



The Historical
Society of
Pennsylvania

Collection 2174

**Barker Family
Papers**

**1821-1945 (bulk 1875-1945)
9 boxes, 3 lin. feet**

Contact: The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: (215) 732-6200 FAX: (215) 732-2680
<http://www.hsp.org>

Processed by: Michelle Jastrzemski and Rachel Moskowitz
Processing Completed: November 2007
Restrictions: None
**Related Collections at
HSP:** None

Barker Family
Papers, 1821-1945 (bulk 1875-1945)
9 boxes, 3 lin. feet

Collection 2174

Abstract

The Barker Family papers document the histories of the Barker and Blood families. James Barker was a cotton and woolen machinery and iron castings manufacturer in Philadelphia in the late nineteenth century. He had two sons, Joseph Pollitt and Alfred. While little is known about Alfred, his brother Joseph worked for James Barker's company as both a traveling salesman and an engineer.

In 1908, Joseph Pollitt Barker married Eleanor Kendall Blood Barker (E.K.B.B.), the daughter of Jonathan Henry Blood, who owned a hosiery company, and Eleanor Kendall Blood (E.K.B.). The daughter Eleanor had many suitors from the years 1901 to 1908, and this correspondence with these men makes up a compelling part of this collection.

This collection includes patents, plans, photographs, and correspondence relating to the Barker Machine and Foundry Company. It also includes some patent papers of John H. Blood, brother of E.K.B.B. Estate papers, deeds, mortgages and various other items relating to property assets and finances for both the Barker and the Blood families are also found in this collection.

There is also a sizeable amount of the Barker and the Blood families' personal correspondence. Love letters to E.K.B.B., and earlier yet remarkably similar love letters to her mother, E.K.B., comprise much of the collection. Also included is correspondence between other family members and friends, wedding invitations, holiday cards, and other miscellaneous items.

Background note

Jonathan Henry Blood, a young man from Chicago born in either the 1850s or 1860s, married E.K.B. in 1882 after years of persistent courting and persuasion. On June 2, 1884, she gave birth to a daughter, whom she named Eleanor Kendall, after herself.¹ E.K.B. and John also had a son, several years younger than Eleanor, named John Henry after his father. Jonathan worked as a traveling salesman and was away from home often,

¹ In the papers, one will see references to "Nell" and "Nellie", both nicknames for Eleanor. "Nell" refers to Eleanor Kendall Blood, and "Nellie" is her daughter, Eleanor Kendall Blood Barker.

especially during the summer.² During this time, he wrote to his wife and daughter in Denver, Colorado almost daily. Traveling throughout the country from New York to California, Jonathan described everything from real estate prices and business enterprises to health and weather. The Bloods moved to Cleveland, Ohio by the time E.K.B.B. was an adolescent. In 1898, when she was only fourteen, her mother died.

By the time E.K.B.B. was in her late teens she was already being courted by several young men. At least two of these men, Jack Carmack and Charles Greberg, were close friends with each other. E.K.B.B. corresponded with several suitors from 1901 to 1908. Each of these men professed his love for E.K.B.B. and his desire to marry her as soon as she would agree to their standing proposals. Disappointing her other suitors, E.K.B.B. agreed to marry Joseph Pollitt Barker of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Joseph, the son of James Barker and Mary Emma Barker, was working as a traveling salesman for his father's company during the years he courted Eleanor. On May 27, 1908, Joseph and E.K.B.B. were wed in Cleveland, Ohio.³ Following their wedding the two traveled throughout Europe on a summer-long honeymoon.

Upon returning home, the newlyweds remained in Philadelphia. In 1912, E.K.B.B. gave birth to a son, Joseph Benson Forakee Barker. Little is known of his childhood. He served in and survived World War II.

When James Barker died in 1923, Joseph Pollitt Barker and his brother Alfred took over their father's business, running the Barker Machine and Foundry Company in Philadelphia. Joseph was also busy patenting new machinery technology. John H. Blood, E.K.B.B.'s brother, was also an avid inventor and had several patents of his own, both in the United States and abroad.

