



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of American History*  
*Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the William C. Kost Farm Records

NMAH.AC.0481

Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

May 2014

Archives Center, National Museum of American History  
P.O. Box 37012  
Suite 1100, MRC 601  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012  
archivescenter@si.edu  
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	4
Series 1: Tavern Accounts, 1939-1945.....	4
Series 2: Maryland Farm, 1946.....	5
Series 3: William C. Kost Farm, 1946-1989.....	6

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	William C. Kost Farm Records
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0481
<b>Date:</b>	1939-1989
<b>Extent:</b>	17.66 Cubic feet (53 boxes)
<b>Creator:</b>	Kost, William Elvidge Kost, William Cassell, (farmer), 1917-1989 Agriculture and Natural Resources, Division of (NMAH, SI).
<b>Language:</b>	English  Collection is in English.
<b>Summary:</b>	The records of the Kost family farm, Vermont, Illinois. The farm consisted of 120 acres where small grains, hay, and cattle were raised.

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Donated to the National Museum of American History, Archives Center by William E. Kost in 1993.

### Related Materials

Division of Work and Industry and the Division of Home and Community Life holds artifacts related to this collection.

### Processing Information

Processed by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., volunteer, 1994; supervised by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist. Finding aid revised in June 2014.

### Preferred Citation

William C. Kost Farm Records, 1939-1989, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Gloves must be worn when handling unprotected photographs, negatives, and slides.

## Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

---

## Biographical / Historical

William Cassel Kost (1917-1989) acquired land and began farming in Vermont, Illinois in 1946. The farm consisted of 120 acres where Kost raised small grains, hay, and cattle. Prior to this time, Kost had been a bookkeeper for local taverns and a tenant farmer. Over the next fifty-three years, Kost worked his own farm as well as occasionally renting land, the Maryland Farm and others. In the 1950s, Kost secured a position with Hemp & Company, later known as the King-Sealey Thermos Factory, first in a part-time capacity then as a full-time employee, retiring on disability in 1975. He continued to farm until his death in August 1989. He was married to Maxine Elvidge (1916-1987) and had one son, William Elvidge Kost (1941-).

---

## Scope and Contents

The William C. Kost Farm Records is an exhaustive collection of bills, receipts, pay-stubs, and other financial records relating to the business of a small, mid-western family farm. Beginning with Kost's employment as a bookkeeper in 1942 for local Vermont, Illinois area taverns, the financial records intensely cover the period until the year before his death in 1989. The collection is a complete financial picture of a typical mid-western farm during the post WWII period, through the agricultural boom days of the 1950s and 1960s, and into the trying agricultural times of the late 1970s and 1980s. These financial records reconstruct a day to day, week to week, and month to month, financial portrait of the Kost farm. The limited amount of correspondence found in this collection complements the financial record. Tax returns, medical, and personal expense records are all included within the collection. Kost and his wife ran the farm operation with occasional hired help. Kost also took a job off the farm to supplement the farm income.

---

## Arrangement

The collection is organized into three series.

**Series 1, Tavern Accounts, 1939-1945**

**Series 2, Maryland Farm, 1946**

**Series 3, William C. Kost Farm, 1946-1989**

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Agriculture -- 1940-1990 -- Illinois  
Beef cattle  
Corn  
Family farms -- 1940-1990  
Family records -- 1940-1990  
Farm buildings -- 1940-1990  
Farm equipment -- 1940-1990  
Farm management -- 1940-1990  
Farmers -- 1940-1990  
Farms -- 1940-1990 -- Illinois  
Hay  
Livestock  
Rural families -- 1940-1990  
Soybean  
Swine  
Wheat  
Work and family -- 1940-1990

Types of Materials:

Housebooks -- 1940-1990  
Receipts -- 20th century

Names:

Agriculture and Natural Resources, Division of (NMAH, SI).

