OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Author: Johnson Welch and Eliakim Moore
Title: Johnson M. Welch and Eliakim H. Moore
Date: 1850-1896
Abstract: Letters, cancelled checks, tax receipts, land contracts, and rent receipts,
Quantity: .3 cu. ft.

BIOGRAPHY OF

Johnson Mortimer Welch was born on April 20, 1832 in Rome Township, Athens County, the son of Judge John Welch and Martha Stan Welch. When Johnson was 15 months old the family moved to Athens.

Welch became a student of Ohio University at an early age (16-17?), graduating in the class of 1852 at the age of 20. In 1856, he began studying law under the supervision of his father. He completed his studies in 1858, admitted to the Athens bar, and entered into a partnership with his father under the name of Welch & Son.

At the onset of the Civil War in 1861, Welch entered the Union Army as Captain of Company C, Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteers Infantry (O.V.I.). His regiment was attached to the army of the Cumberland. Welch served as Captain of Company C until his promotion to Major in June 1863.

Welch returned to Athens in November of 1864 and resumed his law practice. In 1881, he became president of Athens Gas Light Company, established in 1872. In 1882, Welch became vice-president of the First National Bank of Athens. Johnson Welch was named to the Ohio Board of Trustees in 1895 and served until his death in 1910.
Welch was interested in the development of mineral lands in Southeastern Ohio and together with Eliakim H. Moore, purchased large amounts of land in Vinton County and surrounding areas. Welch was a contributor to the financing and construction of the Marietta and Cincinnati Railroad that ran through Athens and Meigs Counties. He organized the selling of the real estate that was needed for construction of the railroad.

Johnson Welch was married twice. He married his first wife, Adaline Carpenter, in Athens on September 14, 1853. She died on July 25, 1866, leaving five children; Martha, Jessie, Charles, John, and George. He married his second wife, Ella Cadwallader, on June 15, 1873. They had four sons; Edward Guy, Dudley W., Thomas C., and Phillip. Johnson Welch died on June 11, 1910.

Eliakim H. Moore was born in Boylston, Worcester County, Massachusetts on June 17, 1812. The Moore family came to Athens in 1817.

At the age of 24, Moore became the Athens County land surveyor after studying under Judge Samuel B. Pruden of Athens and Harmony for two years. Later that same year (1836) Moore was elected Athens County auditor and served for twelve years.

Moore was quite successful in business, being one of the founders of the First National Bank in Athens and also president from 1863 to 1879. He was involved in the early development of Southeastern Ohio (Vinton County). Moore was active in the construction and financing of the Marietta and Cincinnati Railroad. Soloman P. Chase appointed Moore, Collector of Internal Revenue, for the fifteenth district (Athens), a position he held until the mid 1870s.

Eliakim Moore was a member of the Ohio University Board of Trustees from 1861 to 1900 and was Treasurer of the University from 1875 to 1897. He served one term in the United States Congress (1869-1871). During this same time, Moore was instrumental in securing the location for the Athens Lunatic Asylum (now the Athens Mental Health Center) and served on the board of directors. Moore was a member of the first board of education when the Athens city school system was established in 1850.

Moore married Amy Barker of Athens in 1837. David Hastings Moore was the only surviving son of four children. Moore died at his residence in Athens on April 4, 1900.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The Welch and Moore collection contains correspondence between Welch and Moore from the early 1850s to the late 1870s. Welch and Moore were involved in buying land in parts of Southeastern Ohio (mostly Vinton County) and financing construction
there. For example, both were involved in the construction of the Marietta and Cincinnati Railroad. There is no indication that they had a formal business organization, however, both were affiliated with the First National Bank of Athens and may have conducted their real estate activities through that channel.

Much of the collection contains letters written to prospective investors, whom Welch and Moore were looking for financial assistance and/or backing. Charles and Henry Hess of the Ohio Life Insurance Company (Cleveland, Ohio) were large investors in Welch and Moore’s activities in Southeastern Ohio; the collection contains numerous letters from these two men. The collection contains cancelled checks, the average amount being $1500, old tax receipts from when Moore was the Internal Revenue Collector for Athens and Meigs Counties, and land contracts for the sale of land to Welch and/or Moore. The land contracts include township, range, section, price, number of square feet, and owner of the land.