Scope & content

This collection illustrates both family and business life in America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Series 1a (*Barker papers*) contains information about the Barker family business. Series 1b (*Blood papers*) consists of the papers of John H. Blood, E.K.B.B.'s brother. The Barker family business has a greater representation in this series than the Blood family. Series 2 (*Personal*) covers the courtship and marriage of E.K.B.B. The letters she received from various suitors are of particular interest. For example, a suitor named Milton W. Lusk began courting E.K.B.B. in the summer of 1904 until 1907. In one particular letter, E.K.B.B. is away on vacation. Lusk writes, "I suppose you are the busy one, dancing your head off and breaking hearts as usual- but say dearie don't you get struck on any one [sic] until I come and then if you fall in love with me all over again I will be the most happy of all the happy men who have come in contact with you dear."⁴ This series includes the letters of her future husband as well as other correspondence, such as wedding invitations and other ephemera. There are also a few

² Jonathan H. Blood is also referred to in the papers as "John".

³ Joseph P. Barker is sometimes referred to in the papers as "Josie" or "Joe"

⁴ Milton W. Lusk to Eleanor K. Blood (Barker), Jul.-Aug 1904. Box 6, folder 4, Barker Family Papers [Collection 2174], The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

folders of Blood family correspondence including John W. Blood's letters to his wife Evelyn W.G. Blood, and some letters to another relative, Fred W. Blood.

Overview of arrangement

Series I	Business	3 boxes
	a. Barker papers (1876-1939)	
	b. Blood papers (1821-1941)	
Series II	Personal (1878-1945)	6 boxes

Series description

Series 1. Business (Boxes 1-3)

a. Barker papers, 1876-1939

This series includes invoices and correspondence relating to the Barker Machine and Foundry Company. It also includes estate papers for James and Joseph P. Barker. Deeds, mortgages, and address books for the Barker family are also represented in this series.

b. Blood papers, 1821-1941

This series includes patent papers of John H. Blood, both foreign and domestic. It also includes illustrations his invention, a new type of beverage container. It includes papers from the Barney property dating back to 1821.

Series 2. Personal, 1878-1945 (Box 4-9)

This series includes the correspondence of various suitors with E.K.B.B., including her future husband, Joseph P. Barker. E.K.B.B and Joseph's correspondence continued during their married life, and both of their letters are in this collection. This series also includes wedding bills and receipts as well as invitations to other weddings. This series also includes some correspondence between John H. Blood and his wife, Evelyn W.G. Blood, as well as correspondence with Fred W. Blood. Lastly, the series includes a personal diary of E.K.B.B. entitled "My Trip Abroad," an English-French dictionary, date books, and household account books for the Barker family.

Separation report

None.

Related materials

None.

Subjects

Business transactions – 19th century
Business transactions – 20th century
Courtship – History
Europe – Description and travel – 20th century
Letter writing – United States – History – 19th century
Letter writing – United States – History – 20th century
Love-letters – History
Machinery industry – Pennsylvania
Marriage – History – 19th century
Marriage – History – 20th century
Motherhood – United States – History – 20th century
Ocean travel – 20th century
Patents – Europe – 20th century - History
Patents – United States – 19th century – History
Patents – United States – 20th century – History
Textile machinery – History
Travel – Europe
Travel – History – 20th century
Stock certificates
Women – Conduct of life
Women – Social life and customs – 19th century

Barker, Alfred
Barker, Eleanor Kendall Blood, b. 1884
Barker, James, d. 1923
Barker, Joseph Benson Forakee, b. 1912
Barker, Joseph Pollitt
Blood, Eleanor Kendall, d. ca. 1898
Blood, Evelyn W.G.
Blood, Fred W.
Blood, Jonathan H.

Administrative Information

Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

Acquisition information

Provenance unknown.

Preferred citation

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Barker Family Papers (Collection 2174), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Processing note

Processed by Michelle Jastrzemski and Rachel Moskowitz, 2007

Two date books were taken to conservation for encapsulation and a photograph was taken to be unrolled, flattened, and cleaned on August 24, 2007.

