

Inventory of the

**T.G. Mighell and G.W. Wakefield
Smithy, Grain, and Coal Company**
Waterman, Illinois

Records

In the
Regional History Center

RC 22

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Iven Larsen donated the records of the T.G. Mighell and G.W. Wakefield Smithy, Grain, and Coal Company to the Northern Illinois University Archives in January 1966. The Northern Illinois Regional History Center received the collection from the University Archives in May 1978.

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

Linear feet of shelf space: 1.50
 Number of containers: 1 box + 5 volumes
 Northern Illinois Regional History Center
 Collection 22

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records contained in this collection document the Mighell and Wakefield Company's financial accounts from the warehouse's first year of operation, 1872, until 1911, when Wakefield reorganized the business into the Wakefield Grain Company. A series of eleven bound volumes contains entries made by T.G. Mighell before his partnership with George Wakefield (1851-1872); business ledgers of the Mighell and Wakefield Smithy, Grain, and Coal Company (1875-1890); and records from the Wakefield Grain Company (1908-1943). The latter volumes include records of purchases, sales, loans, orders, and daily grain shipments, and monthly summaries. Also included in the collection is Roy Wakefield's insurance company register (1897-1939) and a notes and bills receivable journal (1885-1896).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

T.G. Mighell was a blacksmith and grain dealer who settled south of Waterman in Clinton township, DeKalb County. In 1872 he entered into partnership with his nephew, George Wakefield, and the company first built a grain warehouse and, later, a grain elevator. The company added coal retailing when the railroad came through Waterman. Roy Wakefield, George's cousin, joined the partnership and in 1911 the Wakefields bought a second grain elevator in Waterman and reorganized the business. From 1920 to 1942 the company dealt only in feed grain and in 1942 Wakefield Grain sold out to Larsen Brothers. Finally, Iven Larson sold the business in 1966.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Blacksmithing
 Coal Trade
 Farm Supply Industries
 Grain
 Iron Industry
 Mighell, T.G.
 Mighell and Wakefield Smithy, Grain and Coal Company
 Wakefield, George W.
 Wakefield Grain Company
 Waterman

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>VOLUME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Oversize	1	General accounts of T.G. Mighell, 1851-1872
	2-5	T.G. Mighell, G.W. Wakefield Smithy, Grain, and Coal Company's daily business entries, (1875-1890)
1	6-7	Wakefield Grain Company's daily business entries, 1908-1912, 1918-1925; and Wakefield Grain Company's monthly summaries, 1911-1920
	8	Wakefield Grain Company's daily business entries and monthly summaries, 1920-1929
	9	Wakefield Grain daily shipments, 1912-1943
	10	Wakefield Insurance Register, 1897-1939
	11	George W. Wakefield, notes and bills receivable, 1885-1896