pertaining to the National Grange. Michigan State College papers include Edwin Willits' inaugural address in 1885, publications of the MSC Student Grange, commencement programs, 2 issues of the MICHIGAN STATE NEWS, and pamphlets pertaining to "Farmers' Week" and "Country Life Week" at the College. Also manuscripts of chapters of Stockman's unfinished thesis on rural American life, which includes writings on the history of the Michigan Grange and women in the Grange; the manuscript of a story, "Happy Valley;" and transcripts of radio talks (given on WKAR), speeches, and sermons. Two books by Stockman, *FARMERKINS FARM RHYMES* (1911) and *DIALOGS* (1913); a short story about the Hesperia movement; and pageants, plays, songs, and poems, primarily related to agriculture. Contains issues of various magazines to which Stockman was a contributor; speeches, clippings, and campaign materials relating to her tenure

in the Michigan House of Representatives; and clippings related to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and to liquor legislation. Papers relating to Mrs. Stockman's personal interests include a biography of Will Carleton; a copy of the 1931 Children's Bill of Rights; church and conference programs; a program from a Republican National Convention (1939); Department of Public Instruction meeting minutes; an award from the Governor (1913); and Stockman Farm letterhead, receipts, and notes. Also two agricultural pamphlets, newspapers clippings, her husband's death notice, local and county tax receipts, and miscellaneous unrelated papers. Includes a scrapbook (1936; 1940) which contains clippings, photographs, and correspondence pertaining to the Michigan Grange. Note: Dora Hall was born in 1872 on a farm in northern Michigan, to which her parents had moved from Albany, New York. Her writing career began at age 12 as correspondent for the Bear Lake Beacon. She passed her teaching examination at age 14, and began teaching at age 16. She married Mr. Stockman, who had two children from a previous marriage, at age 17. Her eldest son, Lee, was born in 1892. The Stockman's ran a mercantile business in Arcadia, Michigan, from 1891 to 1895, when they moved to Benzonia and opened a department store. They also ran a logging camp at this time. By 1902, Dora had earned a master's degree in literature, writing her thesis on "The Present Day Influence of the Life of Christ," which was later published under the title *A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST*. The Stockmans moved west in 1902, but Dora and her stepson, Marion, returned in the fall. She taught at Hillsdale College until her husband's return. In 1903, they bought a farm west of Lansing, and Dora taught in the district schools. In 1905, a daughter was born who lived only 6 days. That winter, Dora sold her first story to *THE MICHIGAN FARMER*. In 1907, a son, Verne, was born. A book of Stockman's dialogue was published in 1910, and a book of poems, *FARMERKINS FARM RHYMES*, in 1911. She wrote for *THE MODERATOR TOPICS*, *MICHIGAN FARMER*, and *YOUTH'S COMPANION*, among others, and edited *THE PATRON*, a Grange publication. In 1913, Stockman was appointed Michigan Representative to the International Congress of Farm Women. She was elected State Grange Lecturer from 1914 to 1930, and to the State Board of Agriculture from 1919 to 1943. She began work towards a doctorate in sociology at Michigan State College in 1930, which was never completed, but MSC awarded her an honorary Doctor of Laws in 1934. She was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1938, in which her greatest contribution was sponsorship of the bill creating the Michigan Hospital Service, later to become Blue Shield of Michigan. She retired from politics in 1946, was remarried to Gustaf Weinhauf of Grass Lake, Michigan, in 1947, and died in California in 1948.

**26. Ralph W. Stroebel Collection, n.d. c00223**

- 1 folder

- This collection contains lists of lumber firms and their log marks, taken from the books of the Tittabawassee Boom Company, located in the Saginaw Valley of Michigan.

