

Inventory of the

Gurler Family
DeKalb, Illinois

Papers

In the
Regional History Center

RC 25

INTRODUCTION

The Gurler Family Papers were donated to the Regional History Center of the Northern Illinois University Archives on September 15, 1977 as a gift from Mr. George H. Gurler II. University Archivist J. Joseph Bauxar transferred the collection to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center in May 1978.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to materials in the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 1.75
Number of containers: 4 boxes
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 25

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Gurler Family Papers contain 4 boxes of family letters and business transactions (1879-1932) which document a substantial portion of the Gurler brothers' private life and their professional associations (1894-1906). Also included in the collection is Gurler family genealogical material (1729-1968) and biographical accounts (1840-1940).

Box 1 contains 12 file folders including genealogical charts, biographical sketches, family letters, a copy of G.H. Gurler's publication, his army discharges, his marriage certificate, and his business and campaign cards. Also in box one is the Gurler Dairy account books. Boxes 2-4 contain file folders of Gurler and Brother business transactions with dealers and distributors, customer sales orders and customer complaints. Included in box 4 is a history of the Gurler Heritage Association written by Valerie Quinney.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

H.B. Gurler was born in Chesterfield, New Hampshire, in 1840 to Benjamin and Harriet (Hopkins) Gurler. The Gurler family moved to DeKalb, Illinois, in 1856 and settled in Section 32 of DeKalb Township. In 1868, H.B. Gurler was able to purchase the Clover Dairy Farm and, in 1870, Gurler began dairying and carrying on the experiments that would later make him famous.

In 1881 under the firm name of Gurler Brothers, Henry B. and George H. Gurler built creameries in DeKalb, Malta, Five Corners, Shabbona, Shabbona Grove, and Hinckley. In 1896 the creamery possessions of the Gurler Brothers were divided and George H. became owner of his brother's interest in the creameries of Malta, Hinckley, Shabbona and Shabbona Grove. During the years 1895-1905, H.B. Gurler turned his attention to the development of an entirely new concept in the dairy industry, certified milk.

In 1900, the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. asked H.B. Gurler to provide samples of the milk for the Paris Exposition. Gurler was awarded a gold medal at the Exposition. His milk was purified through certification not pasteurization.

Prominent and respected in the dairy business, the Gurlers pioneered a milk processing and storage method. Their intimate knowledge of and work with farm and dairy problems

contributed to agricultural and dairy industry improvement and paved the way for our more modern methods of today.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Clover Dairy Farm
Creameries
Dairying
DeKalb
Gurler Family
World War I

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Gurler Family Genealogy
	2	Biographical/Historical material
	3	Correspondence, George H. Gurler II, 1977-1978
	4	Publication, George H. Gurler
	5	Robert Newitt Papers (1854-1918)
	6	DeKalb World War I items
	7	Receipts, 1899-1910
	8	Family correspondence, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gurler daughter's, Stella and May, 1879-1906
	9	Family correspondence, Beatrice Gurler, 1902-1903
	10	Family correspondence, 1897-1905
	11	Family correspondence, Macon, Mississippi, 1907-1923
	12	Family correspondence, DeKalb, Illinois, 1925-1927
	1 volume	
2	1	Public addresses, programs, articles, etc.
	2	Business and professional correspondence, A-B, 1895-1904
	3	B, 1894-1905
	4	C, 1896-1905
	5	C-D, 1895-1904
	6	E-F, 1896-1904
	7	F, 1896-1904
	8	H, 1897-1904
	9	H, 1896-1905
3	1	I-J, 1896-1905
	2	K-M, 1896-1905
	3	M-O, 1896-1904
	4	P-S, 1896-1904
	5	S-Z, 1894-1905
	6	Distributors, B-F, 1896-1903
	7	H-P, 1895-1904
	8	R-W, 1896-1904
4	1	Chicago retail customer orders & complaints, A-H, 1896-1904
	2	I-M, 1896-1904
	3	N-S, 1896-1904
	4	T-W, 1895-1904
	5	<u>The Adventures of Making the Past Serve the Present: A History of the Gurler Heritage Association</u> , by Valerie Quinney, 1990