Swande Godell Collection
MS-585
Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Russell, revised by Rachael Bussert.

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit
June 25, 2014
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

Repository
Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

Creator
Godell, Swande N., 1899-1979

Title
Swande Godell Collection

Date [inclusive]
1912-1978

Extent
0.96 cubic feet 2 manuscript boxes (1 legal and 1 letter size), 1 map folder

Language
English

Language of Material
English and Finnish

Mixed materials [Folder]
12 R

Mixed materials [Box]
1-2

Abstract
Collection, 1912-1978, of Swande Godell of Chassell, Michigan. Includes biographical and genealogical material as well as personal and business correspondence, field notebooks, logging camp account books and Chassell Lumber Company records.

Preferred Citation
MS-585, Swande Godell Collection, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.
Biography

Swande N. Godell was born April 2, 1899, in Kavia, Finland. He emigrated with his family in 1901 and settled in Watton, Michigan. Shortly after grade school he became employed in logging. He served as a forest ranger in Baraga County for a short time and in 1934 was employed by the U.S. Forest Service. He was later promoted to chief of service in the Ontonagon district. He was then employed by the Chassell Mill which he managed from 1941 to 1957. From 1958 to 1962 he worked for the Wood Development Corporation and the Hutula Company in the Sidnaw district. In 1962 he joined the Horner Flooring Company of Dollar Bay as a lumber buyer. Mr. Godell retired in 1972; however he was active in the community, including the Masonic Lodge No. 218 in Houghton, the Copper Country Shriners Club, the Chassell Lions Club, the Hancock Salvation Army Board and St. Joseph's Hospital Board. He was a charter member and director of the Timber Producers Association as well as the Northern Hemlock and Pine Association and was a member of the Northern Lumber Industry Advisory Council. Godell also served on the Houghton County Selective Service Board, served as chairman of the Republican Party of Houghton County for two years, served on the Chassell Strawberry Festival Organizational Committee, and was a member of the Chassell school board. Mr. Godell passed away in 1979.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

This collection consists of biographical and genealogical material about the Godell family as well as personal and business correspondence, field notebooks, logging camp account books and Chassell Lumber Company records.

Arrangement

The Swande Godell Collection is arranged into three series, 1. Godell Family Papers, 2. Swande Godell Civic Activities, and 3. Lumbering.

Administrative Information
Publication Information
Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections 3/12/2010

Revision Description
This collection was processed as a part of the NHPRC funded Detailed Processing project. 7/06/2012

Conditions Governing Access
Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

Conditions Governing Use
Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

Acquisition
One box containing biographical and genealogical material as well as personal and business correspondence, field notebooks, and Chassell Lumber Company records were donated to the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections on June 27, 1979 by Marie Fowler. An additional accession of five folders consisting of records from the Chassell Lumber Company, the Chassell Lions Club, Finn Fest 1976, Lake States Logging Congress, as well as a plot of Covington, Michigan, and camp account books were donated by Marie Fowler on July 4, 1980.

Related Materials

Separated Materials
One folder of photographs relating to lumbering and firefighting were placed in the Historical Photograph File, a map of Chassell, Michigan was added to the map collection, Strawberry Festival booklets were sent to cataloging and are in the Archives' book collection, and printed brochures were placed in the Copper Country Vertical File.

Controlled Access Headings
Corporate Name(s)

- Chassell Lumber Company.
- Lions International. District 10 (Chassell, Mich.).
- Timber Producers Association.

Family Name(s)

- Godell family

Genre(s)

- Account books
- Correspondence
- Field notes
- Genealogies

Geographic Name(s)

- Chassell (Mich.)
- Houghton County (Mich.)

Subject(s)

- Lumber and lumbering--Michigan--Upper Peninsula
**(Collection Inventory)**

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**Scope and Contents**

Documents created by and about members of the Godell family including newsprint, notes and sketches of Adventure Mine, correspondence from Finland, a plot of Covington Michigan, and Marie Fowler’s essay, “My Community as I Would Like to See It.”

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**Notes and Sketches of Adventure Mine 1912**

**State of Michigan Supreme Court Record, August Gadell 1923**

**Biographical Materials 1955; 1962-1972**

**Godell Family Clippings 1974, 1975, Undated**

**Godell Family Genealogy 1975**

**Correspondence from Finland 1958-1978**

**"My Community as I Would Like to See It," Marie Godell Undated**

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**Plat of Covington, Michigan Undated**

Scope and Contents

Documents relating to Swande Godell’s participation in civic activities including records from the Chassell Lions Club, Finn Fest, and the Finnish American Bicentennial Festival as well as a certificate from the Hootin Hankenany Committee.

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Series III, Lumbering 1931-1978

Scope and Contents

Records from Swande Godell’s career in the lumber industry including fire reports from Houghton County, land examination books, records from the Chassell Lumber Company, camp account books, correspondence relating to the Wilderness Act and Rare II, programs from the Lake States Logging Congress, and correspondence concerning Swande Godell’s retirement dinner.

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