



Legerton and Company Records, 1888-1968
SCHS #541.00

Description: 3.5 Linear Feet (10 boxes)

Biog./Historical Note: Clifford Lewis Legerton (1854-1935) went into business in the partnership of Legerton & Macmillan in 1888. When David Macmillan left the partnership three years later, Mr. Legerton became the sole proprietor of what would come to be called Legerton and Company. In 1911, he associated himself with his nephew C. W. Legerton, and S. D. Edwards, and in 1914, A. G. Barton was taken into the firm. Legerton & Company sold books, stationery, toys, office supplies and other products, and remained in business under this name until the late 1960s. In 1951, John E. Huguley (1927-2010) joined the firm and became its president in 1959. In 1969, he purchased the company, and it became the John Huguley Company.

According to an article published in *The American Stationer and Office Outfitter*, volume 81, number 18 (May 5, 1917), Legerton & Company was “one of the largest and most successful retail book, stationery, and toy stores in the South.” Its founder, C. L. Legerton “began his business career in the year 1868 as an errand boy for the old and well-established firm of Walker, Evans & Cogswell.” He advanced in the company to a buyer and general manager of the stationery department, and in 1888 he went into business for himself in the partnership of Legerton & Macmillan. When David Macmillan left the partnership three years later, Mr. Legerton became the sole proprietor of what would come to be called Legerton & Company. In 1911, he associated himself with his nephew C. W. Legerton, and S. D. Edwards, and in 1914, A. G. Barton was taken into the firm. (Note: The 1917 article includes a photograph of the interior and exterior of the Legerton & Company store in Charleston.)

Scope and content: Clifford Lewis Legerton (1854-1935) went into business in the partnership of Legerton & Macmillan in 1888. When David Macmillan left the partnership three years later, Mr. Legerton became the sole proprietor of what would come to be called Legerton and Company. In 1911, he associated himself with his nephew C. W. Legerton, and S. D. Edwards, and in 1914, A. G. Barton was taken into the firm. Legerton & Company sold books, stationery, toys, office supplies and other products, and remained in business under this name until the late 1960s. In 1951, John E. Huguley (1927-2010) joined the firm and Records include accounts, minutes, scrapbooks, photographs, gift catalogs, clippings, tax records, and miscellaneous items. Advertising scrapbooks contain clippings of advertisements placed by Legerton and Company

for merchandise such as toys, greeting cards, stationery, books, gifts, and office supplies. Another scrapbook contains clippings of articles from trade journals relating to the bookselling and stationery business. Accounts include an account book for the toy department (1927-1938) as well as general ledgers. There are also papers of the Legerton family, primarily Clarence W. Legerton, whose papers include numerous bills, papers relating to the estate of Rev. Alexander Sprunt (1852-1937), and correspondence and financial records relating to Legerton's office as treasurer of the Charleston Presbytery.

Preferred citation: Legerton and Company (Charleston, S.C.). Legerton and Company records, 1888-1968. (0541) South Carolina Historical Society.

Container Listing:

BOX 1

- 1 Business record, Nov. 1888 to June 1933. A clasp binder containing accounts and other records. Includes entries for assets and liabilities, expenses, profits, and costs.
- 2 Loose items removed from business record, 1919-1939. Includes profit and loss statements; and a letter and brochure about sweet grass baskets (1939).
- 3 Minute book, 1914-1946. Contains minutes of meetings of stockholders and directors. Also includes a clipping announcing the dissolution of a co-partnership known as Legerton & Company and the formation of a new corporation by the same name in 1914; the commission of corporators; and by laws of the company.
- 4 Loose items removed from minute book, including a bill of sale for the company, 1914.
- 5 Advertising scrapbook, 1914 – ca. 1927. Contains clippings of advertisements from trade journals relating to the stationery and bookselling business, advertising strategies, etc. A few clippings pertain to Legerton & Company.

BOX2

- 1 Loose items removed from advertising scrapbook, dating from the 1920s into the 1940s.
- 2 Advertising scrapbook, 1916-1923. Contains clippings of advertisements placed by Legerton and Company for various merchandise including toys, books, leather goods, stationery, office supplies and greeting cards.
- 3 Loose items removed from advertising scrapbook, 1916-1923. These include ad clippings as well as notes by the compiler, one of which states that Legerton & Company's toy department was the "largest in the South. It was closed in 1940. It included all of the second floor and half of the third floor."

- 4 Toy department account book, 1927-1938.
- 5 Scrapbook, 1923-1926. Contains clippings of articles relating to marketing, sales and advertising in the publishing industry and book trade.

BOX 3

- 1 Items removed from scrapbook, 1927-1938. These date from the 1920s into the 1940s.
- 2 Advertising scrapbook, 1945-1951. Contains clippings of advertisements placed by Legerton & Company for greeting cards, books, stationery, gifts, etc.
- 3 Loose items from advertising scrapbook, 1945-1951.

