



Collection Summary

Title

George Banker Owens Collection

Date

Mid 1800s-2014

Extent

6 archival boxes

Name and Location of Repository

Midwest Genealogy Center, Independence (Mo.)

Reference code: MGC 1107-GBOC

Processed by: Jolene Clark, 2018; finding aid created by Jolene Clark, 2018.

Name of Creator

Lorraine Owens

Biographical History

Alfred Owens was born about 1845 and his family moved to Cedar County, Missouri in 1860. Alfred drove wagons for the army and was involved in the Battle of Westport during the Civil War. After the war, Alfred moved to South East Kansas where he married Amelia Madden. Their son, George Banker Owens, was born in a covered wagon, near Ottawa, Kansas, on July 4, 1887. During World War I and World War II, George was a Captain and pilot with the United States Air Force. Occupations during his lifetime included lawyer, teacher, principal, and business owner. He taught in the Wyandotte County schools from 1906 to 1940 and was later a principal at Turner High and Piper High schools. He was president of Owens Construction Company. In 1972, the Owens Foundation donated 70 acres of land to the city of Independence for a nature park for the youth and families of Independence. In 1977, the park was dedicated to George B. Owens. He died in 1982 in Kansas City, Missouri at the age of 94 and is buried in George Owens Nature Park in Independence, Missouri.

Charles Bartberger came from Karlsruhe, Germany and settled in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. His son, Erwin G Bartberger, married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Anderson and then moved to South Park, Johnson County, Kansas during the 1880s. (South Park was later incorporated into the city of Merriam.) In 1891, Erwin G Bartberger and R.B. Teachenor started a photo-engraving business in Kansas City, Missouri. E. G. Bartberger had been a wood engraver in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and became the first man in Kansas City to make a zinc etching. Their daughter Ethel P Bartberger was born on December 24, 1892. Ethel was a teacher and a high school superintendent. Ethel died in 1973 and is buried in Pleasant View Cemetery in Shawnee, Kansas.

George Banker Owens and Ethel Bartberger married in 1923 and together they had one son named George Edwin Owens.



Scope and Content

The collections consists of photos, documents, correspondence, and artifacts relating to the life of George B. Owens as well as his genealogy. Although many of the items relate to his personal life, they also have a broader context. As a student and later a teacher in Johnson County, Kansas and Wyandotte County, Kansas schools, many of the photos are not only not only of him, but class photos, and photos of school buildings. The collection helps form a history of the early rural schools in the area. The photos and artifacts relating to his military career include many early photos of airplanes from World War I. Family history items include genealogy charts, biographies, photographs, deeds, books, and newspaper clippings.

Collection Inventory

System of Arrangement

These records are arranged in 10 series.

Box 1,

Series 1, Owens History and genealogy

Folder 1, Transcribed autobiography of George B. Owens

Folder 2, Handwritten autobiography of George B. Owens

Folder 3, Genealogical charts and forms

Folder 4, Biography and photographs of Alfred and Amelia Owens

Folder 5, Regenbrect genealogy (Dora Owens)

Folder 6, Regenbrect photographs (Dora Owens)

Series 2, George B. Owens Education

Folder 1, High School Graduation, Johnson County Kansas Schools, 1903

Folder 2, Central College of Business and Shorthand, 1903

Folder 3, Wilson High School and Mather College of Kansas City University, 1907-1918

Folder 4, Dillenbeck School of Expression, 1913

Folder 5, University of Kansas, 1918-1940

Folder 6, Kansas City School of Law, 1921-1925

Folder 7, Colorado State College, 1935

Series 3, George B. Owens Teaching Career

Folder 1, Wyandotte County, KS Teacher Certificates, Examinations, and Contracts, 1907-1940

Folder 2, Wyandotte County school class photos, 1912-1916

Folder 3, Piper High School yearbook and photos, 1921

Folder 4, State of Kansas Teaching Certificates, 1922-1925

Folder 5, Ethel Owens substitute teacher, 1945

Folder 6, Wyandotte County school photos

Series 4, George B. Owens Military

Folder 1, World War I documents and photos

Folder 2, Military, 1920s-1930s

Box 2,

Folder 3, World War II documents and photos

Series 5, George B. Owens Family and Personal Life



- Folder 1, Misc. documents 1910s-1980s
- Folder 2, Wedding, 1923
- Folder 3, Photos, 1890s-1920s
- Folder 4, Photos, 19230s-1970s
- Folder 5, Church, Organization memberships and fraternal organizations, 1930s-1970s
- Folder 6, Amelia C Owens death, 1938
- Folder 7, Family reunion "Family of Alfred and Amelia Owens", circa 1930s

