

Finding Aid to the Amenia and Sharon Land Company Records

Amenia and Sharon Land Company

Amenia and Sharon Land Company records, 1856-1967

60 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 134

Mss 1596.2

Oversize Collection 11

[History](#)

[Scope and Content](#)

[Box and Folder List](#)

OVERVIEW

Links: [History of Amenia and Sharon Land Company](#), by William C. Hunter

Access: The collection is in off-site storage. A 24-hour turn-around is required to make the records available for use at the Institute Research Room. The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: Donated by H.L. Chaffee and Robert B. Reed, 1953 (Acc. 134); L.F. Chaffee, 1971 (Acc. 1875); Faye Chaffee, 1982 (Acc. 2082 & 2084); Ken McIntyre, 1982 (Acc. 2085).

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Citation: [Identification of item]. Amenia and Sharon Land Company, MS 134, Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Amenia and Sharon Land Company represent the most complete set of records for a North Dakota bonanza farm that have survived. The records were deposited in the Institute by members of the Chaffee family over a span of twenty years. Inventories of the early records were compiled by William C. Hunter, and in early 1990s the records were processed incorporating all the accessions. The records have been organized into eight series: Historical research, Personal correspondence, Business correspondence, Estate and personal legal papers, Amenia & Sharon Land Co. general business records, Other related companies general business records, Amenia & Sharon Land co. business records, and Other related companies business records. Within each series the records have been organized alphabetically by the name or type of record. Oversize ledgers are listed on the box & folder listing, however they are stored separately due to their size.

The [Historical Research Series](#) includes handwritten and typed drafts of the history of the Amenia & Sharon Land Company, compiled by William C. Hunter. He was a long-time professor of history at NDSU and later became the curator for the Institute for Regional Studies. In addition are his research files of documents, notes and information used in writing the history. In addition there are general research files on the Chaffee and Reed families as well as information regarding Amenia, N.D.

The [Personal Correspondence Series](#) consists primarily of Chaffee family letters spanning from 1840 to 1965. Of particular note is the early family letters of Eben Whitney Chaffee (1840-1900), and H.F. Chaffee and wife Carrie (H.F., 1887-1911 and for Carrie, 1913-1945). There are quite a number of poignant letters between H.F. and his wife Carrie as well as back to family in Connecticut. In addition there are letters of William Guy Sr. (1920-1942), Robert Reed (1923, 1933-1942) Walter R. Reed (1849-1939), as well as the Togood family (Carrie Chaffee's maiden name).

The [Business Correspondence Series](#) consists primarily of the correspondence of Herbert L Chaffee and is organized alphabetically, spanning from 1896 to 1966, although most dates from the 1940s to 1960s. Some correspondents have been broken out and placed in their own file. In addition there are small series of correspondence for Chaffee-Miller Milling Co., H.F. Chaffee Company, The John Miller Company, and the Miller-Chaffee-Reed Company.

The [Estate and Personal Legal Papers Series](#) contains mostly of estate related documents for members of the Chaffee family. Of note are those for Herbert F. Chaffee who died on the sinking of the Titanic.

The [Amenia & Sharon Land Company General Business Records Series](#) contains the basic, general documents related to the company including articles of incorporation, minutes, by-laws, and annual reports. The Legal Business Records Subseries contains chattel mortgage documents, farm contracts spanning from 1882 to 1942, mortgage documents, and warranty deeds.

The [Other Related Companies General Business Records Series](#) contains the general business records such as incorporation documents, by-laws, meeting minutes and certain legal documents for companies that were subsidiaries or affiliated with the Amenia & Sharon Land Company. The files are arranged alphabetically by the name of the company. Among the major companies represented include the Amenia

Elevator Company, Chaffee-Miller Land Company, Chaffee-Miller Milling Company, H.F. Chaffee Company, John Miller Company, Miller-Chaffee-Reed Company, and Wanotan Land Company. Consult the Box and Folder List for a complete listing.

The [**Amenia & Sharon Land Company Business Records Series**](#) contains the core business records for the company. They are organized alphabetically by the type or name of the document. It includes financial journals and ledgers, grain statements, insurance documents, inventories, mileage records, payroll records, seed journals, stocks, tenant records, time sheets, and vouchers. Researcher should consult the Box and Folder list for specific holdings and time periods covered.