Geographic Names:

Illinois -- 1940-1990  
Vermont (Ill.) -- 1940-1990

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Tavern Accounts, 1939-1945

Box 1, Folder 1	Tavern Ledger, 1943 - 1944
Box 1, Folder 2	Accounts, Ebberts Tavern, (Ebbert, Floyd), 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 3	Accounts, Groveland Tavern, 1942-1945
Box 1, Folder 4	Accounts, Liquor Store, 1942-1944
Box 1, Folder 5	Accounts, Minnie's Place, 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 6	Accounts, Officers Club, 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 7	Accounts, Ed's Tavern, 1945
Box 1, Folder 8	Accounts, Pleasant Inn, (Kraus, Gladys), 1945
Box 1, Folder 9	Receipts and Correspondence, 1939
Box 53, Folder 1	Receipts and Correspondence, 1943
Box 53, Folder 2	Receipts and Correspondence, 1944
Box 1, Folder 10	Receipts, 1942
Box 1, Folder 11	Receipts, 1943
Box 1, Folder 12	Receipts, 1944
Box 1, Folder 13	Receipts, 1945

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

## Series 2: Maryland Farm, 1946

Box 1                      Farm Account Book, 1946

Box 1                      Farm Accounting Record, 1946

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*

**Series 3: William C. Kost Farm, 1946-1989**

Box 2	Receipts and Correspondence, 1946
Box 2, Folder 2	Checking Account, 1946-03-1946-07
Box 2, Folder 3	Checking Account, 1946-08-1946-12
Box 53	Oversize Correspondence and Receipts, 1946
Box 2	Correspondence and Receipts, 1947
Box 2	Checking Account, 1947
Box 2	Checking Account, 1948 January-1948 December
Box 3	Receipts and Correspondence, 1949
Box 3	Checking Account, 1949
Box 3	Receipts and Correspondence, 1950
Box 53	Oversize Receipts and Correspondence, 1950
Box 3	Checking Account, 1950
Box 3	Checking Account, 1951
Box 3	Receipts and Correspondence, 1952
Box 3	Checking Account, 1952
Box 4	Receipts and Correspondence, 1953
Box 53	Oversize Receipts and Correspondence, 1953
Box 4	Checking Account, 1954
Box 4	Receipts and Correspondence, 1955
Box 5	Checking Account, 1955
Box 4	Receipts and Correspondence, 1954



Box 5	Checking Account, 1955
Box 5	Receipts and Correspondence, 1956
Box 5	Receipts and Correspondence, 1956
Box 53	Oversize Receipts and Correspondence, 1956
Box 5	Checking Account, 1956
Box 6	Receipts and Correspondence, 1957
Box 6	Receipts and Correspondence, 1957
Box 53	Oversize Receipts and Correspondence, 1957
Box 6	Checking Account, 1957
Box 6	Checking Account, 1957
Box 7	Receipts and Correspondence, 1958
Box 7	Receipts and Correspondence, 1958
Box 7	Checking Account, 1958
Box 7	Checking Account, 1959
Box 8	Receipts and Correspondence, 1959
Box 8	Receipts and Correspondence, 1959
Box 8	Checking Account, 1959
Box 8	Checking Account, 1959
Box 9	Receipts and Correspondence, 1960
Box 9	Receipts and Correspondence, 1960
Box 9	Checking Account, 1960

Box 9	Checking Account, 1960
Box 10	Receipts and Correspondence, 1961
Box 10	Receipts and Correspondence, 1961
Box 10	Checking Account, 1961
Box 10	Checking Account, 1961
Box 11	Receipts and Correspondence, 1962
Box 11	Receipts and Correspondence, 1962
Box 11	Checking Account, 1962
Box 11	Checking Account, 1962
Box 12	Receipts and Correspondence, 1963
Box 12	Receipts and Correspondence, 1963
Box 12	Checking Account, 1963
Box 12	Checking Account, 1963
Box 12	William Elvidge Kost
Box 13	Receipts and Correspondence, 1964
Box 13	Receipts and Correspondence, 1964
Box 13	Checking Account, 1964
Box 13	Checking Account, 1964
Box 14	Receipts and Correspondence, 1965
Box 14	Receipts and Correspondence, 1965
Box 14	Checking Account, 1965
Box 14	Checking Account, 1965

Box 15	Receipts and Correspondence, 1966
Box 15	Receipts and Correspondence, 1966
Box 15	Checking Account, 1966
Box 15	Checking Account, 1966
Box 16	Receipts and Correspondence, 1967
Box 16	Receipts and Correspondence, 1967
Box 16	Receipts and Correspondence, 1967
Box 16	Receipts and Correspondence, 1967
Box 16	Payroll Stubs, 1967
Box 17	Checking Account, 1966-1967
Box 17	Checking Account, 1966-1967
Box 17	Checking Account, 1967-1968
Box 18	Checking Account, Stubs, 1968
Box 18	Checking Account, 1968
Box 18	Checking Account, 1968
Box 18	Checking Account, 1968-1969
Box 18	Checking Account, 1969
Box 19	Checking Account, 1968-1969
Box 19	Payroll Stubs, 1969
Box 19	Checking Account, Stubs, 1969-1970
Box 19	Checking Account, 1969-1970

