

Collection #  
M 0797  
OM 0408

## FRANCIS ARTHUR W. HAMMOND FAMILY PAPERS, 1871–1922

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 document case, 1 oversize folder, 1 box photographs, 1 photograph album

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1871–1922

**PROVENANCE:** Dudley W. and Mary Connor Pierce, Watersmeet, MI, 19 July 2002, 12 August 2002, and 23 July 2003

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2002.0656; 2002.0698; 2003.0485

**NOTES:**

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Francis Arthur W. Hammond was born in London, England, in December 1868. He came to the United States in 1884, arriving in New York before moving to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His father, Dr. Francis J. Hammond (1837–95), came to the United States in 1887 and his brother, Harry D. (1873–1922), in 1889, settling in Indianapolis

While touring a sugar beet mill in Wisconsin, F.A.W. Hammond's left hand was crushed in the machinery and he began wandering throughout the United States primarily working as a clerk. In the 1890s he was working for a cigar company in Florida when he met his future wife, Julia Garvin, a school teacher. At her urging he became a horticulturist and took a job on the Ubero Plantation in Mexico. The plantation, located on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Mexico, grew rubber, coffee, and tropical fruits. Investors from Indianapolis and Boston owned land on the plantation. The Indianapolis group's leaders included Dr. Joseph Littell, a Presbyterian minister, and Frank Blackledge. They owned 1,000 acres and were the more successful of the two groups by the early accounts. The Boston group owned 3,000 acres and their leaders included Fred L. Bardwell, a chemistry professor at M.I.T.

Hammond was later engaged in similar plantation ventures in other parts of Mexico, Central America, and Cuba. He later returned to Indianapolis and worked for the Link Belt Company (ca. 1910s). Hammond and his wife, Julia E. Garvin, from Romeo, Michigan, were married in 1898 and they had one daughter, Muriel, who was born in 1905.

Harry Hammond worked most of his adult life for the American Malleable Castings Association in Indianapolis.

Sources:

Information in collection.

Information from Mary Connor Pierce, February, 2014

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection centers on the personal and business papers of Francis Arthur W. Hammond and his wife, Julia E. Garvin Hammond. The largest number of letters is between the two during their courtship period, 1897–98. Hammond writes while attending school in Seffner (near Tampa), Florida, while Garvin is in Dunedin (near Clearwater), Florida.

There also are letters from Arthur to his wife while in Mexico, Central America, and Cuba, from 1902–12 describing his work and living conditions. Hammond took a number of photographs of the people and the plantations in Mexico and 123 of these, plus an album of 60 additional images, are included in the collection. There are also photographs taken by Hammond while in Cuba including one of the wreckage of the battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor, 1903. Other items from the Hammonds' time in Mexico include a ten-page letter from Julia Hammond in Mexico City to her family describing their visit to the country, 4 October 1900; a serape and two fabric belts; and F. A. W. Hammond's personalized leather wallet.

Included is a group of business-related correspondence and papers sent to Arthur Hammond while at the Link Belt Company in Indianapolis from acquaintances at plantations in Mexico discussing the economic and political climate in the region during the revolution, 1914–16. The collection also contains printed and business materials related to his plantation work in Mexico, including three annual reports of the Ubero Plantation, 1900–02 (two from the Indianapolis group and one from the Boston group); a handwritten invitation for a "Stag Dinner" at the plantation, November 1904; and a Certificate of Registration for American Citizen allowing Hammond to reside in Mexico for the purpose of mining, November 1911.

There is a small amount of Harry Hammond's correspondence, including information sent from his firm to Arthur Hammond concerning Harry's death in 1922; Francis J. Hammond's sermons; and a memorial resolution from the Marion County Medical Society delivered to Mrs. Hammond, 1905.

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## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0797).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.