Box and folder listing

Series 1 Business a. Barker Papers.

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Barker Machine and Foundry Company records	1913-1917, n.d.	1	1
Barker Machine and Foundry Company memoranda	1915-1930	1	2
John A. Lutton estate papers	1920-1926	1	3
James Barker estate papers	1926-1931	1	4
Joseph P. Barker business correspondence	1931-1940	1	5
Barker business miscellaneous papers	n.d.	1	6
Joseph P. Barker memorandum books	1933, 1938, 1939, n.d.	1	7
Joseph P. Barker address and telephone books	n.d.	1	8
Barker Family deeds, mortgages, etc.	1895-1926	1	9
James Barker patent papers	1875-1922	2	1
Joseph P. Barker patent papers	1931-1937	2	2
Joseph P. Barker machinery plans	n.d.	2	3
Joseph P. Barker machinery photographs	n.d.	2	4

Series 1 Business b. Blood Papers.

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
John H. Blood patent papers, U.S.	1932-1935	3	1
John H. Blood patent papers, foreign	1932-1936	3	2
John H. Blood beverage container drawings	n.d.	3	3
John H. Blood, Barney property papers	1821-1905	3	4
John H. Blood miscellaneous business papers	1902-1941	3	5

Series 2 Personal.

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder
Jonathan H. Blood to Eleanor Kendall (Blood)	1878-1891	4	1-3
Jonathan H. Blood family correspondence	1891-1941	4	4
Jonathan H. Blood correspondence to Eleanor K. Blood (Barker) and Joseph P. Barker	1907-1925	4	5
Jonathan H. Blood miscellaneous correspondence	1898-1943	4	6
John H. Blood newspaper clippings	n.d.	4	7
John H. and Evelyn W.G. Blood correspondence	1920-1942	4	8
Leatta Wills to Fred W. Blood	Feb.-Mar. 1924	4	9
John E. Carmack to Eleanor K. Blood (Barker)	Apr. 1901-1907, n.d.	5	1-6
Friends/Family of John Carmack to Eleanor K. Blood (Barker)	1902-1907	5	7
Charles A. Greberg to Eleanor K. Blood (Barker)	1904-1907, n.d.	6	1-3
Milton W. Lusk to Eleanor K. Blood (Barker)	Jul.1904-1908, n.d.	6	4-7
Joseph P. Barker to Eleanor K. Blood (Barker)	Sept. 1907-1908, n.d.	7	1-7
Eleanor K. Blood (Barker) to Joseph Barker	1907-1911, n.d.	8	1-4
Eleanor K. Blood (Barker) and Joseph P. Barker miscellaneous ephemera	n.d.	8	5
Eleanor K. Blood (Barker) and Joseph P. Barker miscellaneous correspondence	1898-1938	8	6
Eleanor K. Blood (Barker) and Joseph P. Barker correspondence re: marriage, birth	1908-1912	8	7
Eleanor K. Blood (Barker) correspondence and journal entries	n.d.	8	8
Eleanor K. Blood (Barker) wedding invoices (own), ephemera	1902-1907, n.d.	8	9

Eleanor K. Blood (Barker) wedding invitations (other)	1906-1908, n.d.	8	10
Pop Stevens to Eleanor K. Blood (Barker) and Joseph P. Barker	1915-1945	8	11
Alfred Barker correspondence	1908	8	12
English-French dictionary	n.d.	9	1
Eleanor K. Blood (Barker) date books	1905-1908	9	2-5
Eleanor K. Blood (Barker) journal, "My Trip Abroad"	n.d.	9	6
Eleanor K. Blood (Barker) loose journal entries	n.d.	9	7
Household account book vol. 1	1936-1937	9	8
Household account book vol. 2	1937-1938	9	9
Household account book, Cape May, vol. 1	1936	9	10
Household account books, Cape May, vol. 2	1937	9	11