

Collection: Chiswell Family Papers**Accession:** 13402**Finding Aid****Date Range:** 1829-1920**Bulk Date:** 1855-1859; 1909-1911; 1920**Associated Numbers:** 13402-13425 (document specific 13402; 13408-13420; 13424)**Creator:** Richard Robert Chiswell Estate**Container:** 2 Flip-top document boxes**Size:** Legal**Aid Created By:** Annita Zalenski (volunteer)**Biographical Information:**

The progenitor of the Paterson Chiswell family was Robert Chiswell, born in 1798 in Norwich, England. He arrived in Paterson in 1819 and married Mary Ann Breese. They had two sons, Richard B. and George S., and three daughters, Mary, Alice and Eliza. Robert owned a grocery store on Main Street in Paterson; he then had a grocery store on Van Houten and later established an "auction mart" on Broadway.

Richard B. Chiswell who was born in 1823, married Mary Williams. For many years he had a store on Main Street where he dealt in cotton, waste, oil, paper, twine and mill supplies. Richard was elected Sheriff of Passaic County in 1857.

George S., Chiswell was born in 1836 and married Katherine E. Reid of Paterson. In 1856, George joined the Paterson Intelligencer newspaper and gained knowledge of the printing business. He then became foreman of the Paterson "Guardian" and later was associated with the "Paterson Press." In 1881, the corporation of the Press Printing and Publishing Company was formed with George as publisher and treasurer. When the paper passed into the ownership of the Press Chronicle Company, George formed a new publishing company with his son, Richard Robert under the name of George S. Chiswell & Son. George S. was an original member of the Paterson Light Guard and was a captain and judge advocate of General Congdon's staff. He was also one of the founders of the Hamilton Club.

Richard Robert Chiswell, son of George S. and Katherine, was born in Paterson in 1868. He worked with his father at the Press Printing and Publishing Company until 1908, which is when they formed their own publishing company. After his father's death, Richard served as President of, George S. Chiswell & Son. From 1891 through 1916 he served with the NJ National Guard and during WWI he was appointed Government Inspector of the U.S. Selective Service with the rank of captain. He was a life member of the North Jersey Country Club and president of the Bergen County Golf Association, a member of the Hamilton Club and was active in the Paterson Philharmonic Society. Richard R. died in 1940.

Scope Note and Content:

This collection consists of material pertaining to the business ventures of three generations of Chiswell men. Much of the collection is composed of letters and purchase orders from customers to the George S. Chiswell & Son Printing Company. The collection also contains some court documents, promissory notes, cancelled checks, letters from lawyers, National Guard correspondence, receipt books, and newspaper clippings.

Series:

When it was received in 1940, the collection was actually accessioned as several different accession numbers (13402-13425). Groups of documents were assigned the same number, based on what they were and/or their subject matter (i.e., sample letterheads were given a different accession number from bills). For this finding aid, it was decided that this entire collection of documents will be known as 13402, so as not to lose the connection to this collection's original accession data. Some documents have been physically marked with the number assigned them in 1940, but most have not.

At the time of the donation several plans and maps were also received, but they are not currently located with this collection of documents. Several objects were also given from the estate.

The collection had already been mixed together and organized into folders when this finding aid was prepared. At the time that this finding aid was compiled, nothing was reorganized or resorted. When found, original accession numbers are indicated on the box list.