Guide to the Artemus W. Ham Family Papers

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 31, 2017.
English
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Summary Information

Contributor: Dokter, Betty Ham
Creator: Ham, Artemus W., Sr.
Contributor: Ham, Alta Mereness
Title: Artemus W. Ham Family Papers
ID: MS-00056
Date [inclusive]: 1859-1971
Physical Description: 0.1 Linear Feet (7 folders (shared box))
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: The Artemus W. Ham Family Papers (1859-1971) contain correspondence and other materials of the Ham family, an important early Las Vegas, Nevada family. Materials include postcards, newspaper clippings about the Ham family, and membership cards of Artemus W. Ham, Sr.

Preferred Citation


Historical Background

Artemus W. Ham, Sr. (1892-1970) and Alta Mereness Ham (1896-1974) married in 1915 in Los Angeles, California. The couple moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1916. Artemus W. Ham worked as an attorney and specialized in mining law when they first moved to Southern Nevada. They had three children in Las Vegas; Artemus W. Ham, Jr. in 1920, Betty Katherine Ham in 1922, and Robert Ham in 1927. The Ham family lived at 1000 Sixth Street in Las Vegas.

From 1924 to 1928, Ham served as the Las Vegas City Attorney. In the 1930s and 1940s, he became well-known as a divorce attorney for Hollywood celebrities seeking Nevada divorces. He and his wife,
Alta, were very active in the Las Vegas community. She was a cofounder of the Mesquite Club and Artemus W. Ham, Sr. was one of the founding members of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. They were also strong supporters of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). Artemus W. Ham Sr. passed away on May 25, 1970 and Alta Ham passed away on April 23, 1974.


Scope and Contents Note

The Artemus W. Ham Family Papers (1859-1971) contain correspondence and other materials of the Ham family, an important early Las Vegas, Nevada family. Materials include postcards, newspaper clippings about the Ham family, and membership cards of Artemus W. Ham, Sr.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.
Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See Reproductions and Use on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Original accession number: Mss 36.

Processing Information

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Angela Moor revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

Revision Description

The finding aid was revised and enhanced by Angela Moor to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. June 2015

Related Materials

Separated Materials

The photographs in this acquisition were removed from the collection and placed in the Betty Ham Dokter Photographs, 1892-1976. PH-00012. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Related Collections


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Controlled Access Headings

- Las Vegas (Nev) -- History
- Dokter, Betty Ham
- Ham, Artemus W., Sr.
- Ham, Alta Mereness

Collection Inventory

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<th>Title/Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Handwritten correspondence principally from family and friends to Ella A. Mereness (mother of Alta Mereness Ham), includes some correspondence between Alta M. Ham and daughter Betty K. Ham, 1906-1937</td>
<td>Box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handwritten correspondence principally from family and friends to Ella A. Mereness, undated</td>
<td>Box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booklet, typescript, leather cover, University of Michigan Law School program of graduation, Artemus W. Ham, Sr. listed in class roll, 1914</td>
<td>Box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership cards of Artemus W. Ham, Sr. in various organizations, including the Las Vegas Shrine Club, Free and Accepted Masons of Nevada Number 32, Variety Clubs International, Life member of Las Vegas Nevada Lodge Number 1468 B.P.O. Elks, and State Bar of Nevada, 1928-1970</td>
<td>Box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typescript, Certificate, State of Nevada Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 5, memorializing the late Artemus W. Ham, Sr.; also letter to Mrs. Alta Mereness Ham from Russell W. McDonald, Legislative Counsel, 1971</td>
<td>Box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typescript, Exhibition of oil painting and pastels by Edward Fazzio, at the Frances Webb Galleries, Los Angeles, California; Fazzio is the artist who painted a portrait of Artemus W. Ham, Sr., undated</td>
<td>Box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typescript (some carbon copy), copies of newspaper articles referring to Artemus W. Ham, Sr. and family, 1859-1968</td>
<td>Box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typescript, newspaper clippings from Needles, California, 1895</td>
<td>Flat file 02</td>
</tr>
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General

Oversize folder not found during processing 2015 June 03. Added in 2017.