

University of Oklahoma Libraries
Western History Collections

Samuel M. Boydston Collection

Boydston, Samuel M. (b. 1884). Papers, 1908–1927. .25 foot.

Union activist. Financial secretary's ledger (1908–1911) for United Mine Workers Local #1864 (Wilburton, Oklahoma); correspondence (1916–1922) concerning Boydston's activities as an Oklahoma United Mine Workers board member from Sub-District #1, U.M.W. #21, including member complaints submitted for arbitration.

Biography:

Sam Boydston, prominent in Oklahoma labor affairs, came to the Choctaw Nation in 1884 and took employment as a coal miner at Wilburton. Later he became an executive in the United Mine Workers' Union, District 21, and remained active in promoting the Labor Movement in Oklahoma until his death in 1927.

Folder 1:

1. Wilburton Local Chapter, UMW Union, Financial Secretary's Ledger, 1908-11
2. Printed Material
 - A. Mathematics Book - for correspondence course of the Oklahoma School of Mines and Metallurgy.
 - B. Mine Ventilation Book - for correspondence course of the Oklahoma School of Mines and Metallurgy.
 - C. Elementary Mining Engineering - for correspondence course of the Oklahoma School of Mines and Metallurgy.
 - D. 1911-12 Mine Report of Oklahoma (Ed Boyle, Chief Mine Inspector)
NOTE: Interest to students of coal mining and oil production in Oklahoma. Conditions of all mines in Oklahoma in 1911-12. Fatal accidents; expenses accounts of mine inspectors; coal production statistics and oil well production 1911-12.

Folder 2:

1. Correspondence 1916-19 (Fragmentary correspondence union activities, 1916-19):

Two letters from UNW to Boydston, labor union dues paid.
One statement of facts.
Five letters of support.
Three pp. briefs on case of J. A. Kuykendall vs. J. B. Hilling Coal Co.
One telegram from John L. Briton, no date.
Two letters, handwritten, concerns miners being laid off
One receipt, Union Hospital Association.

Two letters, Dept. of Labor to Boydston, concerns enemy aliens working in mines in WWI. Marked confidential.

Correspondence, Union Activities, 1920

Correspondence dealing primarily with wage settlements, strikes, layoffs, and bad working conditions in the coal mines. Several handwritten letters from miners who were fired from job or supposedly suffered some injustice from mine owners. Remainder of correspondence deals with meetings, labor board reviews, decisions, etc. (Much correspondence to E. F. Ross, Secretary Treasurer, UMI District 21).

Correspondence, Union Activities, 1921

Same type of correspondence. One humorous letter to J. W. Phillips, Sheriff of Atoka County, concerning UMW car owned by Boydston and "borrowed" by Arthur Richardson of Coalgate, Oklahoma.

Correspondence, Union Activities, Jun. 1921 - Nov. 1922

Basically the same as above. One sketch of unknown person on back of M.F. Upton letter, June 2, 1921. Series of decisions by John P. White (Int. UMW of A) and W.L.A. Johnson (S.I.C.O. Association).

Business Papers

Five pension receipts, Jul. 6, 1918 @ \$20/receipt.

Two district (1917-18) 21 per capita tax receipts signed by G. F. Ross (Sec
Treas).

Two district (1917 & 1918) 21 per capita tax receipts signed by O.S. Wilson.

Two monthly business reports signed by Boydston.

Two International Secretary-Treasurer's Receipts (1917-18) signed by S.M.
Boydston.

Two miscellaneous receipts.

Business Papers, Pay Lists, Record of Shipment

Two pp. summary of shipments.

Two adding machine receipts, Nov. ??

List of miners donating to Red Cross.

Three 5 to 4/30/1918, paylists (Originals).

Three transfer card forms, 1912.