Box 3,

- Folder 8, George E. Owens, school, military, other activities, 1930s-1940s (Accrual, 2018)
- Folder 9, Will, 1943
- Folder 10, George Owens Nature Center
- Folder 11, Ethel P. Owens death, 1973
- Folder 12, 89th Birthday booklet
- Folder 13, George B. Owens death, 1982
- Folder 14, posthumous awards
- Folder 15, *By-Laws of Wyandotte Shrine No. 4 of the Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem*, 1954 (Accrual, 2018)

Series 6, George B. Owens Correspondence

- Folder 1, undated correspondence
- Folder 2, 1907-1915
- Folder 3, 1918-1919 (World War I)
- Folder 4, 1921
- Folder 5, Jun 1922-Aug 1922, Correspondence between George Owens and Ethel Bartberger
- Folder 6, 1923-1936
- Folder 7, 1942-1944 (World War II)

Box 4

Series 7, Military artifacts

- Item 1, Pocket Bible in box
- Item 2, Pocket sized grooming kit
- Item 3, Mirror in sleeve
- Item 4, Pilot's Book 1918 to 1942
- Item 5, Belt
- Item 6, World War I dog tags
- Item 7, World War II dog tags
- Item 8, Rank pins (2)
- Item 9, Flying cap
- Item 10, Service stripes (2)
- Item 11, Name pin
- Item 12, Blood chit-China, Burma, India Theater (2)
- Item 13, World War I victory bar
- Item 14, Pilot's wings (2)
- Item 15, Instructor's wings (2)
- Item 16, Star pin
- Item 17, White cross

Box 5



Series 8, Bartberger Books and albums (Accrual, Dec 2018)

- Item 1, Photo album of Bartberger family
- Item 2, *Poems of Inspiration*, 1914 belonging to Ethel Bartberger
- Item 3, *Voices of the Night Ballads and Other Poems* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow belonging to Elizabeth Bartberger
- Item 4, Limited edition of *The Old Curiosity Shop*, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 by Charles Dickens, 1899 belonging to Erwin G Bartberger
- Item 5, *Book of Common Prayers* belonging to Erwin G Bartberger
- Item 6, *Hurlbut's Story of the Bible* used by Ethel Owens when she was a Sunday School teacher at the Methodist Church
- Item 7, *Cafchen-Wörterbuch ber Englifchen und Deutifchen Sprache*, 1856 belonging to Charles M Bartberger
- Item 8, Bartberger crest
- Item 9, Photo album of Bartberger Mansion, 408 Pacific Ave, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania given to E.G. Bartberger from his brother C.M. Bartberger, Christmas 1908
- Item 10, Album containing photos of trip to Jamaica, Cuba, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama in 1908; postcards from Europe, 1903 sent to E.G. Bartberger from C.M. Bartberger
- Item 11, "A Record of My College Days" belonging to Ethel Pauline Bartberger, [1911]
- Item 12, "Sorority Sisters and Contacts" belonging to Ethel Bartberger
- Item 13, Album of photos belonging to Ethel Bartberger of college days at Kansas University, Lawrence, KS [1911]

Box 6

Series 9, Bartberger family (Accrual, Dec 2018)

- Folder 1, Bartberger genealogy
- Folder 2, Edwin G. Bartberger genealogy
- Folder 3, Ethel P. Bartberger genealogy
- Folder 4, Bartberger family crest
- Folder 5, Teachenor-Bartberger Engraving Company
- Folder 6, Correspondence
- Folder 7, Walter Anderson research

Series 10, Bartberger photographs (Accrual, Dec 2018)

- Folder 1, Charles and Emma Bartberger
- Folder 2, Edwin Bartberger home, South Park, Merriam, Kansas
- Folder 3, Edwin Bartberger and family

Rights and Access

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use by appointment.

Physical Access

Most records within this collection are housed in sheet protectors and file folders. Some small items are wrapped in acid-free tissue paper in small archival boxes. Other items are secured with cotton tying tape and wrapped in acid-free tissue paper.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the Midwest Genealogy Center.

Languages and Scripts of the Material

Materials in the collection are entirely in English.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was donated by Lorraine Owens.

Accruals

Accruals to collection added December 2018.

Existence and Location of Originals

Originals owned by the Midwest Genealogy Center.

Related Items:

Added to MGC book collection:

Gibson, Betty S. *Pride of the Golden Bear*, 1981

Kansas City University yearbook, 1917

Piper High School yearbook, 1921

University of Kansas yearbook, *The Jayhawker*, 1916

MGC archival collection:

Lorraine Hopkins Owens Collection (MGC 1177-LHOC)

Notes

The following sources were consulted during the preparation of the biographical history:

- Ancestry.com. 1900 *United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com.
- Archival materials within this collection
- *Find A Grave*. Find A Grave.
- *Forty Years in Engraving*, [1931].