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Church Farm Collection  
1729-2005

Arranged and Described  
By  
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August, 2009  
Willimantic, Connecticut

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Series</u>		<u>Page</u>
	Brief Description of the Collection	3
	Scope and Content	4
	Collection Listing	
I	Correspondence	6
II	Deeds / Land Records	6
III	Historical Data	6
IV	Ledgers	6-7
V	Personal Papers	7
VI	Photographs	7-12
		4 boxes 3 linear feet

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Title	Church Farm Collection
Extent	3 linear feet
Arrangement	This collection is arranged in 6 series. Series include: Correspondence, Deeds/Land Records, Historical Data, Ledgers, Personal Papers, and Photographs. Within Correspondence, Historical Data, and Personal Papers, materials are arranged by subject. Within Deeds/Land Records, materials are arranged chronologically to maintain the historical narrative of the series.
Provenance	The Church Farm Collection was given to Eastern Connection State University via the ECSU Foundation, Inc. in 2008, which received the materials through the generous donation of Dorothy and Joe Zaring. The material in this collection was originally located within the Church Farm home in Ashford, CT.
Finding Aid	Printed finding aid available in repository. Electronic version: <a href="http://www.easternct.edu/smithlibrary/depts/archives/findingaids.htm">http://www.easternct.edu/smithlibrary/depts/archives/findingaids.htm</a>
Preferred Citation	[Item, Folder #], Church Farm Collection, 1729-2005. University Archives, J. Eugene Smith Library, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, Connecticut 06226.
Restrictions	None.
Document types	Correspondence. Interviews. Photographs.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:**

The Church Farm, situated on over 250 acres of land on Route 89 in Ashford, CT, was first purchased by the Church family in the 1840s. The land was farmed by the Churches until the mid to late 1870s when they moved to Hartford, beginning a long career of operating clothier companies in Hartford, Putnam, Danielson, and Willimantic. A farm ledger from 1907-1922 shows that although the clothing businesses kept the farm running, the farm did remain operational and productive during this time, selling livestock and animal products including butter and wool. Though not their primary residence, the Church Farm Homestead continued to be a beloved summer vacation home for the family until the 1960s.

In 2008, the Church Farm and 110 acres were gifted to Eastern Connecticut State University, where it became the Church Farm Center for the Arts and Sciences – a convergence of interdisciplinary educational opportunities for ECSU students, from field studies to landscape art classes.

The Church Farm Collection contains materials and documents taken from the home relating to the farm and clothier businesses, as well as extensive family photographs. Though largely undated, the photographs range from family portraits and photographs of the farm house and business fronts, to snapshots from vacations and time spent at the farm during the early 1900s. Business and personal accounting ledgers run from 1842 to 1925; the personal ledgers dating from 1915-1925 illustrate the finances and expenditures of the Church family prior to the Depression. Also of particular interest is an April 2009 interview with Dorothy and Joe Zaring conducted by Dr. Barbara Tucker, Professor of History and Director of the Center for Connecticut Studies at ECSU.

For additional information on the Church Farm, see *Eastern Magazine*, Volume 7, Issue 3 (Summer 2009) and *The Ashford Citizen*, Volume 27 (November 2003).

### **SERIES DESCRIPTION:**

#### Series I – Correspondence

This series includes personal letters from Dorothy Church Zaring to Art McCann, site manager of the Church Farm, regarding his work toward a history of the farm; letters from the Connecticut Bank & Trust to Dorothy Church Zaring regarding Henry E. Church's trust after the death of her mother, Louise; and an inspection letter from the CT Trust for Historical Preservation noting needed repairs on the farm house.

#### Series II – Deeds / Land Records

The material in this series includes deeds and other land records (legal-sized documents) related to the Church Farm property.

#### Series III – Historical Data

This series includes notes, photographs, and other records relating to the history of the Church Farm. A chronology of the Church Farm and Dorothy Church Zaring's recollections are an interesting guide to the events and history related to the farm and the Church family.

