

OLIVER CROMWELL ALDRICH SR. FAMILY PAPERS
Finding Aid

Compiled by
Phyllis Kinnison

Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives
Edinburg, Texas

2014



*Founded in 1967 as the
Hidalgo County Historical Museum*

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SUMMARY

Size	1.74 cubic feet (does not include artifacts)
Geographic Locations	Lower Rio Grande Valley; Edinburg, Texas; Pharr, Texas; Alamo, Texas; San Juan, Texas; Donna, Texas; Chapin, Texas; Hidalgo County, Texas
Inclusive Dates	1919-1970
Bulk Dates	1936-1953
Languages	English, Spanish
Summary	The interests of Oliver Cromwell Aldrich, Sr. and his son Oliver Cromwell Aldrich, Jr. are documented in this collection. Topics covered include music and lyrics, fishing, automobiles, cameras, flying and air planes, boats, agricultural equipment, politics, law, and World War II.
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 (MHMA) reading room.
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Related Collections	Oliver C. Aldrich Collection, 1934-1937, University Library Special Collections and Archives, The University of Texas – Pan American, Edinburg, Texas.
Citation	Oliver Cromwell Aldrich Sr. family papers. Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX.
Stack Location(s)	RGDOC 309, E:18; RGDOC 16, E:18; RGABS 1, A:1 (Folder 4); RGPFO 204; City Directory Tray 2, A:6; MAP ROOM <i>Edinburg Daily Review</i> , Box 5; Map Case 3/Drawer

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Oliver Cromwell Aldrich, Sr., was born in Crockett, Houston County, Texas on January 5, 1887 to Willie (Arledge) (1862-1959) and Armistead Albert Aldrich (1858-1945). His father was an attorney and county judge in Houston County. His siblings were Albertine (Aldrich) Von Doenhoff (1883-1970), Hallie Harriet (Aldrich) Rigsby (1889-1936), Mary Elizabeth Aldrich (1895-1977) and Henry Masters Aldrich (1900-1904).

Aldrich graduated from Crockett High School and Austin College at Sherman. He earned his LLB degree at the University of Texas law school in 1912 and was also admitted to the bar that year. He joined the Crockett law firm of Aldrich, Crook and Aldrich. The other lawyers in the firm were his father and George Whitfield Crook.

During World War I Aldrich organized a volunteer company which became U.S. Army's Company E, 143rd Infantry Regiment from Texas. As First Lieutenant he served as the commanding officer. The Regiment saw action in the Meuse-Argonne sector in France from October 7 to 28 in 1918.

Aldrich married Anne Saunders King (1895-1975) on October 12, 1917. They had three sons: Oliver Cromwell Aldrich Jr. (1918-1993), Albert King Aldrich (1925) and George Masters Aldrich (1932).

In 1919 Aldrich moved to the Rio Grande Valley and lived in San Juan, Texas until 1930 when he moved his family to Edinburg, Texas. He was a senior partner in the law firm of Aldrich, McDonald, and Stewart.

Aldrich served as Hidalgo County District Attorney from 1929 through 1930 and as Hidalgo County Judge from November 3, 1936 until November 15, 1940. His other community involvement included memberships in the First Presbyterian Church of Edinburg, the Masonic Lodge, Edinburg Rotary Club, the American Legion, the Hidalgo County Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, and the American Bar Association.

Aldrich died in Edinburg on September 18, 1965 and was buried at Hillcrest Memorial Park in that city.

Oliver Cromwell Aldrich, Jr., was born on November 11, 1918 in Houston County, Texas. He married Alice (Statham) Aldrich (1921-2011) in 1941. Their children were Oliver Cromwell Aldrich, III, Albert Aldrich, Collin Aldrich, and Cathleen (Aldrich) Miller.

Aldrich attended Edinburg High School and was in the marching band in 1932. He attended Texas A&M in the mid-1930s. He was a farmer and construction contractor and owned a crop dusting company.

During World War II Aldrich served in the Texas Defense Guard as a Sergeant in the First Platoon in Company F, 31st Battalion headquartered in Mission, Texas. His commanding officer was Major Lloyd M. Bentsen.

Aldrich died on March 2, 1993, in Houston, Harris County, Texas. He is buried at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Edinburg, Texas.

Bibliography

_____, Fran. Armistead Albert Aldrich (1858-1945) obituary. Find A Grave Memorial# 46451910. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=46451910> (accessed June 23, 2014).

Vick, Roger. Oliver C. Aldrich, Sr. obituary. Find A Grave Memorial# 29818368. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=29818368> (accessed June 23, 2014).

Fifield, James Clark, ed. *The American Bar*. Minneapolis, Minnesota, J.C. Fifield Co., 1918. (Google Books, digitized August 27, 2007) http://books.google.com/books?id=uDYMAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA643&lpg=PA643&dq=oliver+c.+aldrich&source=bl&ots=bZxn09zzWQ&sig=MR8Msh_FLfM2XiSGln50-lvKdq&hl=en&sa=X&ei=oIyoU6_cAo-HqgbEn4FQ&ved=0CD4Q6AEwAzgK#v=onepage&q=oliver%20c.%20aldrich&f=false (accessed June 23, 2014).

Alice Statham Aldrich obituary. *The Monitor*. December 24-25, 2011. <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/themonitor/obituary.aspx?pid=155165256> (accessed June 23, 2014).

Phillips, Gene. HIDALGO County Births 1932. USGenWeb Archives. <http://files.usgwarchives.net/tx/hidalgo/vitals/births/1932/hid0132b.txt> (accessed June 23, 2014).

