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Guide to the Coal and Gas Trust Investigation Collection, 1870-1929

NMAH.AC.1049

Processed by Robert Ageton (volunteer), 2007; revised by Michael
Stratmoen (intern); supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Coal and Gas Trust Investigation Collection
Date:	1858-1929
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1049
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry
Creator:	Bay State Gas Company.
Extent:	0.75 Cubic feet (3 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The papers document an investigation by M.L. Webb, an attorney from Massachusetts, into possible trust violations by the coal and gas industry of New England, New Jersey, and Delaware in the late nineteenth century. Documents assembled by Webb include patents, stock records, photographs, correspondence, hand written notes, published materials, and investigation notebooks.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Work and Industry, 2007.

Processing Information

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Preferred Citation

Coal and Gas Transit Investigation Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

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Biographical / Historical

John Edward Charles O'Sullivan Addicks (1841-1919) was an industrialist and capitalist. Addicks became involved with the natural gas business in the 1880s, then in its infancy. He built gas works in Jersey City, and in 1882 he was instrumental in organizing the Chicago Gas Trust. Addicks formed the Bay State Gas Company in Boston in 1884. His success at forming gas monopolies earned him the nicknames "Gas Addicks" and the "Napoleon of Gas."^[1] The Coal and Gas Trust Investigation Collection contains documents concerning M. L. Webb's investigation of several coal and gas companies. Webb conducted an investigation of possible trust violations by the coal and gas industry companies, one of which was the Bay State Gas Company.

[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Edward_Addicks (accessed on April 9, 2010)

Scope and Contents

This collection is a series of records accumulated by M. L. Webb, an attorney in Massachusetts. The records show Webb's desire to track down patents and operations information, as well as financial records for the following coal and gas companies: Bay State Gas Company, Citizen Steam and Gas Light Company, the Kidder Coal and Gas Company, Lowe Water Gas Company, and the New England Gas and Coke Company. Included are three series: Coal Companies (1858-1929), Notes (1868-1929), and Patents concerning machinery involved in the manufacture and illumination of coal gas (1870-1897), a flammable gaseous fuel made from coal that was used in lighting, cooking and heating.

Series 1, Coal Companies, 1858-1929, is divided into five subseries: Subseries 1, Bay State Gas Company, 1872-1926; Subseries 2, Citizen Steam and Gas Light Company, 1872-1925; Subseries 3, Kidder Coal and Gas Company, 1858-1925; Subseries 4, Lowe Water Gas Company, 1874-1925; and Subseries 5, New England Gas and Coke Company, 1872-1925. The series includes articles of incorporation, stock and bond notes, personal notes by M.L. Webb, company and state correspondence, financial histories and notes and ledgers.

Subseries 1, Bay State Gas Company, 1872-1926, includes certificates of incorporation from New Jersey (1875), Massachusetts (1884), and Delaware (1879), all three of which were released to the investigation in 1925; notes concerning Bay State Gas Company bonds from 1885-1925; a notebook of company patent information from 1872-1915; M. L. Webb's trust investigation notes on the Bay State Gas Company from 1875-1926; and official state records concerning the Bay State Gas Company issued by the State of Delaware (1889-1925).

Subseries 2, Citizen Steam and Gas Light Company, 1872-1925, contains a notebook with mortgage records for the Citizen Steam and Gas Light Company from 1872-1925.

Subseries 3, Kidder Coal and Gas Company, 1858-1925, contains company patent records (1858-1925), company stock records (1878-1884), stock ledger items, a financial history of the Kidder Coal and Gas Company, company correspondence (1878-1929), state government correspondence (1874-1925), and notebooks filled with notes concerning the financial records of the Kidder Coal and Gas Company.

Subseries 4, Lowe Water Gas Company, 1874-1925, consists of articles of incorporation for the Lowe Water Gas Company, issued in 1874 and released to the investigation in 1925.

Subseries 5, New England Gas and Coke Company, 1872-1925, consists of an investigation notebook documenting the New England Gas and Coke Company, 1872-1925.

Series 2, Notes, 1868-1929, consists of notes compiled from the trust investigation by M. L. Webb and includes notebooks on various coal and gas companies, and a set of unidentified and undated photographs taken by F. B. Boyette.

Series 3, Patents, 1870-1897, contains patent records concerning the manufacture and illumination of coal gas, held by the Lowe Water Gas Company and the Kidder Coal and Gas Company, 1870-1897, specifically patents held by Moses W. Kidder, Joseph Flannery, Person Noyes, and Hiram White.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into three series.

