

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
ABILENE, KANSAS

MUSSER, CHRISTIAN O.: Papers, 1884-1954

Accession 94-14
Processed by: TB
Date Completed: March 2001

The papers of Christian O. Musser were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by his great-grandson Stewart Etherington in July 1994.

Linear feet: -1
Approximate number of pages: 1,600
Approximate number of items: 1,000

Stewart Etherington signed an instrument of gift for the papers on July 18, 1994. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Christian O. Musser in this collection and in all other collections of papers received by the National Archives have been donated to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of items are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.
2. Papers which are required to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are properly classified.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Christian O. Musser (1863-1950) was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and moved to Dickinson County, Kansas, in March 1884. In November 1884 he married Amanda Eisenhower (1861-1951), whose brother David J. Eisenhower was the father of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Musser farmed briefly near Abilene but in December 1889 took a job at the Belle Springs Creamery in Abilene where he worked for 38 years. In 1892, when the Eisenhower family was living in Texas, Musser made it possible for the family to move to Abilene by obtaining a job for David J. Eisenhower at the Creamery. Musser was active in the Brethren in Christ Church, and invested in real estate in the Abilene area.

The papers of Christian Musser pertain primarily to his business and church activities. Most of the material covers the last ten years of his life, although a few items are dated as early as 1884. There are also several files of legal and financial papers relating to the administration of the estates of Mr. and Mrs. Musser by their daughter Mrs. Florence Etherington.

The collection contains very few references to the Eisenhower family. A note from 1892 gives David Eisenhower's starting salary at the Belle Springs Creamery. There are also two letters from Milton and Edgar Eisenhower. Edgar's letter is especially important because he gives the story that his parents had told him about David Eisenhower's store in Hope, Kansas. According to the tradition, David Eisenhower's partner Milton Good drove the store to the brink of bankruptcy and then disappeared from Hope, leaving David to face their creditors. Edgar repeated the story in the book Six Roads From Abilene, and historians have shown that the tradition is largely incorrect. However, Edgar's letter contains an additional detail: the name of the lawyer who supposedly completed David's ruin by mismanaging his remaining assets after Milton Good's departure. According to Edgar, he was Governor Teats, a Hope attorney who later moved to Tacoma, Washington.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	Address Book
	Bank Book 1932-40
	Biographical Information [David Eisenhower's 1892 salary]
	Correspondence [Milton Eisenhower; Edgar Eisenhower re Hope store; Brethren church]
	Correspondence – Messiah Bible College
	Correspondence – Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home
	Diary 1934
	Enumeration Book
	Financial Notebook 1945
	Financial Notebook 1946
	Miscellaneous Legal & Financial Papers
	Mortgages
	Musser Estates – Bank Deposits (1)(2)
	Musser Estates – Bank Statements 1950 (1)(2)
2	Musser Estates – Bank Statements 1951 (1)(2)
	Musser Estates – Bank Statements 1952-54
	Musser Estates – Correspondence
	Musser Estates – Legal Papers
	Musser Estates – Miscellaneous (1)(2)
	Musser Estates – Taxes

Henry B. Musser Estate 1909

Power of Attorney 1950

Real Estate – Dickinson County Property

Real Estate – 33-14-3 [deeds for land in Logan Township, Dickinson County]

Real Estate – Miscellaneous Property

Stock Certificates

END OF CONTAINER LIST