#### Series IV – Ledgers

This series is a mix of business, personal, and farm accounts for the Church family. The most extensive ledgers are the personal accountings of the Church family from 1915-1925. Business ledgers include the years 1842-1905. The one farm ledger accounts for the years 1907-1922.

#### Series V – Personal Papers

This series includes notes and personal items from Henry E. Church and Dorothy Church Zaring, including school notebooks and a contemporary interview with Dorothy and Joe Zaring from April 2009.

#### Series VI – Photographs

This series includes family photos displayed in the Church Farm home, two scrapbooks, a photo album, and 16 stereoscope cards. The photo album encompasses mainly photos of the Church family at the farm, but also includes some photos of the family at Money Island and at their home(s) in Hartford, CT. Most photos are undated, but according to a typewritten note taped to the inside cover of the album, the photos date from 1906-1914. Scrapbook 1 includes clippings from newspapers, including poetry, news items, items related to Church family members and the Freeman Church Company, obituaries of J.W. Church (1910), and signed (often handwritten) poems by G.L. Dickinson. Scrapbook 2 appears to be a childhood scrapbook from 1916 with clipped poems, stories, and family photos. The photo album and two scrapbooks have been disassembled from their bindings, but kept in their original order. Five enlarged and mounted photographs are located in Box 5.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

N/A

#### **RELATED COLLECTIONS:**

The University Archives has a substantial collection of university archives material and also houses the Connecticut Studies Collection. For more detailed information on these collections please contact the staff member at the reference desk.

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Series I – Correspondence</b>		
1	Incoming. Carleson, Arnold E.	10 November 1988
	Incoming. Connecticut Bank and Trust	6 December 1968
	Incoming. Connecticut Bank and Trust	20 June 1968
	Incoming. CT Trust for Historic Preservation	15 December 2005
	Outgoing. McCann, Art	28 March 2004
	Outgoing. McCann, Art	8 March 2004
<b>Series II – Deeds / Land Records</b>		
3	Warrantee Deed / Commission on Sale, Hall's Pond	29 October 1986
	Copies of Deeds, 1729 – 1821	11 October 1986
	Management Agreement	22 August 1969
	Probate Record	9 December 1943
	Title, Legal Matters	8 February 1943
	Description of Property	14 January 1943
	Description of Property	November 1942
	Southern New England Telephone Easement	July 1941
	Distribution Certificate	15 September 1933
	Warrantee Deed	10 March 1900
	Quit-Claim Deed	31 July 1888
	Warrantee Deed	7 September 1872
<b>Series III – Historical Data</b>		
1	1860 Census Arranged by Dwelling	n.d.
	Assessor's List of 1844. Town of Ashford	n.d.
	Chronology of the Church Farm and Recollections	n.d.
	Hand-Drawn Road Map	n.d.
	History Notes	n.d.
	McCann, Art. Annotated Interior Photos	n.d.
	McCann, Art. Annotated Photos of House	2005
	McCann, Art. Photos and Text	n.d.
	Parks, Marion. Floor Plan and Profiles	n.d.
	Parks, Marion. History Draft	n.d.
	Photo Reproductions – Hayfield, Sheep Barn, House	n.d.
	Trinity College Field Station Coffee Table Book	n.d.
	Trinity College Field Station Annual Report	2003
<b>Series IV – Ledgers</b>		
4	Business Ledger (Conserphase box, on the shelf)	1842-[1853]
	Business Ledger	1871-1874
	Business Ledger	1897-1898
	Business Ledger	1897-1905
	Farm Ledger	1907-1922
	Personal Ledger	1915-1916

