Guide to the Artemus W. Ham Family Papers

This finding aid was created by Christine Marin, Angela Moor, and Joyce Moore on August 10, 2018.
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Summary Information

Creator: Ham, Artemus W., Sr., 1892-1970
Contributor: Ham, Alta Mereness, 1896-1974
Contributor: Dokter, Betty Ham, 1922-1990
Title: Artemus W. Ham Family Papers
ID: MS-00056
Date [inclusive]: 1857-1970
Date [bulk]: 1906-1970
Physical Description: 0.02 Cubic Feet (4 folders (1 shared box) and 1 flat file)
Physical Description: 1.68 Linear Feet
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: The Artemus W. Ham Family Papers (1857-1970) contain postcards written by family members, newspaper clippings about the Ham family, and a Nevada Senate Concurrent Resolution memorializing Artemus W. Ham, Sr. Also included are genealogy notes, a commencement program from Michigan Law School, and membership cards of Artemus W. Ham, Sr.

Preferred Citation

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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. 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. Artemus W. Ham, Jr. (1920-1991) joined his father's law practice and later went into real estate. He continued the family tradition of philanthropy. Betty Katherine Ham Dokter (1922-1990) married Derald Dokter on February 23, 1942. She lived her entire life in Las Vegas. She passed away on May 11, 1990. Robert C. Ham (1927-1987) lived in Las Vegas, and passed away in 1987.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Artemus W. Ham Family Papers (1857-1970) contain postcards written by family members, newspaper clippings about the Ham family, and a Nevada Senate Concurrent Resolution memorializing Artemus W. Ham, Sr. Also included are genealogy notes, a commencement program from Michigan Law School, and membership cards of Artemus W. Ham, Sr.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged alphabetically.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note
Accession number: 78-39.

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. In 2018 Joyce Moore revised the collection description, amended the finding aid, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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 and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Related Collections

Names and Subjects

• Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
• Lawyers -- Nevada -- Clark County -- Biography

Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Containers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commencement program, University of Michigan Law School graduation, Artemus W. Ham, Sr. listed in class roll, 1914</td>
<td>box SH-003</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</td>
<td>box SH-003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
International, Life member of Las Vegas Nevada Lodge Number 1468 B.P.O. Elks, and State Bar of Nevada, 1928-1970

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Storage Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper clippings referring to Artemus W. Ham. Sr. and family, 1857-1968</td>
<td>box SH-003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postcards, handwritten from family and friends to Ella Mereness (mother of Alta Merenes Ham), including some between Alta M. Ham and daughter Betty K. Ham, 1906-1937</td>
<td>box SH-003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typescript, newspaper clippings from Needles, California, 1895</td>
<td>flat file 02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>