

Inventory of the

Lovering Family
Shabbona, Illinois

Collection

In the
Regional History Center

RC 29

INTRODUCTION

Virginia Lovering donated the Lovering Family Collection to the University Archives in 1968. J. Joseph Bauxer, University Archivist, transferred the collected to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center in July 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 the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 2
Number of containers: 2 boxes + 1 volume
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 29

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection partially documents three subjects: the George Lovering Lumber and Grain Company of Shabbona (1881-1912); William K. Lovering's 1800 mile drive from Detroit, Michigan to Salt Lake City, Utah in a Scripps-Booth automobile (1916); and facets of Shabbona, Illinois' history (1895-1940). Materials include financial account ledgers, business and personal correspondence, W. K. Lovering's typed manuscripts under the pen name Bill Knell, photographs, catalogs, and programs. A very small amount of material discusses the automobile of the early 1900's. Due to the wide variety of topics covered in the collection, research value in any one area is limited. Nevertheless, the records are of good quality for background information on agribusiness and rural area development.

Researchers should note the other agribusiness collections held by the Regional History Center: Embree Lumber Company (RC 7); Lindenwood Grain Co-op (RC 11); Uplinger Lumber, Grain, and Coal Company (RC 22); George Heyward Company (RC 69); Northern Corn Belt Seed Growers, Inc. (RC 90); Colehour Grain Elevator (RC 91); and Farmer's Elevator Company (RC 109).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

George Lovering, born in Boone County, Illinois in 1851, started his working career as a wagon maker. After moving to Shabbona, Illinois during the 1870's Lovering opened the George Lovering Lumber and Grain Company in 1881 to sell lumber, grain, coal, and farm implements. Although George's son, William Knell, joined the firm in its early years, by 1907 he turned to the automobile business. In 1916 William took part in a promotional stunt involving an 1800 mile drive from Detroit, Michigan to Salt Lake City, Utah in a Scripps-Booth automobile. In Utah, he traveled the back roads with Senator Sutherland, providing an attractive addition to Sutherland's re-election campaign. Several years later, under the pen name Bill Knell, William unsuccessfully sought to publish an account of his remarkable journey.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Automobiles
 Carriages
 Chautauquas
 Coal Trade
 Family Life, History
 Grain
 Journals, Travel
 Lovering Family
 Lumber Trade
 Shabbona
 Sleighs
 Travel Journals
 Wagons

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1-2 3	General Account Ledgers, 1882-1890 Purchase Orders and Invoices, (1876-1912)
2	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Purchase Order Agreements, (1885-1892) Customer Directory, n.d. Business Correspondence, (1888-1903) Tax Statements, 1903-1904 Personal Correspondence, (1921-1965) Personal Pocket Account Ledgers (Distributed by John Deere), (1905-1908) William K. Lovering Manuscripts and Publisher Rejections, 1940-1941 Family Photographs and Negatives, n.d. (20) Wagon, Sleigh and Carriage Advertisements, (1877-?) Chicago Wire and Iron Works Catalog, 1883 Mexican Mutual Planters Co. Catalogs (Chicago), 1902-1908 Automobile Parts and Price Catalogs, (1909-?) Motor Age Magazine, May 1911 Shabbona Public School Programs, (1895-1940) Buyer's Guide and Farm Directory, Shabbona Area, 1938 Shabbona Women's Club Program, 1916-1917 Shabbona Congregational Church Re-opening Services, 1911 Children's Toy-Making Instruction Manual, n.d. Lincoln Chautauquas, Waterman, 1916
Oversize	1 volume	Account Ledger, 1891-1922