Box 19	Checking Account, 1970
Box 20	Checking Account, 1970-1971
Box 20	Payroll Stubs, 1970
Box 20	Checking Account, Stubs, 1970-1971
Box 20	Checking Account, Stubs, 1971
Box 20	Checking Account, 1971
Box 21	Payroll Stubs, 1972
Box 21	Checking Account, Stubs, 1971-1972
Box 21	Checking Account, Stubs, 1972
Box 21	Checking Account, 1971-1972
Box 21	Checking Account, 1972-1973
Box 22	Payroll Stubs, 1973
Box 22	Checking Account, Stubs, 1973
Box 22	Checking Account, Stubs, 1973-1974
Box 22	Checking Account, 1973
Box 22	Checking Account, 1973
Box 23	Payroll Stubs, 1974-1975
Box 23	Checking Account, Stubs, 1974
Box 23	Checking Account, 1973-1974
Box 23	Checking Account, 1974-1975
Box 23	Checking Account, 1975
Box 23	Insurance Claim Receipts, 1975

Box 24	Checking Account, Stubs, 1974-1975
Box 24	Checking Account, Stubs, 1975
Box 24	Checking Account, 1975
Box 24	Checking Account, 1975-1976
Box 24	Checking Account, 1976-1977
Box 25	Checking Account, Stubs, 1975-1976
Box 25	Checking Account, Stubs, 1976-1977
Box 25	Checking Account, Stubs, 1978
Box 25	Checking Account, 1977
Box 25	Checking Account, 1977
Box 26	Checking Account, Stubs, 1978-1979
Box 26	Checking Account, Stubs, 1979
Box 26	Checking Account, 1978
Box 26	Checking Account, 1978
Box 26	Checking Account, 1978-1979
Box 27	Checking Account, Stubs, 1979-1980
Box 27	Checking Account, Stubs, 1980
Box 27	Checking Account, Stubs, 1980-1981
Box 27	Checking Account, 1979
Box 27	Checking Account, 1979-1980
Box 27	Checking Account, 1980

Box 28	Checking Account, Stubs, 1981
Box 28	Checking Account, 1980-1981
Box 28	Checking Account, 1981
Box 28	Checking Account, 1981
Box 28	Checking Account, 1981-1982
Box 29	Checking Account, Stubs, 1982
Box 29	Checking Account, Stubs, 1982
Box 29	Checking Account, Stubs, 1982-1983
Box 29	Checking Account, 1982
Box 29	Checking Account, 1982
Box 30	Checking Account, Stubs, 1983
Box 30	Checking Account, Stubs, 1984
Box 30	Checking Account, 1982-1983
Box 30	Checking Account, 1983
Box 30	Checking Account, 1983-1984
Box 31	Checking Account, Stubs, 1985
Box 31	Checking Account, 1984
Box 31	Checking Account, 1984
Box 31	Checking Account, 1984
Box 31	Checking Account, 1984-1985
Box 31	Checking Account, 1985
Box 32	Checking Account, 1985-1986

Box 32	Checking Account, 1986
Box 32	Checking Account, 1986-1987
Box 32	Checking Account, 1987
Box 32	Checking Account, 1987
Box 33	Checking Account, 1987-1988
Box 33	Checking Account, 1988
Box 33	Checking Account, 1988-1989
Box 33	Farm Sale, video, 1989 August 17
Box 34	Receipts and Correspondence, 1968
Box 34	Receipts and Correspondence, 1968
Box 34	Receipts and Correspondence, 1968
Box 34	Receipts and Correspondence, 1968
Box 35	Receipts and Correspondence, 1969
Box 35	Receipts and Correspondence, 1969
Box 35	Receipts and Correspondence, 1969
Box 35	Receipts and Correspondence, 1969
Box 35	Receipts and Correspondence, 1969
Box 35	Receipts and Correspondence, 1969
Box 36	Receipts and Correspondence, 1969
Box 36	Receipts and Correspondence, 1970
Box 36	Receipts and Correspondence, 1970
Box 36	Receipts and Correspondence, 1970