Series 1, Coal Companies, 1858-1929

Subseries 1.1, Bay State Gas Company, 1872-1926

Subseries 1.2, Citizen Steam and Gas Light Company, 1872-1925

Subseries 1.3, Kidder Coal and Gas Company, 1858-1925

Subseries 1.4, Lowe Water Gas Company, 1874-1925

Subseries 1.5, New England Gas and Coke Company, 1872-1925

Series 2, Notes, 1868-1929

Series 3, Patents, 1870-1897

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Investigations
- Trusts and trustees

Types of Materials:

- Legal documents -- 19th century
- Legislative documents
- Notebooks
- Patents
- Photographs -- 19th century

Names:

- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry

Container Listing

Series 1: Coal Companies, 1858-1929

Subseries 1.1: Bay State Gas Company, 1872-1926

Box 1, Folder 1	Articles of Incorporation, Delaware, 1879
Box 1, Folder 2	Articles of Incorporation, Massachusetts, 1884
Box 1, Folder 3	Certificates of Incorporation, New Jersey, 1875
Box 1, Folder 4	Bond and notes, 1885-1925
Box 1, Folder 5	Patent notebook, 1872-1915
Box 1, Folder 6	Trust investigation notes, 1875-1926
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence, 1889-1925

Subseries 1.2: Citizen Steam and Gas Light Company, 1872-1925

Box 1, Folder 8	Mortgages notebook, 1872-1925
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Subseries 1.3: The Kidder Coal and Gas Company, 1858-1925

Box 1, Folder 9	Company patent records, 1858-1925
Box 1, Folder 10	Stocks, 1878-1884
Box 1, Folder 11	Stock ledger item, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Financial history, declaration of trust, 1874-1925
Box 1, Folder 13	Summary of the Kidder Coal and Gas Company of Hartford Connecticut, 1874-1906
Box 1, Folder 14	Statement of Facts in the Coal-Gas Company for New England, 1878-1925
Box 1, Folder 15	Notes of the Kidder Coal and Gas Company, 1875-1897
Box 1, Folder 16	Correspondence, 1878-1929

Box 1, Folder 17 State Government Correspondence, 1874-1925

Box 2, Folder 1A "For New England, 1878" and "exhibits" ledgers, 1874-1925

Box 2, Folder 1 "For New England" record book, 1878, 1925-1926

Subseries 1.4: Lowe Water Gas Company, 1874-1925

Box 2, Folder 2 Articles of Incorporation, 1874, 1925

Subseries 1.5: New England Gas and Coke Company, 1872-1925

Box 2, Folder 3 Bay State of Delaware, 1872-1925

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Series 2: Notes, 1868-1929

Box 2, Folder 4	Notebook about coal investigation and history, undated
Box 2, Folder 5	Hearings by the Board of Aldermen of Boston on the Petition of the Citizens' Gas Light Company, 1874
Box 2, Folder 6	Commonwealth of Massachusetts Water Gas Inquiry. Testimony given before the special committee of the Senate, 1884 May
Box 2, Folder 7	Argument in favor of permitting the manufacture of water gas before the joint standing committee on manufacturers, 1884 March
Box 2, Folder 8	Declaration of trust of the Massachusetts Gas Companies, [1902?]
Box 3, Folder 1	Person Noyes last will and testament, 1907
Box 3, Folder 2	Standard Oil (notes about), undated
Box 3, Folder 3	Testimony of Edwin Evans about Kidder process for making water and fuel gas, 1879-1883
Box 3, Folder 4	Notebooks with Notes on Various Gas Companies, 1874-1925
Box 3, Folder 5	Water/Gas Process for various companies notebook, 1878-1929
Box 3, Folder 6	Consumer Gas Company Water Gas and Boston Gas Notebook, 1868-1893

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Series 3: Patents, 1870-1897

Box 3, Folder 7	Moses W. Kidder patent history, undated
Box 3, Folder 8	Kidder Water gas process notebook, (lists patents), 1870-1880
Box 3, Folder 9	Unidentified photographs, undated
Box 3, Folder 10	Moses W. Kidder patents, 1870-1875
Box 3, Folder 11	Moses W. Kidder patents, 1875-1879
Box 3, Folder 12	Patents (Flannery, White, and Noyes), 1875-1881

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