BOX 4

- 1 Legerton family papers: C. W. Legerton papers relating to the estate of Alexander Sprunt, 1907-1950. Clarence W. Legerton was the executor of the estate of Rev. Alexander Sprunt (1852-1937), a Presbyterian clergyman who was the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Charleston. These estate documents include a copy of his will, property records, and a bank deposit book.
- 2 Legerton family papers: C. W. Legerton papers relating to the estate of Alexander Sprunt, 1936-1938. Mostly correspondence with Sprunt family members and others.
- 3 Legerton family papers: C. W. Legerton papers relating to the estate of Alexander Sprunt, 1939-1941. Mostly correspondence.
- 4 Legerton family papers: C. W. Legerton papers relating to the estate of Alexander Sprunt, 1942-1947. Mostly correspondence.
- 5 Legerton family papers: mostly bills of C. W. Legerton, 1946-1950.
- 6 Legerton family papers: mostly bills of C. W. Legerton, 1951-1958. Also includes a typescript "Biographical Sketch of Clarence William Legerton."
- 7 Legerton family papers: C. W. Legerton papers relating to the Charleston Presbytery, 1939-1940. Clarence W. Legerton was the treasurer of the Charleston Presbytery. These papers include bank statements and letters.
- 8 Legerton family papers: C. W. Legerton papers relating to the Charleston Presbytery, 1941. These papers include correspondence, a bank book, and other financial records.

BOX 5

- 1 Legerton family papers: C. W. Legerton papers relating to the Charleston Presbytery, 1942.
- 2 Legerton family papers: C. W. Legerton papers relating to the Charleston Presbytery, 1943-1945.
- 3 Legerton family papers: C. W. Legerton papers relating to the Charleston Presbytery, 1948-1953.
- 4 Legerton & Company photo album and scrapbook, ca. 1968. This album, probably created in 1968, contains reprints of photographs depicting C. L. Legerton, store exteriors and interiors, etc., as well as newspaper clippings relating to the store. Photographs have been removed to the SCHS Visual Material Collection.
- 5 Gift catalogs, advertisement clippings, a "New York Sales List" (1948-1952), and three issues of *Southern Stationer* magazines which contain articles relating to Legerton & Company and John Huguley.
- 6 Catalogs, brochures, and clippings relating to flags. Some papers relate to the Confederate flag.
- 7 Souvenir placards depicting three Confederate flags. One is labeled "Souvenir, Reunion of U.C.V. Charleston, S.C., May 1899."
- 8 Product catalogs and brochures.
- 9 Papers relating to company retirement pension plans.
- 10 Tax records, 1924-1929.

BOX 6

- 1 Tax records, 1930-1933.
- 2 Tax records, 1934-1935.
- 3 Tax records, 1940-1944.
- 4 Tax records, 1944-1945.
- 5 Tax records, 1945-1946.
- 6 Tax records, 1946-1947.
- 7 Tax records, 1947-1948.
- 8 Tax records, 1948-1949.

- 9 Tax records, 1949-1950.
- 10 Tax records, 1950-1951.
- 11 Tax records, 1951-1953.
- 12 Tax records, 1954-1956.

BOX 7

- 1 Tax records, 1956-1961.
- 2 Tax records, 1961-1964.
- 3 Tax records, 1965-1968.
- 4 Employee record book, 1937.
- 5 General ledger, 1942-1945.
- 6 General ledger transfer file, 1945-1950.

BOX 8

- 1 General ledger, 1958-1959.
- 2 Miscellaneous financial records, 1959-1962.
- 3 Miscellaneous records, 1951-1952.
- 4 Parcel post shipment book 1965.

BOX 9

- 1 Cash receipts account book, 1943-1944.
- 2 Cash receipts account book, 1946.
- 3 Agreements and contracts, 1940s.
- 4 Agreements and contracts, 1950s.
- 5 Agreements and contracts, 1960s.

BOX 10

- 1 Parcel post shipment book, 1945.
- 2 Payroll time book, 1944-1945.

- 3 Handwritten company history: "History of Legerton and Macmillan 1888 to 1891, C. L. Legerton Booksellers 1891 to 1911, Legerton & Co. 1911 to Legerton & Co., Inc. to 1963."
- 4 "Legerton's Bookstore Recommended List for Beginning Home Library" (no date), a typewritten list of titles of classics, children's books, and reference works. Also, lists of books carried by the store, including "Charlestoniana."
- 5 Miscellaneous records, including undated advertising clippings; a memo about remodeling; and a memo about shoplifting.

OVERSIZE SCRAPBOOK: (located on top shelf above collection)

Scrapbook containing clippings, advertisements, store memorabilia, and other items relating to Legerton and Company, 1946-1955.