Teter, W. L. Papers

W. L. Teter Papers

circa 1878-1911

Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID
Mss. Acc. 2010.783

Unit ID
/repositories/2/resources/1503

Unit Date
circa 1878-1911

Language
English

Creator
Teter, W. L.

Extent
1.40 Linear Feet

Repository
Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

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Biographical Information:

William L. (W. L.) Teter was an American inventor and entrepreneur of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.Teter was born in Morgan County, Ohio on February 20, 1841 to Henry and Catherine Teter(s). He was the third of their five children. His siblings were named John H., born 1829, George W., born 1833, Philip, born 1846, and Catherine, born 1844. Henry Teter maintained a farm in Morgan County.

W. L. Teter married Parmelia Vaughn, also of Morgan County, on April 19, 1863. Their first child, Frank, was born the following year, and their daughter Pearl, was born in 1874. During the Civil War, Teter served in the Union Army as a Private in Company H of the 17th Ohio Infantry. A request for an "invalid pension" indicates Teter may have been wounded during the Civil War.

Soon after his military service, Teter moved his family to Rockbridge County, VA and settled in the town of Goshen. (Interestingly, a "William L. Teter" appears as an enlistee in McClanahan's Company of the Virginia Light Horse Artillery, also known as the Staunton Artillery of the Confederate Army.)

Teter'searliest inventions were to improve methods in the processing of grain. In 1874, he assigned US Patent Number 154,268 for an "Improvement in Millstone-Dress" to J. D. Mines of Moffett's Creek, VA. Teter's idea for an "invention ... whereby a mill-burr may be dressed so as to prepare the grain for flouring at the eye of the stone, and this save a large percentage of the power ordinarily required...as well as permit the mill to operate by twenty-five per cent less water" was handed over to Mines for implementation.

United States Patent 224,969 was awarded to Teter in 1880 for an improvement on a device used in the production of flour. His enhancement was to the "middlings purifier." The patent was for a special rotating bolt into which kernels of wheat are fed to remove the husk and in the construction of the purifier box whereby air is admitted to control the process at various points along the bolt.

In 1882, Teter was awarded United States Patent 262,505 for the "process of and apparatus for the cleaning of grain." The object of the invention was "to clean wheat and other grains by removing its outer or bran coating, thereby producing an article from which to make flour which shall retain its nitrogenous elements upon grinding it into a flour in the ordinary mill." In 1885, Edward H, Graham sued Teter unsuccessfully for patent infringement.

The focus of Teter's inventions shifted from agricultural improvements to the increased popular applications in the use of electricity and other emerging technologies of the period. He founded and invested in companies attempting to profit from the technological advances of the period.

In 1893, Teter was granted a patent, along with H. L. Webster, for "improvements relating to the generation of heat by the combustion of fuel and to apparatus thereof."

Teter invented an "electric water filter" and was awarded U. S. Patent No. 583,718 in 1897. His invention was for a device of "relatively inexpensive construction which will operate automatically in separating the contained foreign matter from water during the passage there through...destroy all germs and application of a current of electricity and thereby render the water absolutely pure." Three years later, he filed for a patent for improvement to this patent in collaboration with J. A. Heany. That same year he incorporated the Standard Electro Magnetic Power Co. to acquire electric, electromagnetic, and other patents to be used in the manufacture of dynamos.

In 1899, he co-founded, along with M. L. Ritter, O. W. Sellers and L.C. Stalnaker, and incorporated the Jeffries Automatic Air Brake Co. "to purchase and sell patents for air, water steam and railway appliances." His

business interests called for him to move from to Philadelphia for a time to be closer to newfound business associates and opportunities.

As shown on an application for a veteran's widow pension, W. L. Teter died on October 28, 1911.

Further information about this individual or organization may be available in the Special Collections Research Center Wiki: http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/W._L._Teter.

Scope and Contents

Ledgers, letterbooks, diaries, and other material, 1878-1920s, related to W. L. Teter of Pennsylvania and Goshen, Virginia. Teter was an inventor and these volumes contain his expenses and sketches and descriptions of various inventions, as well as details about his personal life. Papers include stock certificates, clippings, genealogical notes, and other related material. There are also volumes, which include a book of drawings of W.L. Teter's patents, account books, copy books, and diaries.

Keywords

Diaries
Ledgers (Accounting)
Letter books
Inventions--History--United States
Inventors--United States
Genealogies
Sketches
Patents
Stock certificates

Description of Subordinate Components

Box 1
Unit ID id97327
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143582
Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Personal Papers of W. L. Teter
Unit ID id97329
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143585
Mixed Materials 1 (Box)
Container 1 (Folder)
Scope and Contents
Personal Papers of W. L. Teter (19 items).

Item 1
Unit ID id97330
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143600
Mixed Materials 1 (Box)
Container 1 (Folder)
Container 1 (Item)
Scope and Contents
Clipping, undated from unidentified publication, on "preparation for the work of teaching" attributed to the Pilgrim Teacher.

Item 2
Unit ID id98875
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143601

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 2 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Newspaper clipping, undated from an unidentified newspaper titled "The Appetizing Bacon."

Item 3

Unit ID id98876

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143602

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 3 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Voucher, undated and unattributed, for a government pension.

Item 4

Unit ID id98877

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143603

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 4 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Notes, undated, relating to the genealogy of the Teter family. Notes contain records of births and marriages of Teter family members as well as a description of John H Teter who was shot through the right lung at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863, lay wounded on the battlefield for six days before he was taken to a hospital. He died while dressing himself in preparation for leaving the hospital for home on December 3, 1863.