The [**Other Related Companies Business Records Series**](#) contain primarily the financial ledgers, journals, statements, etc. for the many business subsidiaries and related companies of the Amenia and Sharon Land Co. The files are arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the company. This series does include certain business files for individual members of the Chaffee family. Consult the box & folder listing for specific companies included. Included are records of Amenia Garage, Amenia Telephone Company, Chaffee-Miller Land Company, Chaffee-Miller Milling Company, John Miller Company, Miller-Chaffee-Reed Company, Red River Valley Land and Investment Company and Wanotan Land Company. The Chaffee family business records include for Lester F. Chaffee, H.L. Chaffee, and Carrie T. Chaffee.

The **Oversize Documents Series** includes a variety of documents and ephemera related to the Amenia and Sharon Land Company and people associated with it that have been separated from the main collection due to size. The smaller items are in Mss 1596.2. It includes three files; 1-- various insurance documents and papers; 2-- Certificates including land deed of St. Pierre Walette from the Red Lake and Pembina Bands of Chippewa Indians for Section 34, T141N R52W, dated June 4, 1881. 3-- List of S.S. *Titanic* passengers, Davenport, N.D. Pioneer Days, and auction sale notice for Carrie Chaffee estate.

In Oversize Collection 11 there are Great Northern Railroad right-of-way maps for Amenia, N.D.; certificates of corporate existence for various subsidiary companies, and a landscape design map for the home of W.R. Reed at Amenia.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Content
1/1	Finding aid
Historical Research Series	
1/2	Manuscript of the History of the Amenia and Sharon Land Co. - Unpublished (W.C. Hunter)
1/3	Research Material for History of the Amenia and Sharon Land Co. (W.C. Hunter)

- 1/4 Research Material for History of the Amenia and Sharon Land Co. (W.C. Hunter)
- 1/5 Chaffee Family Genealogy
- 1/5a Chaffee & Reed family material, and on Amenia, N.D.

Personal Correspondence Series

- Chaffee, Eben Whitney-
 - 1/6 1840-1888
 - 1/7 1889-1900
- Chaffee, Carrie T.-
 - 1/8 1913-1923
 - 2/1 1924
 - 2/2 1925-1926
 - 2/3 1927-1931
 - 2/4 1932-1945
- Chaffee, Herbert F.-
 - 2/5 Nov. 1886 & April-July, 1887
 - 3/1 August-October, 1887 (photocopies)
 - 3/2 November-December, 1887 (photocopies)
 - 3/3 1888, 1894 (photocopies)
 - 3/4 April-July, 1887 (original)
 - 3/5 August-December, 1887 (original)
 - 3/6 1888, 1894 (original)
 - 3/7 1892-1907
 - 4/1 1910-1911
 - 4/2 Christmas Lists, 1910-1911
 - 4/3 Titanic Survivor's Protective Committee, 1912
 - 4/4 *Ye Booke of Remembrance*, 1903-1909
- Chaffee, Herbert L. from Eben W. Chaffee-
 - 4/5 1942-1950
 - 4/6 1951-1956
 - 4/7 1957-1961
- Chaffee, Herbert L.-
 - 5/1 "The Chaffee Farmer", 1942-1960
 - 5/2 to Frances B. Chaffee, 1953-1954
 - 5/3 to Gertrude B. Chaffee, 1956-1965
 - 5/4 to Jane (Mrs. Eben W. Chaffee), 1961-1966
 - 5/5 to Lester F. Chaffee, 1953-1966
 - 5/6 to Rollo N. Chaffee, 1943-1952
 - 5/7 "The Tittle Whit" (Rosemary), 1949-1960
 - 5/8 Christmas Cards, Lists, 1946-1967
 - 5/9 General Correspondence, 1957, 1963
 - Garland, Saralou C. - "The Ephemeris"-

5/10	1947-1952
5/11	1953-1957
5/12	1957-1965
	"The Screech"-
6/1	1945-1950
6/2	1951-1955
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6/4	1961-1964
6/5	1965
6/6	Chaffee, James S., 1889-1890
6/7	Chaffee, Lester F., 1924-1942
	Guy, William (Sr.)-
7/1	1920-1929
7/2	1930
7/3	January-August, 1931
7/4	September-December, 1931
7/5	January-May, 1932
7/6	June-December, 1932
7/7	January-June, 1933
8/1	July-September, 1933
8/2	October-December, 1933
8/3	January, 1934
8/4	February-December, 1934
8/5	January-November, 1935
8/6	1936-1937
9/1	1938
9/2	1939-1942
	Higgins, Adele and Sydney-
9/3	1922-1925
9/4	1926-1930
9/5	1931-1933
9/6	1934-1963
9/7	Mead, J.F., 1887-1888
9/8	Owens, Florence Reed, 1954-1965
10/1	Reed, Robert, 1923, 1933-1942
	Reed, Walter R.-
10/2	1849-1911
10/3	1912-1914
10/4	1915-1925
10/5	Letterpress Book, 1918
11/1	1926-1939
11/2	Genealogy, 1915, 1926
11/3	Scrapbook, 1878-1937
11/4	Works of the Reed family, N.D.