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Series IV – Ledgers</b>		
4	Personal Ledger	1916-1918
	Personal Ledger	1918-1919
	Personal Ledger	1919-1920
	Personal Ledger	1920-1922
	Personal Ledger	1924-1925
<b>Series V – Personal Papers</b>		
1	Cabala, or Rites and Ceremonies of the Cabalist	1888
	Church, Henry E. Ecce Orienti...	1875
	Church, Henry E. Sphinx Temple	28 October 1896
	Church Zaring, Dorothy. College Notebook	1932
	Church Zaring, Dorothy. Commencement Program	13 June 1932
	Church Zaring, Dorothy. School Notebook	n.d.
	Connecticut Freemasonry Notes	n.d.
	Freeman Church Co. Advertisement	[1902]
	Interview with the Zarings (CD)	3 April 2009
	Invitation. In Honor of Those Who Helped Restore...	n.d.
	Invitation. Joshua's Fete at the Church Farm	1 October 1988
	Joshua's Tract Spring 2006 Newsletter	2006
	Mass Card, Eliza A. Knowlton	1886
	Memoir of Col. Thomas Knowlton	1861
	Parks, Marion. Notes	1985-1987
<b>Series VI – Photographs</b>		
1	Church Farm House	n.d.
	Church Farm House	n.d.
	Church Farm House	1900
	Church Farm Pictures. Web Printout	4 March 2004
	Church the Clothier Building	n.d.
	Church, Hannah Keziah Knowlton	September 1927
	Church, Henry Ebenezer	n.d.
	Church, Henry Ebenezer in Bermuda	1885
	Church, Henry Ebenezer, Caricature	n.d.
	Church, Henry Ebenezer and Laurence	1906
	Church, John Whitman and Laurence	n.d.
	Church, Laurence	n.d.
	Church, Laurence	n.d.
	Church, Nancy	n.d.
	Church Zaring, Dorothy in Riding Habit	n.d.
	Freeman, Solomon	n.d.
5	Freeman Church Company	1917
1	Garden	1929
	New Barn	n.d.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series VI – Photographs		
1	New Barn and Old Shed	n.d.
	Shack on Kennerson Pond	n.d.
	Shack on Kennerson Pond	n.d.
	Shack on Munroe Church Pond	n.d.
	Shack on Munroe Church Pond	January 1919
	Unidentified Boy. Portrait	n.d.
	Unidentified Girl in Flowers	n.d.
	Unidentified Girl with Dolls	n.d.
	Unidentified Interior	n.d.
	Unidentified Man	n.d.
	Unidentified Man	n.d.
	Unidentified Men in Room	n.d.
	Unidentified View	n.d.
	Unidentified Woman	1928
	Unidentified Woman and Child	n.d.
	Unidentified Woman and Child	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 1A	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 1B	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 2	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 3	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 4	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 5	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 6	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 7	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 8	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 9	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 10	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 11	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 12	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 13	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 14	n.d., 1908-1909
	Photo Album. Page 15	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 16	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 17	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 18	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 19	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 20	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 21	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 22	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 23	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 24	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 25	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 26	n.d.



<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series VI – Photographs		
1	Photo Album. Page 27	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 28	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 29	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 30	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 31	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 32	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 33	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 34	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 35	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 36	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 37	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 38	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 39	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 40	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 41	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 42	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 43	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 44	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 45	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 46	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 47	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 48	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 49	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 50A	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 50B	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 51	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 52	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 53	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 54	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 55	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 56	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 57	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 58	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 59A	n.d.
	Photo Album. Page 59B	n.d.
2	Photo Album. Page 60	n.d., 1913-1914
	Photo Album. Page 61	n.d., 1913-1914
	Photo Album. Page 62	November 1913
	Photo Album. Page 63	1913-1914
	Photo Album. Page 64	n.d., 1914
	Photo Album. Page 65	1914
	Photo Album. Page 66	1913-1914
	Photo Album. Page 67	1914

