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Western History Collections

CHOCTAW NATION MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

McAlester, James Jackson (1842-1922)

Papers 1870-1908

58 feet

Businessman. Correspondence (1888-1908); store ledgers (1874-1903); daybooks (1870-1904); inventory books (n.d.); cash books (1889-1903); and supporting records from the J. J. McAlester Mercantile Company in McAlester, Indian Territory. McAlester was in the Choctaw Nation.

James Jackson McAlester, a leader in business and political circles in southeastern Oklahoma and the man for whom the city of McAlester was named, was born in Arkansas in 1842. He moved to the Choctaw Nation at the age of twenty-four, after securing a map showing coal outcrops in this area. He obtained a position with a firm of Indian traders--Reynolds & Hannaford; later he bought Reynolds out, after establishing a store at Bucklucky, which is now known as North McAlester. Near the store he discovered coal outcrops and secured the mining rights by marriage to Miss Rebecca Burney in August, 1872. For four years, from 1893 to 1897, he served by appointment as United States Marshal for the United States Court having jurisdiction over matters within the Choctaw Nation. Politically, he was a member of the Democratic party and on that ticket he was elected to the Corporation Commission in 1907 and to the office of Lieutenant Governor for the term beginning January 9, 1911. He died at McAlester, Oklahoma, on September 22, 1922.

I. BUSINESS RECORDS

Contained within this series are records relating to J. J. McAlester's business interests. In particular these concern his mercantile stores, but there is also some information on his mining operations and rental properties. These records span the years 1871 to 1952 with the majority being from the years 1885 to 1905. The major body is composed of invoices, receipts, ledgers, cashbooks, daybooks, and inventory books. There is also some information regarding taxes, wages, accounts, and statements. Material in this series is found in boxes 1-15, 19-38, and in the oversized books.

Box 1

Folder:

1. Invoices: January - March, 1890
2. Invoices: September, 1890
3. Invoices: October, 1890