Stroud, Peter E.-

- 11/5 September 1914
- 11/6 October 1914-1936
- 11/7 1940-1944
- 11/8 Toogood family, 1853, 1882, 1905-1906, 1909

Business Correspondence Series

Chaffee, Herbert L.-

- 12/1 Correspondence A, 1953-1966
- 12/2 Amenia Cemetery Association, 1896, 1928, 1931, 1935, 1954, 1957
- 12/3 Amenia Elevator Company, 1903-1906, 1921, 1942
- 12/4 Amenia Seed and Grain Company, 1953-1966
- 12/5 Amenia Telephone and Telegraph Company, 1953-1964
- 12/6 Anderson, C.J., 1936-1945
- 12/7 Applications, 1939-1943
- 12/8 Automobile Logs, 1952-1960
- 12/9 Corr. B, 1953-1966
- 12/10 Badger Shooter's Supply, 1945-1953
- 12/11 Badlands Writer's Workshop, 1964
- 12/12 Becket and Wagner, 1959-1960
- 12/13 Boulay, Anderson, Waldo & Company, 1952-1953
- 12/14 Burdick, Usher L. and Quentin N., 1957, 1964-1965
- 12/15 Corr. C, 1951-1967
- 12/16 Cashier's Correspondence, A-K, 1917-1921
- 12/17 Cashier's Correspondence, L-Z, 1917-1921
- 13/1 Cass County, 1952-1964
- 13/2 Cass County Historical Society, 1956-1958
- 13/3 Cass County National Farm Loan Association, 1942-1946
- 13/4 Churches, 1959-1965
- 13/5 Civil Defense, 1958
- 13/6 Corn, 1945-1947
- 13/7 Cripe, Paul L., 1944-1966
- 13/8 Crop and Weed Sheets, 1951-1965
- 13/9 D, 1945, 1952-1966
- 13/10 Drache, Hiram, 1960-1961, 1964
- 13/11 Drains and Easements, 1945-1961
- 13/12 E, 1957, 1960, 1964, 1966
- 13/13 Erb, Omar, 1957-1966
- 13/14 F, 1952-1965
- 13/15 Fargo Rifle Club, 1949-1963
- 13/16 Farm Contracts, 1918-1943
- 13/17 Federal Land Bank, 1930-1947
- 13/18 Flax, 1945, 1963

13/19 Fornes, Monroe, 1945-1966
 13/20 Franke, Raymond, 1945-1948
 13/21 G, 1942-1963
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 13/23 Guns, 1953-1960
 14/1 H, 1952-1964
 14/2 Holgerson, Clarence, 1944-1962
 14/3 Hunting, 1946-1963
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 14/5 I, 1945-1960
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 14/7 Johnson, Oscar K. Jr., 1952-1959
 14/8 K, 1952-1964
 14/9 L, 1957-1965
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 14/10 1943-1946
 14/11 1947-1953
 14/12 1954-1965
 14/13 M, 1951-1965
 14/14 Masons, Shriners, 1952-1965
 15/1 N, 1952-1965
 15/2 N.D. Agricultural College and Experiment Station, 1944-1947
 15/3 North Dakota Rifle and Pistol Association, 1952-1963
 15/4 North Dakota State Departments, 1942-1965
 15/5 North Dakota Summer Small Bore Rifle League, 1947
 15/6 Northwest Farm Managers Service, 1952
 15/7 O, 1954-1965
 15/8 O.A. Olson Poetry and Notes, no dates
 15/9 P, 1953-1965
 15/10 Pearson, Bernard, 1952-1960
 15/11 Priewe, J.W., 1952-1967
 15/12 The Prudential Life Insurance Company of America, 1942, 1954-1963
 15/13 Q, 1946, 1965
 15/14 R, 1952-1966
 15/15 Reed, Walter R., 1935-1936
 15/16 S, 1953-1966
 15/17 Schafer, Joe, 1944-1963
 15/18 Sell, Alfred, 1944-1957
 Sheyenne Valley Rifle League-
 16/1 1951-1953
 16/2 1954-1955
 16/3 Short, Don L., 1958-1964
 16/4 Sinz, William P., Jr., 1945-1965
 16/5 Sons of the American Revolution, 1954-1966