Anne King Aldrich in the 1940 Census. 1940 U. S. Census: Community Project <http://www.archives.com/1940-census/anne-aldrich-tx-107001858> (accessed June 23, 2014).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The interests of Oliver Cromwell Aldrich, Sr. and his son Oliver Cromwell Aldrich, Jr. are documented in this collection. Topics covered include music and lyrics, fishing, automobiles, cameras, flying and air planes, boats, agricultural equipment, politics, law, and World War II. Formats found in the collection are brochures and booklets, political campaign flyers and speeches, military documents, music, published materials, maps, artifacts, and memorabilia. Items of interest include music lyrics written in Spanish; a speech for the Hidalgo County Judge campaign in 1938; Texas Defense Guard drill assignments, guard posts descriptions, and plans and training used during World War II; and a land title record for the Alamo Land and Sugar Company, a subdivision of Porcion 72 (1915). Most of the maps in the collection concern irrigation and waterways.

The artifacts in the collection consist of an Edinburg High School marching band uniform, American Legion and ROTC uniform items, and various other personal items. For more information about the artifacts in the collection contact Lisa Adam, Curator of Collections and Registrar, by calling 956-383-6911.

The collection was donated by Alice Aldrich in 1995 after the death of her husband Oliver Cromwell Aldrich, Jr.

LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

- I. Personal papers**
 - A. Oliver C. Aldrich, Sr.**
 - B. Oliver C. Aldrich, Jr.**
- II. Law and judicial**
- III. Political campaign, 1938**
- IV. Military records**
- V. Agriculture**
- VI. Land title record**
- VII. Maps**
- VIII. Interests**
- IX. Music**
- X. Published materials**
 - A. Newspapers**
 - B. Magazines**
 - C. City Directory of Edinburg, 1959**
- XI. Photograph**
- XII. Artifacts**

INDEX TERMS

Aerial spraying and dusting in agriculture
Airplanes—Motors.
Irrigation—Agriculture.
Motors—Boats.
Political campaigns.
World War, 1939-1945—Texas—Mission.
World War, 1939-1945—United States—Texas.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
E:18	RGDOC 309	1	Published material: Magazines – <i>Time</i> , June 1, 1936
		2	Published material: Magazines – <i>The Twenty-Thirtian</i> , October 1941
		3	Published material: Newspapers – <i>San Antonio Express Magazine</i> , Aggie Anniversary Edition, November 5, 1950
		4	Music: Lyrics (Spanish), undated
		5	Music: Band music and instruments, 1927, undated
		6	Interests: Investments, 1965
		7	Interests: Beverage recipes, undated
		8	Interests: Fishing, 1939, 1951-1953
		9	Interests: Calendars, 1942-1944, 1965
		10	Interests: Cars, undated
		11	Interests: Agriculture, 1970, undated
		12	Interests: Miscellaneous
		13	Interests: Magazines
		14	Interests: Cameras
		15	Interests: Motors
		16	Interests: Automobile driving
		17	Interests: Women
		18	Interests: Safety, 1934
		19	Interests: Flying
		20	Interests: Flying – unused pilot's log book
		21	Interests: Boats
		22	Interests: Windmill equipment
		23	Interests: Vehicle parts
		24	Interests: Travel – U.S. West brochures
	RGDOC 16	1-2	Interests: Travel – U.S. West brochures
		3	Political campaign: Hidalgo County Judge, 1938
		4	Personal Papers: Oliver C. Aldrich, Sr., 1940, 1951, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1965, 1966, undated
		5	Personal Papers: Oliver C. Aldrich, Jr., 1932, 1934-1936, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1946, 1968
		6	Law and judicial papers, 1942, 1949, 1962, undated

		7	World War II and military papers
		8	World War II and military papers: Military manuals, 1940
		9	Agriculture: Machinery guides and ledgers, 1938-1940, 1942
A:6	City Directory Tray 2		Wilmot's Directory of the City of Edinburg, 1959
A:1	RGABS 1	4	Abstract of Title to Alamo Tract: The Alamo Land and Sugar Company subdivision of Porcion 72, Los Torritos, Santa Ana and El Gato Grants in Hidalgo County, Texas, 1915 (has a seal imprint and signatures)
Map Case 3	Drawer 3		Map (copy): Lower Rio Grande Valley paved roads and highways, Jones Moving, undated
Map Case 4	Drawer 1		Map (copy): Hidalgo County Water Improvement District No. 2 (showing canals, pipes, ditches, boundaries, designation and towns of Hidalgo, Pharr, San Juan, and Alamo, from 10 th Street McAllen east to Tower Rd., Alamo, and Rio Grande north to Canton, Iowa, and Texas Roads) 1954
Map Case 4	Drawer 1		Map (copy): Donna Irrigation District, centered on City of Donna and including its subdivisions: La Blanca; Lott Town and Improvement Company; Hooks Reserve; Engelman No. 1 El Gato; Fairview Plantation; Wells; La Donna; Minnesota Texas, undated
Map Case 4	Drawer 2		Map: Original Town Site Plat of Chapin, Hidalgo County, Texas, 1908
Map Case 4	Drawer 2		Map (copy): Pharr roads, lots, and subdivisions, Beard, 1950
Map Case 4	Drawer 3		Map (copy): Proposed facility and flow line construction, main floodway and Hackney Lake Channel of Rio Grande, Sun Oil Company, 1960
Map Case 4	Drawer 3		Map (copy): "Proposed Construction within Levee and Floodway," Hidalgo County Rio Grande main floodway (near Hackney Lake, Kelly-Pharr Subdivision, Sun Oil Company, 1960
McAllen Newspapers	Box 3A		Newspaper: <i>Valley Evening Monitor</i> (broadsheets and tabloid sections, 11/15/1967
Non-LRGV newspapers	Box 1		Newspaper: <i>The Battalion</i> , Texas A&M (student paper), College Station, Texas, 4/28/1937