

Huntington Brothers Records

Finding Aid

Windsor Historical Society
96 Palisado Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095

Creator: Huntington Brothers

Dates: 1901-1978

Extent: 1.5 linear feet

Accession #: 1986.27, 1986.84, 1987.14 and additional unidentified sources

Corporate History

The Huntington Brothers tobacco growing firm was established in 1902 by Charles A. Huntington, Sr. (1863-1934) and his brother Henry A. Huntington (1865-1912). Initially they raised Havanna Seed and Broadleaf tobacco on 24 acres of family lands in the Poquonock area of Windsor, Connecticut. In 1911 they began growing shade tobacco. After the death of Henry, an attorney, in 1912, Charles assumed the ownership and management of the farm. He took his son Charles A. Huntington, Jr. (1893-1975) and son-in-law Ernest S. Clark, Jr. on as partners after World War I, and at the death of Charles, Sr. the two younger men continued the business. Charles Huntington, Jr. was active in local politics and operated the farm until his death in 1975. By 1949 the third generation of the family had also become involved in the farming activities. The Huntington Brothers ceased operations in 1978.

After World War I the company steadily increased its acreage of shade grown tobacco lands, and by the mid 20th century were cultivating 150 acres. In 1926 the business also began raising seed corn and shipped the seeds to both retail and wholesale markets in the northeast and midwestern states.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains farm business records that illustrate the evolution of tobacco growing practices in the Connecticut River Valley. Invoices and receipts reflect the transition from horse-drawn to mechanized methods. Crop books record sowing the seed beds, spraying, and sewing the leaves to the laths. The time books document the field workers' hours and pay. Postcard and photo images are not explicitly of the Huntington Brothers' operation, but depict the various stages of growing shade tobacco. Various publications describe growing tobacco in Connecticut.

Arrangement

- Series I. Invoices and Receipts
- Series II. Time and record books
- Series III. Publications
- Series IV. Images
- Series V. Cigar box covers

Box and Folder Lists

Series I. Invoices and receipts

- 1.1 General farming invoices
- 1.2 General farming invoices cont'd
- 1.3 Harness repair
- 1.4 Land rent receipts
- 1.5 Veterinarian
- 1.6 Seed and grain supplies

- 1.7 Printer
- 1.8 Glass work
- 1.9 Electrical contractor
- 1.10 Trucking
- 1.11 Plumbing and well
- 1.12 Fertilizer
- 1.13 Blacksmithing
- 1.14 Feed invoices
- 1.15 Car deeds and car repair invoices
- 1.16 Insurance
- 1.17 Connecticut Valley Tobacco Improvement Association

Series II. Time and record books

- 2.1 Record book 1901-1978, sowing tobacco in seed beds; flowers, fruit, fertilizer mixes and Bordeaux spraying mixtures
- 2.2 Loose pages from record book in 2.1, 1956-1978 (some very brittle)
- 2.3 Record book 1977, sewing tobacco in sheds
- 2.4 Time book 1902-1903
- 2.5 Time books 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915
- 2.6 Time books 1915, 1916
- 2.7 Time books 1916, 1917, 1918
- 3.1 Time books 1918, 1938-1939

Series III. Publications

- 3.2 *The Growing of tobacco Under Shade in Connecticut*. Bulletin 137, February 1902. New Haven: Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 1902.
Clinton, George P. and Florence A. McCormick. *Wildfire of Tobacco in Connecticut*. Bulletin 239, May 1922. New Haven: Agricultural Experiment Station, 1922.
Anderson, P.J. and N.T. Nelson. *Report of the Tobacco Station at Windsor 1926*. Tobacco Station Bulletin 8. New Haven, April 1927
Anderson, P.J. *Growing Tobacco in Connecticut*. Bulletin 564. Jan. 1953. New Haven: Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 1952
McDonald, Adrian Francis. *The History of Tobacco Production in Connecticut*. Vol. LII. [Hartford]: Published for the Tercentenary Commission of the State of Connecticut, 1952
Story of Tobacco Valley. Hartford: Shade Tobacco Growers Agricultural Association Inc. 4th printing
Story of Tobacco Valley. Hartford: Shade Tobacco Growers Agricultural Association Inc. [earlier printing]

Series IV. Images

- 3.2 Watercolor *First Shadegrown Tobacco Tent 1900, John DuBon Farm, River St., Poquonock* [unsigned]
- 3.3 Photographs and postcards

Series V. Cigar box covers

- 3.5 Cigar box covers (3)

Related Materials

Subject files: Businesses -- Tobacco

Subject Terms

Huntington Brothers

Tobacco farms – Connecticut – Windsor

Tobacco industry – Connecticut

Letterheads -- Connecticut

Huntington, Charles A., Sr., 1863-1934

Huntington, Charles A., Jr., 1893-1975

Administrative history

Finding aid compiled by Barbara Goodwin, May 2005.