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series VI – Photographs		
2	Photo Album. Page 68	1914
	Photo Album. Page 69	n.d., 1913-1914
	Scrapbook 1. Page 1 Loose Material	27 September 1924
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 1 & 2	n.d., 1924
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 3 & 4	n.d., 1901, 1906
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 4 & 5 Loose Material	n.d.
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 5 & 6	n.d., 1904, 1906
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 6 & 7 Loose Material	n.d.
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 7 & 8	n.d.
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 8 & 9 Loose Material	n.d.
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 9 & 10	n.d., 1906
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 11 & 12	n.d.
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 13 & 14	n.d., 1906, 1907
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 14 & 15 Loose Material	n.d.
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 15 & 16	n.d.
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 17 & 18	n.d., 1923
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 19 & 20	n.d., 1910, 1923, 1925
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 21 & 22	n.d., 1925
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 23 & 24	n.d., 1895, 1925, 1927
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 25 & 26	1924-1926, 1932
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 27 & 28	n.d., 1932, 1935
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 29 & 30	1910, 1932
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 31 & 32	n.d., 1907-1908
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 33 & 34	n.d., 11 August 1904
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 34 & 35 Loose Material	10 February 1934
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 35 & 36	1908-1919
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 36 & 37 Loose Material	[1910]
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 37 & 38	n.d., 1887, 1910
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 38 & 39 Loose Material	27 February 1925
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 39 & 40	n.d., 1909, 1932
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 41 & 42	n.d., 15 July 1900
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 43 & 44	n.d.
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 45 & 46	n.d.
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 47 & 48	n.d., 1905
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 48 & 49 Loose Material	1898, 1903, 1931, 1932
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 49 & 50	1898, 1900
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 50 & 51 Loose Material	17 July 1903
	Scrapbook 1. Pages 51 & 52	n.d., 1898, 1903
	Scrapbook 2. Inside Front Cover	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Front Loose Material	n.d., 1926
	Scrapbook 2. Page 1	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 2	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 2 Loose Material	1926

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series VI – Photographs		
2	Scrapbook 2. Page 3	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 4A & 4B	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 5A & 5B	n.d., 1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 6A & 6B	n.d., 1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 7A & 7B	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 8	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 9	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 10	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 11	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 12	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 13	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 14	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 15	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 16	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 17	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 18 & 19	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 20 & 21	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 22 & 23	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 24 & 25	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 26A & 26B	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 27	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 28	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 29	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 30	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 31A & 31B	n.d., 1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 32A & 32B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 33A & 33B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 34A & 34B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 35A & 35B	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 36A & 36B	n.d., 1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 37A & 37B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 38A & 38B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 39A & 39B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 40A & 40B	n.d., 1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 41A & 41B	n.d., 1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 42A & 42B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 43A & 43B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 44A & 44B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 45 Loose Material	n.d., 1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 45A & 45B	n.d., 1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 47A & 47B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 48A & 48B	n.d., 1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 49A & 49B	n.d., 1916

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series VI – Photographs		
2	Scrapbook 2. Page 50A & 50B	n.d., 1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 51A & 51B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 52A & 52B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 53A & 53B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 54A & 54B	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 55A & 55B	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 56A & 56B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 57A & 57B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 58A & 58B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 59A & 59B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 60A & 60B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 61A & 61B	1916
	Scrapbook 2. Page 62A & 62B	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Page 63A & 63B	n.d.
	Scrapbook 2. Back Loose Material	n.d., 1923
	Stereoscope Card. American Falls	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. Bliss	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. Borne, from Aarwharf, Switzerland	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. Castle Garden, NY	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. East Room in the White House	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. Green Room in President's Mansion...	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. Jones, Just Home from the Club...	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. Londonderry on the Foyle, Ireland	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. Looking Down Upon His Luck	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. Oft in the Stilly Night	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. Picking Cotton, Louisiana	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. Rhine Falls and Lauffer Castle, Ger.	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. The Sick Kitten	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. State Bedroom in the White House	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. That "Pesky" Rat Again	n.d.
	Stereoscope Card. Views of Bristol (CT) and Vicinity	n.d.