Charles L. Hyde business correspondence

Finding aid prepared by Brooke M. Black
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Charles L. Hyde business correspondence
Dates: 1896-1916
Collection Call Number: mssHyde business correspondence
Creator: Hyde, Charles Leavitt, 1860-1938
Extent: 109 items in one box
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
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Language of Material: The records are in English.
Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Charles L. Hyde business correspondence, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Acquisition Information
The collection was purchased from Michael Vinson Americana, February 2015.
Biography
Charles Leavitt Hyde was a prominent citizen and businessman of Pierre, South Dakota. He was born in Illinois in 1860. In 1888, Hyde moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota and got involved in the real estate business. He married Katherine Robinson in 1886; they had four children: Ruth Elizabeth, Charles L. Jr., Dorothy, and Franklin. Charles L. Hyde helped found the city of Pierre (the capital of South Dakota) and owned much property in the city. He built the St. Charles Hotel, which still stands. Hyde was tried and convicted for fraudulent advertising in 1911, but President Taft later pardoned him. He wrote a memoir in 1919 entitled Pioneer days: the story of an adventurous and active life.
Scope and Content
The collection consists of 43 business letters written by Charles L. Hyde, 39 of which are addressed to O. D. Chester of Camden, Michigan. All of the correspondence deals with the real estate business in Pierre, South Dakota and Chester's investments in the city, with the recommendations of Hyde. Many of the letters are short notes stating that Hyde received payment from Chester, but others go into detail about the property available in Pierre. There is also some discussion of property taxes. Several of the letters have copies of Chester's reply to Hyde on verso of the letters. There is one letter by Omar Hollingsworth to O. D. Chester as well as two letters by Hyde to B. R. Alward, also of Camden, Michigan, and one letter by Hyde to William J. Sizemore of Charleston, Illinois.
The collection includes ephemera material including: a pamphlet, brochure and article about Charles L. Hyde; map of city of Pierre, published by Charles L. Hyde; postcard receipts; tax receipts; and financial notes made by O. D. Chester to John I. Newell at the "Office of Charles L. Hyde."
Personal Names
Chester, O. D., recipient
Hyde, Charles Levitt, 1860-1938
Subjects
Businessmen -- South Dakota -- Pierre
Real property -- South Dakota -- Pierre

**Geographic Areas**
Pierre (S.D.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources
Pierre (S.D.) -- History -- 20th century -- Sources
Pierr (S.D.) -- Description and travel
South Dakota -- History -- 19th century -- Sources
South Dakota -- History -- 20th century -- Sources

**Genre**
Financial records -- South Dakota -- 19th century
Financial records -- South Dakota -- 20th century
Letters (correspondence) -- South Dakota -- 19th century
Letters (correspondence) -- South Dakota -- 20th century

Box 1

**Charles L. Hyde business correspondence and ephemera**

**Folder 1**

1 item. With envelope.

**Folder 2**

**Hyde, Charles Levitt, 1860-1938, letters to O. D. Chester (1897)**
11 items. Includes financial note by Chester. Two of the letters have copies of Chester's reply to Hyde on verso.

**Folder 3**

**Hyde, Charles Levitt, 1860-1938, letters to O. D. Chester (1898)**
6 items.

**Folder 4**

**Hyde, Charles Levitt, 1860-1938, letters to O. D. Chester (1899)**
10 items. One of the letters has a copy of Chester's reply to Hyde on verso.

**Folder 5**

**Hyde, Charles Levitt, 1860-1938, letters to O. D. Chester (1900)**
7 items.

**Folder 6**

**Hyde, Charles Levitt, 1860-1938, letters to O. D. Chester (1901)**

**Folder 7**

**Hyde, Charles Levitt, 1860-1938, letter to O. D. Chester (1902, Jan. 24)**
1 item. With envelope.

**Folder 8**

**Hyde, Charles Levitt, 1860-1938, letter to "Gentlemen" (1903, Dec. 28)**
1 item.

**Folder 9**

**Hyde, Charles Levitt, 1860-1938, letters to B. R. Alward (1904)**
2 items.

**Folder 10**

[**Hyde, Charles Levitt, 1860-1938], letter to William J. Sizemore (1916, Apr. 10)**
1 item. Unsigned copy.

**Folder 11**

**Chester, O. D. Financial notes to John I. Newell (1897)**
29 items. Items are torn (no signatures).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chester, O. D. Receipts of payments to Charles Leavitt Hyde, 1860-1938 (1899) 11 items. Several are torn (no signatures).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Hyde, Charles Levitt, 1860-1938. Postcard receipts made to O. D. Chester (1898-1904) 3 items.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ephemera (1897) 4 items. Includes pamphlet, brochure and map by Charles Leavitt Hyde, 1860-1938, and an article about Hyde.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Tax receipts of O. D. Chester (1897-1916) 8 items.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>