Box 36	Receipts and Correspondence, 1970
Box 36	Correspondence and Receipts, 1970
Box 37	Payroll Stubs, 1971
Box 37	Receipts and Correspondence, 1971
Box 37	Receipts and Correspondence, 1971
Box 37	Receipts and Correspondence, 1971
Box 37	Receipts and Correspondence, 1971
Box 37	Receipts and Correspondence, 1971
Box 38	Receipts and Correspondence, 1972
Box 38	Receipts and Correspondence, 1972
Box 38	Receipts and Correspondence, 1972
Box 38	Receipts and Correspondence, 1972
Box 38	Receipts and Correspondence, 1972
Box 39	Receipts and Correspondence, 1973
Box 39	Receipts and Correspondence, 1973
Box 39	Receipts and Correspondence, 1973
Box 39	Receipts and Correspondence, 1973
Box 53	Oversize Receipts and Correspondence, 1973
Box 53	King Seeley Thermos Co. and United States Steelworkers, 1973
Box 39	Vermont Sanitary District vs. Kost, 1972-1973
Box 53	Oversize Vermont Sanitary District vs. Kost, 1973
Box 40	Receipts and Correspondence, 1974
Box 40	Receipts and Correspondence, 1974
Box 40	Receipts and Correspondence, 1974



Box 40	Receipts and Correspondence, 1974
Box 41	Receipts and Correspondence, 1975
Box 41	Receipts and Correspondence, 1975
Box 41	Receipts and Correspondence, 1975
Box 41	Receipts and Correspondence, 1975
Box 41	Receipts and Correspondence, 1975
Box 42	Receipts and Correspondence, 1976
Box 42	Receipts and Correspondence, 1976
Box 42	Receipts and Correspondence, 1976
Box 42	Receipts and Correspondence, 1976
Box 42	Receipts and Correspondence, 1976
Box 43	Receipts and Correspondence, 1977
Box 43	Receipts and Correspondence, 1977
Box 43	Receipts and Correspondence, 1977
Box 43	Receipts and Correspondence, 1977
Box 43	Receipts and Correspondence, 1977
Box 43	Receipts and Correspondence, 1978
Box 43	Receipts and Correspondence, 1978
Box 44	Receipts and Correspondence, 1978
Box 44	Receipts and Correspondence, 1978
Box 44	Receipts and Correspondence, 1979
Box 44	Receipts and Correspondence, 1979
Box 44	Receipts and Correspondence, 1979
Box 45	Receipts and Correspondence, 1979

Box 45	Receipts and Correspondence, 1989
Box 45	Receipts and Correspondence, 1980
Box 45	Receipts and Correspondence, 1980
Box 45	Receipts and Correspondence, 1980
Box 53	Oversize Receipts and Correspondence, 1980
Box 46	Receipts and Correspondence, 1981
Box 46	Receipts and Correspondence, 1981
Box 46	Receipts and Correspondence, 1981
Box 46	Receipts and Correspondence, 1981
Box 46	Receipts and Correspondence, 1982
Box 47	Receipts and Correspondence, 1982
Box 47	Receipts and Correspondence, 1982
Box 47	Receipts and Correspondence, 1982
Box 47	Receipts and Correspondence, 1983
Box 48	Receipts and Correspondence, 1983
Box 48	Receipts and Correspondence, 1983
Box 48	Receipts and Correspondence, 1983
Box 48	Receipts and Correspondence, 1984
Box 48	Receipts and Correspondence, 1984
Box 49	Receipts and Correspondence, 1984
Box 49	Receipts and Correspondence, 1984
Box 49	Receipts and Correspondence, 1985

Box 49	Receipts and Correspondence, 1985
Box 49	Receipts and Correspondence, 1985
Box 50	Receipts and Correspondence, 1985
Box 50	Receipts and Correspondence, 1986
Box 50	Receipts and Correspondence, 1986
Box 50	Receipts and Correspondence, 1986
Box 51	Receipts and Correspondence, 1986
Box 51	Receipts and Correspondence, 1987
Box 51	Receipts and Correspondence, 1987
Box 51	Receipts and Correspondence, 1987
Box 51	Receipts and Correspondence, 1987
Box 52	Receipts and Correspondence, 1987
Box 52	Receipts and Correspondence, 1988
Box 52	Receipts and Correspondence, 1988
Box 52	Receipts and Correspondence, 1988
Box 52	Receipts and Correspondence, 1988
Box 54, Video OV481.1	Kost Farm Sale, original video, 1989-08-17
Box 54, Video MV481.1.1	Kost Farm Sale, Master Video, 1989-08-17
Box 54, Video MV481.1.2	Kost Farm Sale, Master Video, 1989-08-17

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*