

Summary Information:

Collection Title: Ahrens and Maher Family Collection

Collection Number: MSS.07

Date Range: 1916-1963

Size: 0.5 Linear Feet

Location: RR.8.1, CO.OS.02, CO.OS.07

Creator: Ahren and Maher Families

Abstract: The Ahrens and Maher Family Collection contains family records, warranty deeds, newspapers, and other documents relating to the history of the Maher and Ahrens family.

Acquisition Information: 2022.41 - The materials in this collection were donated by Barret Harvey, the grandson of Arthur and Mary (Maher) Ahrens.

Separated Materials:

2022.41.31 - Abstract of Title No. 39456 to Lots 8 and 9, L.E. Ingalls Subdivision of Ingalls Park Subdivision, from the Will County Title Company. This item has been added to our collection of Title Abstracts.

2022.41.30 - Two patches for the International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers Local Union 176. This item has been moved to our Object Holdings.

Citation: Item Description. MSS.07 Ahrens and Maher Family Collection, Joliet Area Historical Museum. Box #, Folder #. Date Accessed.

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Kailee Lowry

Background Information:

History:

James F. Maher was born in Joliet in December of 1884, the son of Martin J. Maher and Margaret Maher. James, a lifelong resident of Joliet, worked at the EJ&E Railway until his retirement in 1939. He married Mary (Walsh) Maher in 1916 and together they had three children: Mary M. (Maher) Ahrens, James (Ann) Maher, and Edward Maher. Son, Edward Maher never married and he passed away in April of 1946. Mary (Walsh) Maher passed in 1955, and James passed away in 1960 leaving his estate to Mary (Maher) Ahrens and James N. Maher.

Mary M. Maher married Arthur G. Ahrens in 1934. Mary was involved in the Joliet community as the president of the Will-Grundy Deanery of Joliet. Mary also served in the women's group, Servants of Mary Sodality of St. Mary Magdalene. Mary served as the general chairman for the group in 1959, and as president in 1961. Arthur G. Ahrens served as an electrician in the United States Army stationed at

the Joliet Arsenal in the 1950s. From there he went on to work as an electrician at the Illinois State Penitentiary, Stateville Branch.

Scope and Content Arrangement:

Due to the small size of the collection the materials have not been arranged into series. All materials have been divided into folders based on the content of the materials, and have then been arranged chronologically. The collection includes military records, warranty deeds, newspaper articles, and other family records. Materials of note in this collection include electrical redevelopment plans for Stateville Prison, as well as a letter from the Diocese of Joliet discussing a meeting between Mary (Maher) Ahrens and Molly Zelko of the Joliet Spectator.

Related Materials:

2022.41.30 - Two patches for the International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers Local Union 176. This item has been moved to our Object Holdings.

MSS.04 – Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Collection

MSS.18 – Joliet Area Clubs and Organizations Collection

Content Listing:

Folder Title:	Folder #:	Box #:
Warranty Deeds, 1916-1919, 1939-1964	1	1
Military Records, 1919, 1952-1955	2	1
Mount Olivet Cemetery Records, 1946	3	1
Ahrens and Maher Family Papers, 1953-1975	4	1
Newspaper Articles, 1959-1961	5	1
Estate Documents for James F. Maher, 1960	6	1
Knights of Columbus Papers, 1962, 1972	7	1
Last Will and Testament of Helen Maher, 1963	8	1

Oversized Materials

Location: CO.OS.02, CO.OS.07

Folder Title:	Box #:
Illinois State Penitentiary, Stateville Electrical Blueprints	OS.02
Trust Deed from Charles Pearce to Mary Maher and James Maher	OS.07
International Union, United Mine Workers of America Charter	OS.07