

MORAVIAN ARCHIVES

Inventory of the records of the
Lehigh Zinc Company
(1841-1881)

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Institutional History

The Lehigh Zinc Company produced its first white zinc oxide in buildings erected on the former Luckenbach farm in South Bethlehem in 1853. The Penna. and Lehigh Zinc Co., (whose corporate title was changed to the Lehigh Zinc Co. in 1860), was incorporated May 2, 1855. In 1865, this company produced the first sheet zinc in America. In 1877, the Zinc Co. had over 700 employees. The company mined zinc in Friedensville in Saucon Valley and turned it into metallic zinc in a plant in South Bethlehem. The Lehigh Zinc Company also owned large tracts of land throughout the Lehigh Valley and the eastern United States. In 1881, the company was taken over by the Lehigh Zinc and Iron Co.

Archival History

The records were given to the Moravian Archives at an unknown date. The records looked to have been kept in some sort of arrangement or filing system prior to the Archives receiving. In 2007 they were further organized by Nolan Gerencser, student at Moravian College.

Scope and Content

This is a collection of letters, mostly to and from Lehigh Zinc Company President B. Webster. Many deal with talks over purchasing and selling land owned by the Lehigh Zinc Company. There are official deeds and contracts over lands that the Lehigh Zinc Company either bought or sold. There are sales receipts for products (zinc) sold by the Lehigh Zinc Company. There is also a section documenting the Lehigh Zinc Company's purchasing of a steam engine from Merrick and Sons in New York City. Finally, the collection contains a few ledgers that contain records of many different aspects of the company. There are a few that document payments and disbursements, invoices, and cash payments to different parties.

System of Arrangement

The collection is arranged according to the following categories: letters written to and from B. Webster regarding the Company's activities, sales, etc; Land deeds and contracts; product sales and receipts; and receipts dealing with the Steam Engine. Last there is a collection of inventory ledgers along with all of the other documents.

Language: English

1. Letters addressed to B. Webster (Lehigh Zinc Company President), 1868-1876. 1 folder

Contents:

1. Letter written by David Graham to B. Webster (November 25, 1868)
Contents: This letter documents a deal between David Graham and B. Webster in which Graham agrees to let Webster mine for zinc on his property.
2. Letter written by H. Maxwell to B. Webster (November 9, 1869).
3. Letter from law offices of Runk & Baldwin to B. Webster (December 14, 1869)
Legal documents discussing the purchasing of the George Hoffman property.
4. Letter written by S. Welthing to B. Webster (October 31, 1872)
5. Letter written by J.W. Warren to B. Webster (January 26, 1876)
6. Letter from unknown parties to B. Webster (No Date)

2. Contracts and Agreements on Lot Purchases/Mining (1859-1877). 1 folder

Contents:

1. Contract (December 13, 1859)
Content: Contract between Joseph Wharton and the Lehigh Zinc Company allowing the company to mine for zinc on his property.
2. Contract for Lot Purchase from Unknown Parties (December 9, 1869)
3. Contract for Lot Purchase from G. Hoffman (December 10, 1869).
4. Commissioner's Office Records of lots sold (November 6, 1872).
5. Contract for Lot Purchase from G. Wilson (May 7, 1875)
6. Letter from John Odenwelder to Lehigh Zinc (October 18, 1875)
Content: Documents John Odenwelder giving land to Lehigh Zinc.
7. Contract for buying lots from F.W. Heyne & Bros. (July 20, 1877)
8. Contract for mining on land owned by unknown party (Date unknown)

3. Land Deed for Wharton Farm (November 4, 1861). 1 item

4. Receipts for Zinc Purchases/Deliveries (December 7, 1865-October 14, 1880) 1 folder

5. Papers regarding the purchase of a steam engine from Merrick & Sons in Philadelphia, (1869-1870). 1 folder

Contents:

1. Letters written by Merrick & Sons to Lehigh Zinc Company (September 9 & 10, 1869)
Content: Lists costs for the Steam Engine that Merrick & Sons is building for the Lehigh Zinc Company.
2. Letter written to B. Webster (September 18, 1869)
3. Contract for the building of the steam engine by Merrick & Sons (January 12, 1869).

4. Letter written by G. Mongis Jr. to Lehigh Zinc Company (January 13, 1869)
Content: Details the steam engine that the company wants.
5. Receipts from Merrick & Sons (Unknown Date)

6. Contracts, Letters for Purchases, land deeds, (1845-1880). 1 folder

Contents:

1. Land Deed (January 10, 1845)
2. Land Deed (March 8, 1847)
3. Contract (November 12, 1862)
4. Contract (December 3, 1863)
5. Contract (September 24, 1865)
6. Schematic (August 7, 1866)
7. Contract (October 26, 1866)
8. Contracts (November 14, 1868)
9. Contract (March 16, 1869)
10. Contract (April 12, 1869)
11. Contract (January 9, 1870)
12. Letter (April 4, 1870)
13. Receipt (May 23, 1870)
14. Contract (April 1873)
15. Contract (March 19, 1874)
16. Bridge Toll Receipts (1875)
17. Receipt (August 26, 1875)
18. Contract (June 28, 1878)
19. Contract (September 27, 1878)
20. Receipt (November 28, 1879)
21. Contract (November 28, 1879)
22. Receipts (January 27, 1880)
23. Receipts (June 24, 1880)
24. Receipts (July 1, 1880)
25. Receipts (October 27, 1880)
26. Receipts (December 4, 1880)

7. Letterbooks , (January 1, 1881-May 1881). 6 items.

8. Financial records (Payments/Invoices/Disbursements/Cash Payments) (1841-1881).

Contents:

1. Ledger (July 31, 1841-June 1881)
2. Ledger (1848-1849)
3. Invoices (October 10, 1864-June 21, 1878)
Content: Invoices and records of purchases
4. Disbursements (October 14, 1875-April 7, 1879)
5. Records of Cash Payments (Unknown Date)

Content: Records of cash payments for labor, wages, tools, etc.