	Legal Documents-
19/7	1858, 1877-1904
19/8	1913, 1921-1933
19/9	Notes to Walter R. Reed, 1895
19/10	Chaffee, Florence and Lester - Estates of, 1913-1919
	Chaffee, Herbert F.-
19/11	Estate of, 1912-1913
20/1	Last Will and Testament, ca. 1910
20/2	Legal Documents, 1883-1936
20/3	Chaffee, Herbert L. - Last Will and Testament, 1928
20/4	Chaffee, Lester F. - Legal Documents, 1922-1933
20/5	Higgins, Adele, and Sidney - Legal Documents, 1922-1942

Amenia & Sharon Land Company General Business Records Series

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21/2	1921-1922
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	Articles of Incorporation-
22/1	1911, 1915, 1920
22/2	Wisconsin, 1898
22/3	By-Laws, 1892, 1911, 1921
22/4	Appointment of Eben W. Chaffee - Authorized Agent, 1888
22/5	Corporate Existence and Franchise - Connecticut and N.D.
	Annual Reports-
22/6	1880, 1888, 1890-1892
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	Meeting Minutes-
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24/6	Manager's Meeting Minutes, 1919-1932

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Assignments, Releases, Satisfactions of Mortgages-

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- 26/2 1912-1942

Chattel Mortgages, A-Z—

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- 26/4 Brown, B.M. and L.L. Butterfield, 1907-1912
- 26/5 Clough, Frank, 1906-1917
- 26/6 Evenson, Martin, 1912-1918
- 26/7 Gebeke, William, 1906-1911
- 26/8 Green, Charles F., 1905-1906
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- 26/12 Johnson, Gust, 1908-1918
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- 26/15 Lee, J.W., 1911-1913
- 26/16 Liljedahl, Christ, 1903-1913
- 26/17 Lofgren, Ole P., 1906-1910
- 26/18 McDonagh, Albert, 1913-1926
- 26/19 Miller, W.S., 1907-1913

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- 27/1 1882-1897
- 27/2 1898-1901
- 27/3 1902-1904
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- 28/1 A-M, 1909-1910
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30/5	Farms - Memorandum of Agreements, 1927-1929
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32/3	Mortgage Coupon Notes, 1881, 1888, 1897
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33/4	Mortgage Deeds, 1880-1900
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34/2	1915-1933
34/3	Power of Attorney, 1874-1912
34/4	Trustee - J.R. Guernsey, List of Property, 1916-1934
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35/2	Articles of Incorporation, 1904, 1907
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35/4	1902-1910
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	Amenia Livestock Company-
35/7	Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, 1901
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	Amenia Telephone Company-
36/3	Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, 1916

- 36/4 Legal Documents, 1916-1931
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- 36/8 The Boston Stock and Grain Company - By-laws
- Chaffee, Carrie - Legal Documents-
 - 36/9 1913-1926
 - 36/10 1927-1928
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- The Chaffee-Miller Land Company-
 - 37/5 Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, 1902
 - 37/6 Annual Reports, 1902-1910
 - 37/7 Legal Documents, 1902-1912
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 - 38/1 1902-1907
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- The Chaffee-Miller Milling Company-
 - 38/3 Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, 1906
 - 38/4 Legal Documents, 1906-1922
 - 38/5 Meeting Minutes, 1906-1915
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- Crescent Elevator Company-
 - 39/1 Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, 1902
 - 39/2 Book of Minutes, 1902-1904
- Dayton Farmers Elevator Company - Articles of Incorporation, ca. 1912
- Ellsworth Burying Association - Articles of Incorporation, 1860
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 - Correspondence-
 - 39/6 1884, April 1911
 - 39/7 May 1911
 - 39/8 June-July, 1911
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- 40/1 History Paper, 1985
- 40/2 Legal Papers, 1911
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- H.F. Chaffee Company-
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- 40/5 1913-1932, 1956
40/6 1922-1956
40/7 "Reasons for the Organization of the H.F. Chaffee Company"
40/8 Report
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42/1 Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, 1896, 1909, 1911, 1914, 1916
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42/3 John Miller, Last Will and Testament, 1901
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Amenia and Sharon Land Company Business Records Series

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