

JOSEPH ALEXANDER CARD COLLECTION
Finding Aid

Compiled by
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Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives
Edinburg, Texas

2014



*Founded in 1967 as the
Hidalgo County Historical Museum*

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SUMMARY

Size	1.38 cubic feet
Geographic Locations	Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas
Inclusive Dates	1908-1938
Bulk Dates	1913-1925
Languages	English
Summary	The Joseph Alexander Card collection consists of documents pertaining to Card's business, which provided gravel and sand for many of the infrastructure projects constructed in the early 1900s in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.
Access Restrictions	The collection is open for research. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please contact the Archivist at 956-383-6911 to make an appointment to visit the Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives (MHMMA) reading room.
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Related Collections	W.O. Washington collection; Ramon Vela collection; Capital Improvement Bonds – Hidalgo County, Texas: 1898-1952
Citation	Joseph Alexander Card collection. Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX.
Stack Location(s)	RGDOC 5, E:5; RGDOC 6, E:6; RGDOC 15, E:8

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Joseph Alexander Card (born in 1872 in Fort Worth, Texas; died in 1957) was a civil engineer and contractor who owned a sand and gravel business in Mission, Texas, around 1914-1925. He was active in road and canal construction in the early 1920s in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas. He belonged to the International Order of Odd Fellows. He had three children – Elizabeth, Cecil and Lois – and two brothers E.M. and Tracy.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Joseph Alexander Card collection consists of documents pertaining to Card's business, which provided gravel and sand for many of the infrastructure projects constructed in the early 1900s in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

The major portion of the collection consists of railroad bills of lading (1914-1923) for crushed gravel. Other documents include correspondence, contracts, surveys, land abstracts, and receipts. In some letters to his brother Tracy, Card describes his gravel and sand business and contracting to build roads in the Valley.

LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

I. Correspondence

- A. Personal**
- B. Business**

II. Business records

- A. Contracts**
- B. Surveys**
- C. Land abstracts**
- D. Ledger**
- E. Correspondence**
- F. Receipts**
- G. Railroad bills of lading**

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Correspondence

In the Personal Correspondence, Card wrote some letters to his brother Tracy describing his gravel and sand business. He explains how adverse weather has affected the business, how hard it is to find good workers and exactly what he expects his employees to do, how his business is doing financially, how much traveling he must do, and how he is expanding his contracting business. Card also reports how much bond money is being spent on roads valley-wide. He uses most of that information to try to persuade his brother to move to Mission, Texas, and take a part in the business. There are also letters pertaining to the International Order of Odd Fellows, the La Feria Land Syndicate, and the Ex-Students Association of the University of Texas in Hidalgo County.

Topics in the Business Correspondence include applications from potential employees, lien notes, taxes, orders for materials and supplies, insurance, cement board manufacture, road construction and canal building, citrus packing, and irrigation.

II. Business Records

The surveys found in the business records pertain to the Longoria home place that was part of Los Ejidos de Reynosa Vieja, the Pharr town site, 20 acres of Helsell [?] property at Ebenezer, the Macedonio Vela pasture, and the La Mula pasture. The business records also contain a land abstract of Harlingen, Texas, with a 1912 map; a 1908 ledger; and information about Porcion 84 in Starr County, Texas. Most of the telegrams found in this series are to and from W.I. Church, the superintendent of telegrams at St. Louis, Brownsville & Mexico Railway Co.

INDEX TERMS

Bixby, Texas
Brownsville, Texas
Canal building
Citrus packing
Harlingen, Texas
Independent Order of Odd Fellows. International Association of Rebekah Assemblies
Kingsville, Texas
La Feria Land Syndicate
La Feria (Tex.)
Macedonio Vela
Pharr, Texas
Porcion 84, Starr County (Tex.)
Railroad bills of lading
Road construction.
Road construction--1900-1940.
Road construction—Texas—Lower Rio Grande Valley—1900-1940.
Road construction contracts.
Road construction contracts—Texas.
Texas Blue Print and Supply Company

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
E:5 RGDOC 5	1	1	Correspondence: Personal and financial, 1908, 1914, 1917, 1920-1922, 1925
		2	Correspondence: Personal: International Order of Odd Fellows, 1919, 1921, 1922
		3	Correspondence: Business: La Feria Land Syndicate, 1912, 1915, undated
		4	Correspondence: Personal: The Ex-Students Association of the University of Texas in Hidalgo County, 1917
		5	Correspondence: Business: Survey of Porcione 84 in Starr County – A.M. Kelsey, 1920
		6	Correspondence: Business: Highway 12 in Cameron County, 1921
		7	Correspondence: Business, 1913, 1920, 1922, 1929, undated
		8	Correspondence: Business: Job applicants, 1920
		9	Correspondence: Business records: Lien notes, 1913, 1915, 1920, 1924, 1926, 1927, 1937, 1938
		10	Correspondence: Business: Taxes – Mission Schools, 1920-1922
		11	Correspondence: Business: Texas Blue Print and Supply Company, 1915, 1916, 1920
		12	Correspondence: Business: Orders for materials and supplies, 1913-1923
		13	Correspondence: Business: Insurance business, 1913-1919
		14	Correspondence: Gravel business, 1915-1922
		15-16	Correspondence: Business: Cement board manufacture, 1920
		17	Correspondence: Business: Road construction, 1915, 1917, 1921-1923, undated
		18	Correspondence: Business: Canal building, 1913-1915
		19	Correspondence: Citrus packing, 1916, 1922
		20	Correspondence: Business: Federal Grain Company, Incorporated, 1919
		21	Correspondence: Business: Irrigation engineering, 1915-1920
		22	Business records: Contracts: Grading contract – City of Brownsville
		23	Business records: Private surveys, 1918, 1920, undated

Joseph Alexander Card collection
1908-1938

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		24	Business records: Surveys: Los Ejidos de Reynosa Viejo, Hidalgo County, 1916, 1920, undated
		25	Business records: Surveys: Pharr town site warranty deeds, 1911, 1912, 1918, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1927
		26	Business records: Surveys: Ebenezer survey, 1919
		27	Business records: Surveys: Macedonio Vela pasture survey, 1911
		28	Business records: Surveys: La Mula pasture survey, 1911
		29	Business records: Land abstracts: Harlingen, Texas abstract (includes map), 1912
		30	Business records: Ledger, 1908
		31	Business records: Correspondence: Porcion 84, Starr County – Revard Development Company, 1921
E:6 RGDOC 6	2	1	Business records: Correspondence: Telegrams – Kingsville, 1908-1911
		2	Business records: Receipts: Freight express to Bixby, Texas, 1910
		3	Business records: Railroad bills of lading – crushed gravel consignments, undated
		4	Business records: Railroad bills of lading – crushed gravel consignments, 1914
		5	Business records: Railroad bills of lading – crushed gravel consignments, 1915
		6	Business records: Railroad bills of lading – crushed gravel consignments, 1916
		7-8	Business records: Railroad bills of lading – crushed gravel consignments, 1917
		9	Business records: Railroad bills of lading – crushed gravel consignments, 1918
		10	Business records: Railroad bills of lading – crushed gravel consignments, 1919
E:8 RGDOC 15	3	1	Business records: Railroad bills of lading, 1920
		2-4	Business records: Railroad bills of lading, 1921
		5-6	Business records: Railroad bills of lading, 1922
		7	Business records: Railroad bills of lading, 1923