

Finding Aid to the Eagle Township (N.D.) Community Records

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Finding aid written in English

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Summary Information

Repository: Institute for Regional Studies
Creator: Benson and Johnsgard General Store (Christine, N.D.)
Title: Eagle Township (N.D.) Community Records
Identifier: Mss 3140
Date: 1895-1924

Physical Description: 9.5 Linear Feet (9.5 linear ft.)

Language of Materials: English

Abstract

The Eagle Township (N.D.) Community Records is comprised of three different entities which are Benson and Johnsgard General Store which was located in the village of Christine, the Eagle Telephone Company, a co-operative farmers telephone company, and the Eagle School District.

Access

The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance

Donated by Elizabeth Pizalla, 1998 (Acc. 2515) And Mark Peihl, 2020 (Acc. 2020 -010irs).

Property rights

The Institute for Regional Studies owns the property rights to this collection.

Copyrights

The Institute for Regional Studies owns the copyrights.

Citation

[Identification of item]. Eagle Township (N.D.) Community Records, MS 3140, Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

History

Benson and Johnsgard General Store: Austin Johnsgard and Aslag Benson purchased the Benson and Johnsgard General Store, formerly the Olaf Monger General Store, in Christine, N.D. in 1891. They managed the store together for seven years, until Johnsgard bought Benson out. According to a brief history of the Johnsgard family, the store was “much like all general stores, the sales area of the first floor carried an extensive line of merchandise, including furniture.” Johnsgard continued to manage the store for sixty years until 1954 when he sold it to his son Ortley. Ortley promptly sold it to a non-relation, and it continued to exist until 1977. Austin Johnsgard was born December 11, 1864 in Lansing, Iowa to Norwegian immigrants. He came to Dakota Territory in 1885 and lived near Walcott, N.D. for a time. In 1889 he went into partnership with Aslag Benson. Austin married Sophie Monson in 1895 and they raised eight children. Sophie died August 5, 1946 and Austin on August 15, 1951. Aslag Benson was born January 16, 1855 in Norway and came to America in 1865. He was an early resident of Christine, N.D. and went into partnership with Austin Johnsgard in operating a store in Christine. After the partnership with Johnsgard was dissolved Mr. Benson farmed in the area. He also served in the North Dakota Senate from 1903 to 1906. He married wife Guri circa 1883 and they raised four children. He died July 19, 1937 and wife Guri died in 1951.

Eagle Telephone Company: Johnsgard General Store were supplied with phones. When E.K. Sherley was Postmaster (1906-1926) his wife, assisted by their sons, operated a telephone switch-board in this building (the original Christian Otteson store). The name of this telephone company was the Eagle Telephone Company. The first meeting of the Stockholders convened on the July 13, 1903. Jacob M. Johnson was elected chairman and G. M. Hanson, Secretary. Apparently, the lines and telephones were owned by the farmers.

Eagle School District Treasurers Record: In September 1883, a meeting of the Richland County Commissioners fixed the boundaries of Eagle School Districts. At the time there were eight schools in the district. They were mostly one-room schools.

Scope and Content

The collection is comprised of three separated series; The Johnsgard Store Series, The Eagle School District Series, and the Eagle Telephone Company Series.

The Johnsgard General Store records series consist of three ledgers dating from 1891, and 1901 to 1905. These ledgers list the customer, and dates and amount of purchase. The Inventory Books date from 1895-1896 and 1906-1907. They document the amount and price of various s found in the store. The Day Books date from 1898 to 1900, and 1902-1904. They list the daily sales showing the name of the customer, what they purchased, and how much they money spent. The records provide a nice glimpse into the business transactions of a small-town general store. The ledgers also provide interesting information on what individuals purchased at the store.

Eagle School District Treasurers Record: these records contain spending information of the school district like, teachers’ salary, for purchasing books, state aid or miscellaneous purposes From 1911 to 1929.

Eagle Telephone Company Ledgers: The ledger entitled Eagle Corporation Record contains information about meeting minutes, By-Laws, Stockholders, and number of shares. The Financial Journal contains information including date, name of shareholder and amount. The Telephone Message Record books were likely a kept by the telephone operator listing the date of the call, name of the sender and receiver, the number of minutes used and the cost of the call.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Benson and Johnsgard General Store (Christine, N.D.)
- Benson, Aslag, 1855-1937.
- Business.
- Christine (N.D.)
- General stores -- North Dakota -- Christine.
- Johnsgard, Austin, 1864-1951.

Collection Inventory

Johnsgard Store Series	
Ledger 1891	Box 1; Object 1 (Mixed Materials)
Ledger 1901-1904	Box 1; Object 2 (Mixed Materials)
Ledger 1904-1905	Box 2; Object 3 (Mixed Materials)
Inventory Book 1895	Box 3; Object 4 (Mixed Materials)
Inventory Book 1895-1896	Box 3; Object 5 (Mixed Materials)
Inventory Book 1906-1907	Box 3; Object 6 (Mixed Materials)
Day Book 1898-1900	Box 3; Object 7 (Mixed Materials)
Day Book 1902-1903	Box 4; Object 8 (Mixed Materials)

Day Book 1903-1904

Box 5; Object 9 (Mixed Materials)

Eagle School District Series

School District Treasurers Record 1911-1912

Box 6; Object 10 (Mixed Materials)

School District Treasurers Record 1913-1914

Box 6; Object 11 (Mixed Materials)

School District Treasurers Record 1914-1915

Box 6; Object 12 (Mixed Materials)

School District Treasurers Record 1920-1922

Box 6; Object 13 (Mixed Materials)

School District Treasurers Record 1928-1929

Box 6; Object 14 (Mixed Materials)

Eagle Telephone Company Series

Eagle Corporation Record 1903-1908

Box 7; Object 15 (Mixed Materials)

Eagle Corporation Financial Journal 1903-1913

Box 7; Object 16 (Mixed Materials)

Telephone Message Record 1918-1924

Box 7; Object 17 (Mixed Materials)

Telephone Message Record 1918-1924

Box 7; Object 18 (Mixed Materials)