Also, within the collection are receipts from rent payments at The Ladies Hall of Ohio University (now Howard Hall) dating 1896 to 1900. Leonidas Jewett, Secretary of Ohio University from 1882 to 1906, was the manager of the Ladies Hall at the time. The collection contains three letters, dated 1896, concerning the payment of $60,000 in bonds owed by Ohio University. There is a likely chance that these bonds were used to finance the construction on Ewing Hall. Ewing Hall was built in 1896 and the Board of Trustees allotted $60,000 for its construction. These letters directed to Eliakim Moore indicate the terms of payment to Seasongood and Mayer, provider of funds.

References: *Athens Journal*, April 5 and 12, 1900.

*Athens Messenger*, June 11, 1910.


Harris, Charles J. *The Harris History*, *Athens Messenger*, 1937.


Map of Athens County, Ohio 1886. From actual survey by E.H. Moore.

Peters, William E. *Legal History of the Ohio University*, the Western Methodist Book Concern, Cincinnati, Ohio 1910.
Ohio University Archives and Special Collections: Biographical Folder – Eliakim H. Moore and Johnson M. Welch and Welch Collection MSS 22


Walker, Charles M. History of Athens County, Cincinnati, Ohio, Robert Clarke & Company, 1869.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Ohio University Libraries.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to cite the collection name, collection number, and the Ohio University Libraries, in all footnotes and bibliographical references.

Accession Number: Unknown

Provenance: The Ohio University Archives received the collection previous to 1969. The donor(s) are unknown.

Property Rights: Ohio University retains all property rights to the collection.

Copyrights: Ohio University retains all copyrights unless retained by the donor, other correspondents, or other artists.

Photoduplication: Ohio University will entertain requests to photocopy reasonable amounts of material from the collection for the convenience of individual researchers.

Processing: Carolyn Copper processed this collection in May 1985.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.
## CONTAINER LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 / 1      | Telegraph Receipts, 1876-1880, 28 items  
- Western Union telegraphs between Welch and Moore, meeting places and times |
| 2          | Ladies Hall of Ohio University, rent receipts, 1896-1900, Leonidas Jewett (manager), 170 items  
- rent payments, the majority are from Eli Dunkle, Associate Professor of Greek  
- bank account book with the First National Bank of Athens, no entries, no date |
| 3          | Ladies Hall of Ohio University, rent receipts, undated, 33 items |
| 4          | Checks and bills to Ohio University Board of Trustees, 1884 and 1898  
- two checks sent to Ohio University Board of Trustees, 1884  
- bill for construction project and/or repairs, 1898 |
| 5          | Ladies Hall of Ohio University, rent receipts, 1896, 44 items |
| 6          | Ladies Hall of Ohio University, rent receipts, 1897, 110 items  
- correspondence between A.J. Frame (Treasurer of Ohio University) and L.M. Jewett, 50 letter concerning the Ladies Hall management |
| 7          | Ohio University Bond Payments, 1896, three letters  
- C.T.L from Seasongood and Mayer of Cincinnati concerning a $40,000 debt owed by Ohio University, November 19, 1896, 1 pg.  
- C.T.L.S from L.M. Jewett to E.H. Moore to send payment to Seasongood and Mayer, |
8 Ohio Life Insurance Company, correspondence, 1875, 15 items
   -letters concerning investment possibilities between Hess, Moore, and Welch

9 Land Contracts: Welch, Moore, and G.W. Wilson, December 1873-1874, 23 items
   -land contracts to Gardner Wilson, September 20, 1873, all documents 1 pg.

10 Hess, Moore, and Welch correspondence, land investments, 1873-1874, 34 items
   -A.L.S from General Assembly of Ohio, unknown signature, December 19, 1874, 2 pgs.
   -Charles Hess financial statement (asset and liabilities), $ 822,970 (1875), Dun & Barlow, New York, December 18, 1874, 1 pg.

11 Hess, Moore, and Welch correspondence, 1875 and 1879, 9 items
   -investment possibilities

12 Letters of Agreement, Cancelled Checks, and Tax Receipts, 1853-1873, 16 items
   -land transfers and investments

13 Letters of Agreement, Cancelled Checks, and Tax Receipts, 1874, 24 items

14 Letters of Agreement, Cancelled Checks, and Tax Receipts, 1875-1877, 24 items

15 Correspondence, Memos, Cancelled Checks, 1878-
1880, 22 items
-Miscellaneous letters, memos, and cancelled checks from land transactions

16 Memos, undated, 10 items