**27. Treiber Family Papers, 1863-1889. c00151**

- 7 folders
- This collection consists of correspondence, photographs, teaching certificates, and family histories relating primarily to John and Mary McCarty Treiber of Carlisle, Michigan. John Treiber's letters to his wife between 1872-1873 make up the bulk of the collection. They describe his shipping work on the Great Lakes and in lumber in Wisconsin. Letters to Mary Treiber from other family members discuss agriculture and family news. A series of letters from Marion Howell of Lansing describe the state capital in the 1880s. Two teaching certificates (1863, 1865) authorize Mary Treiber's sister, Sarah Hitchcock, to teach in Dorr and Byron, Michigan. The family histories describe pioneer life in Kalamo Township, Michigan in the 1850s.

**28. Wilson Family Papers, 1863-1926. 00051**

- 1 cu. ft.
- Primarily diaries of George W. Wilson and his son, Arthur S. Wilson, both farmers in Ingham County, Michigan, which discuss daily life, social events, and farming. Also includes farm accounts. One volume of farm accounts of G.W. Wilson's farm in Delhi Township, Michigan, and one including accounts of several public offices kept while Wilson was apparently Aurelius Township Treasurer (1871-1874), as well as his farm accounts. Insurance papers of George Wilson from the Agricultural Insurance Company of Watertown, New York (1875-1881) and various unrelated mortgages and deeds, all from Ingham County. The majority of these involve the Faurot family of Aurelius, Michigan. Also miscellaneous legal papers and accounts of Aurelius, and personal receipt. Includes a poem written by William Wilson about prison life while he was in Danville Prison, Georgia, during the Civil War; a Wilson family genealogy; and a letter from the donor. Also one book of lumber facts (size, strength, cost, etc.) dated 1882.

**29. Harry S. Wilt papers, 1882-1948. UA 17.53**

- 5 folders
- The collection consists of various publications that have to do with agriculture including "Alpha Zeta Quarterly," the magazine for the agriculture fraternity, containing updates by schools and agriculture related articles. The "Scribener's Lumber and Log Book" gives tables for measurements and guides for aspects of the lumber trade. Also notable is the catalog for W.S. Hannah and Sons Poultry, which was the business owned by MSU President John Hannah's father.

**30. Wixom Family Papers, 1824-1907. c00131**

- 4 folders, 1 volume

- The Wixom Family Collection contains a number of land title transfers and other documents relating to Oakland, Genessee, Ionia, Montcalm, and Shiawassee Counties, Michigan. Also included is a mandate to collect school taxes (1839); a federal income tax return (1865); deposit certificates from the Milford State Bank; and records of major family expenses for 1886-1888. Also included is a ledger of W.C. Wixom and J.L. Sibley containing invoices (1890-1896) showing transactions dealing in grain, produce, lumber, and other goods. The collection also contains petitions (1871) from residents of Milford, Commerce, Novi, and Lyon, Michigan, agreeing to help build a depot on the Holly, Wayne and Monroe line if the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad will establish one there.

**31. Wyman's School of the Woods Publication, 1911. C00372**

- 1 folder
- This collection contains a pamphlet describing Wyman's School of the Woods in Munising, Michigan. It lists courses offered, tuition, and graduates of the school.

Note: The school was organized in 1909 to teach forestry, logging, and natural science. It was under the direction of Thomas B. Wyman, Chief Forester of the Northern Forest Protective Association.

### ***University Publications***

1. **Serials** (includes Forester, Pine Needles, Backlog)
2. **MSU Yearbooks** (1877 to present)
3. **Faculty and Student Directories** (1907 to present)
4. **Alumni and Faculty Catalogues** (1873, 1888, 1895, 1900, 1911, 1916, 1931)
5. **Course Catalogs** (1857 – present, early issues list enrolled students)
6. **Student Newspapers** (The Holcad 1909 - 1925, State News 1925 - present)
7. **Alumni Newsletters** (MAC/MSC Record 1896 – present, Alumni Magazine 1983 – present)
8. **MSU Staff Newsletters** (MSU Today, MSU News Bulletin, HR News)

### ***Other Resources***

1. MSU Information Files
  - a. Buildings
  - b. Forestry
  - c. Forestry, Dept. of