

McLean County Museum of History

Higgins-Jung-Kleinau Co. Collection

Processed by Carol Straka  
January 2020

Collection Information

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| VOLUME OF COLLECTION: | 2 Boxes   |
| COLLECTION DATES:     | 1886-1956   |
| RESTRICTIONS:         | None  |
| REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:  | Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History |
| ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:  | None  |
| OTHER FINDING AIDS:   | None  |
| LOCATION:             | Archives  |
| NOTES:                |   |

Brief History

Hamer J. Higgins (1840-1902) began apprenticing as a marble cutter at Haldeman's Marble Works on East Front Street in downtown Bloomington. By the late 1870s, he was part owner of the firm, then known as J.H. Higgins & Co. He was joined in partnership in 1878 by Jacob Phlllip Jung (1850-1933) and in 1890 by Charles A. Kleinau (c.1861-1933), although Higgins maintained majority ownership and control of the company.

After Higgins' death in 1902, the company became a joint stock company named Higgins-Jung-Kleinau Co. After Jung and Kleinau died in 1933, descendants of the three original partners continued to operate the company and own a majority of the stock until it closed in 1956.

Bookkeeper Ada Maxwell (1861-1955) worked for the firm for forty-four years. Thanks to a bequest from Jung, she became a shareholder and served as director, secretary, and treasurer.

During eighty years of business in the 200 block of East Front Street, the company carved

monuments that grace cemeteries throughout central Illinois. By 1889, the firm was selling tombstones across eight or nine states although their monuments appear in cemeteries as far flung as New York City and Los Angeles.

## Scope

Documents from Higgins-Jung-Kleinau Co. include financial ledgers, corporation records, annual physical inventories, 1931 supplier and customer correspondence, and sketch books showing customer monuments with coded prices and other details. Two financial ledgers from predecessor firm H.J. Higgins & Co. are also included.

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Box 1: Bound Financial Record Books

Ledger: Jan 1886-Dec 1887. Tucked inside is a paperback list of parties billed and corresponding invoice numbers.

Ledger: Jan 1889-May 1902

Ledger: May-Dec, perhaps 1902

Ledger: 1902-1904

Ledger: May 1902-Dec 1903

Ledger: Jan-Dec 1914

### Box 2: Corporation Records, Sketch Books and Correspondence

**Index books:** 5 slender books, listing customers and presumably invoice numbers, undated.

**Corporation Records Book:** Articles of incorporation, minutes of stockholders and directors meetings, bylaws, register of stock certificates issued, reissued, transferred or canceled, dividend records, etc., 1902-1933.

**Corporation Records Book** (no label on spine): includes copies of organization and incorporation in 1902, capital stock subscription list, articles of incorporation, notice of first meetings of incorporators and directors, bylaws, minutes from 1933 to 1956, stock transfer records, dividends payments, and a few pertinent letters.

**Annual Inventory Records** (unlabeled smaller ledger book) Jan 1922 – 1947 Annual January 1 detailed inventory of materials and equipment.

**Sketches:** (ledger book): List of customer invoices, then monument by monument info such as customer name, sketch, monument material, coded price, delivery date, etc., Apr 1897-Sep 1902.

**Sketch Book 1910:** Monument by monument info such as customer name, sketch, monument material, coded price, delivery date, etc., Sep 1910-Sep 1921.

**Sketch Book 1921.** Monument by monument info such as customer name, sketch, monument material, coded price, delivery date, etc., Oct 1921-May 1933.

**File of Correspondence:** Accordion file of 1931 correspondence, sorted by name. Includes correspondence from suppliers and customers, copies of correspondence to customers, etc.