

Vine and Ashmead Patent

Vine and Ashmead Patent

1849-1850



Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

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Unit Date

1849-1850

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection contains a patent awarded to William Vine (1798-ca. 1872) and James H. Ashmead (1810-1880) of Hartford, Connecticut, for "machines beating gold".

Creator

Ashmead, James H., 1810-1880

Creator

Vine, William, 1798-1872

Extent

1 Cubic Feet 1 oversize

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Vine and Ashmead patent was acquired by Special Collections and University Archives prior to 1986.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Vine and Ashmead Patent completed in November 2023.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [folder], Vine and Ashmead Patent, 1849-1850, Ms1986-014, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Notes

James H. Ashmead was born about 1810 in Pennsylvania. Ashmead married Susan Jane Terry of Hartford, Connecticut, in 1839. During his life, Ashmead worked as a gold foil merchant. He died in 1880.

William Vine was born in England in 1798. By 1830, he and his wife Sarah moved to New York, where they had several children. By 1850, he was a machinist in Hartford, Connecticut. The next year, he was listed in the Hartford city directory as a "patentee and manufacturer of gold beating machines, knife polishing machines, and a variety of other articles." He died around 1872.

Sources:

U.S. Federal Censuses, 1850-1860

James Ashmead (abt. 1810 - aft. 1870), WikiTree, <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Ashmead-40>, accessed November 2023.

"James H Ashmead", Findagrave.com, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146075354/james-h-ashmead>, accessed October 8, 2025.

"William Vine" in the U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/search/collections/2469/records/1276711508>, accessed October 8, 2025.

"William Vine", Findagrave.com, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14138566/william-vine>, accessed October 8, 2025.

Scope and Content

This collection contains a handwritten patent certificate (No. 7552) awarded to William Vine and James H. Ashmead of Hartford, Connecticut for "machines for beating gold." The four-page document includes a description of the device and a set of engineering drawings for it.

Related Archival Materials

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has digitized a copy of the published patent, which can be retrieved by searching the USPTO's Patent Public Search for patent number 0007552.

Keywords

Science and Technology
Patents -- United States

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Description of Subordinate Components

Patent

Unit Date 1849-1850

oversize 1 (folder)