

Liberty & Independent Mutual Fire Insurance Company

– John Hewitt Collection

Adams County Historical Society

Accession No(s): #4807

Home Location: Rm 206, Rack 1, Shelf A

PREFACE

The Adams County Historical Society was established to “foster interest in the history of Adams County and vicinity, conduct research, preserve records and objects, mark sites, and pursue such activities as may be related to the history of the community.” The Society’s collections are privately held, maintained, and made available to the public for research purposes at the discretion of the governing authority of the institution and its staff.

INTRODUCTION

The Gettysburg Liberty & Independent Mutual Fire Insurance Company documents range from its founding in 1881 - 1936, almost exclusively produced by Treasurer John Hewitt and Ward Delap. The later files illustrate the perilous climate of the insurance industry during the great depression. The company was incorporated in 1881, and disposed of its charter in 1932 as a result of the Great Depression, and attendant instability within the insurance business. Many documents from 1932 pertain to Treasurer John Hewitt’s offers to other corporations of the Liberty and Independent’s charter.

The collection was donated at an unspecified period as part of a donation by the Gettysburg National Bank. The donations comprising this collection are housed in one box and were of John Hewitt’s personal papers which form the majority of the business correspondences, and the collected financial records of the company. The collection was processed by Alex Leslie, November – December 2012.

ACCESS

This collection is open for research, and viewing access to the materials is unrestricted. However, restrictions apply concerning the use, duplication, or publication of items. Please consult research room staff for specific information regarding the Society’s policies.

PREFERRED CITATION

Liberty & Independent Mutual Fire Insurance Company Collection, Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA.

SCOPE & CONTENT NOTE

This collection is comprised of six series: Correspondence; Policies held and payments made by the Liberty & Independent Mutual Insurance Company; Corporate & Financial records of the company; Assessment records; Loss records; and Applications to the company. The collection ranges from 1881 to 1936. Three related but separately housed policy holdings are housed in the vertical files. As the records of the company cover its eventual dissolution in the 1930s, as well as the economic troubles facing both the company and the insurance industry during the depression this collection will be of value to researchers interested in the local business climate during this period. Furthermore, the policies illuminate the holdings and architectural particulars of several local homes and businesses. Records within the series have been organized chronologically for ease of research.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I: Correspondence of Ward Delap and John Hewitt

This series consists of business correspondences authored by Ward Delap and John Hewitt, ranging between 1929 and 1934. The nature of the correspondences is largely between the Company and policy holders. The later correspondences focus more on the Liberty & Independent Company's attempts to discharge its charter.

Series II: Policy Lists and Payments

This series consists of paid policies held by the company, as well as the checks received by the company. The dates spanned by these documents are 1930 – 1932.

Series III: Corporate & Financial Records

This series pertains to the financial records of the company, its income and expenditures ranging between 1929 and 1934, and contains the original charter of the Liberty & Independent Insurance Company from 1881.

Series IV: Assessment records

This series consists of paid and unpaid assessments of policy holdings, dated 1930 -1933.

Series V: Loss records

This series contains records of the company's payouts to policy holders, 1931 - 1933.

Series VI: Applications

Applications to Liberty & Independent for policy issuance, 1931 – 1936.

Container Listing

Box I

Series I: Correspondence

1-1, Letters, 1929 – 1934—Correspondences by Ward B Delap and John Hewitt, dated 1929 to 1934.

Series II: Policy List and payments

1-2 Policy lists and payments ---- Checks received by Liberty & Independent, policy records of John Hewitt and Ward Delap, 1920 to 1932.

Series III: Corporate & Financial Records of Liberty & Independent

1-3 Records of companies financial condition, expenditures and income, 1927 to 1934. Series contains copy of the 1881 charter of the Liberty & Independent Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Series IV: Assessments

1-4 Paid and unpaid policy assessments, 1930 to 1933

Series V: Loss records

1-5 Policy payments issued by Liberty & Independent Mutual for fire losses, 1931 to 1933

Series VI: Policies & Applications

1-6 Policy applications, containing copies of blank forms, 1931 – 1936

Insurance policy of H.G. Deatruck of Hunterstown for two-story home, April 1st 1889

Policy of Laura A. Jacobs of Hunterstown, March 27th 1894

Policy of Mrs. P.W. Jacobs of Hunterstown for groceries and dry goods, August 10th 1888