Item 5

Unit ID id98878

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143604

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 5 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Certificate for 24,900 shares of stock in the Gas, Fuel Power & Light Company issued to W. L. Teter on April 28, 1891.

Item 6

Unit ID id98880

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143605

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 6 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Certificate for 5,000 shares of stock in the Gas, Fuel Power & Light Company issued to W. L. Teter on September 24, 1891.

Item 7

Unit ID id98881

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143606

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 7 (Item)

Scope and Contents

TD for a option to purchase shares in a company to be organized in support of a Patent Serial No. 441,013, filed July 23, 1892 for "improvements in Casting for Ammonia Kettles or Retorts with a compound of Graphite as aligning between the castings and all improvements pertaining to the same."

Item 8

Unit ID id98882

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143607

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 8 (Item)

Scope and Contents

AM (circa 1896) of shareholders in the American Gas and Fuel Company and number of shares held by each.

Item 9

Unit ID id98884

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143608

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 9 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Certificate for 500 shares of stock in the American Gas and Fuel Company issued to C. W. Wood on January 24, 1896 and signed by W. L. Teter.

Item 10

Unit ID id98885

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143609

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 10 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Certificate for 1,000 shares of stock in American Gas Fuel Company issued to C. W. Wood on January 24, 1896 and signed by W. L. Teter.

Item 11

Unit ID id98886

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143610

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 11 (Item)

Scope and Contents

ALS dated March 27, 1897 to W. L. Teter from B. F. Mulvey, Engineer of the Perseverance Worsted Company, Woonsocket, RI. The letter is a statement from Mulvey denying that Teter offered him a bribe of 250 shares of stock in American Gas Fuel Power Company to falsify a report as to the operation of a "system" in use by Perseverance Worsted.

Item 12

Unit ID id98887

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143611

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 12 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Receipt, dated November 27, 1897, to I. L. Bender, Clerk of the County Court of Berkeley County, WV, for $1.25 from the United Hydro-Carbon Gas Fuel Company for the recording of a power of attorney.

Item 13

Unit ID id98888

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143612

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 13 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Receipt, dated November 27, 1897, to Wm. M. O. Dawson, Secretary of the State of West Virginia for $2.50 from the L.C. Stalnaker, United Hydro-Carbon Gas Fuel Company for the recording of a power of attorney.

Item 14

Unit ID id98889

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143613

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 14 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Certificate of incorporation issued by the State of West Virginia to the United Hydro-Carbon Gas Fuel Company, dated January 10, 1898.

Item 15

Unit ID id98890

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143614

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 15 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Rental receipt, Goshen, VA Post Office Box No. 33 for the second quarter of 1908 by W. L. Teter

Item 16

Unit ID id98891

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143615

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 16 (Item)

Scope and Contents

ALS dated July 12, 1908 to W. L. Teter from his niece Mrs. R. D. Hammarborg, Petaluma, Sonoma Co., CA. The letter was written to reestablish contact after a period of no correspondence.

Item 17

Unit ID id98892

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143616

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 17 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Monthly Statement dated December 1, 1910 of the Goshen Supply Company of Goshen, VA for $3.04 of provisions. Marked paid by W. L. Teter, December 2, 1910.

Item 18

Unit ID id98893

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143617

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 18 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Booklet of "The Seventh Annual Summer Commencement" of the University of Texas, dated August 30, 1924

Item 19

Unit ID id98894

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143618

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Container 19 (Item)

Scope and Contents

Ninety-day promissory note dated June 7, 1902 for $250.00 to be paid by W. L. Teter to C. W. Wood at 10 per cent interest.

"Original drawings of Wm. L. Teter's Patents"

Unit ID id97341

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143586

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"Original drawings of Wm. L. Teter's Patents" (1 volume), containing approximately 70 original, annotated hand drawings, dated from 1887 to 1901. They relate to patents issued to or proposed inventions of W. L. Teter.

Cash accounts ledger

Unit ID id97342

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143587

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Cash accounts ledger, dated July 10, 1878 to December 28, 1882 (1 item). Folder 3 contains an unlabeled accounting ledger with accounts dating from July 10, 1878 to December 28, 1882. The ledger entries are in W. L. Teter's hand.

Accounting Ledger labeled "5 & 10¢ Store Book"

Unit ID id97343

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143588

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"5 & 10¢ Store Book" (1 item). Folder 4 contains an accounting ledger labeled "5 & 10¢ Store Book" with accounts dated between September 20, 1882 to July 17, 1899. The ledger entries are in W. L. Teter's hand.

Accounting Ledger

Unit ID id97344

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143589

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"Book No. 2." Accounting ledger for the year 1890 (1 item). The ledger entries are in W. L. Teter's hand

Accounting Ledger

Unit ID id97345

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143590

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Account ledger, dated September 1, 1891 to December 31, 1901 (1 item), unlabeled, dated from September 1, 1891 to December 31, 1901. The ledger entries are in W. L. Teter's hand.

Box 2

Unit ID id101261

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143583

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Accounting Ledger

Unit ID id97346

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143591

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Account ledger dated September 1, 1891 to July 31, 1902 (1 item), unlabeled. The ledger entries are in W. L. Teter's hand.

Copy Book

Unit ID id97347

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143592

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Copying Book (1 item), tissue paper, with copies of 68 letters dated June 8, 1898 to July 20, 1900. The letters were penned by W. L. Teter, Roll Robinson, John Allen Heany and represent correspondence of the Teter-Heany Development Co. The letters are of day-to-day business of the Standard Light and Heat Co.

"Teter and Heany" Ledger

Unit ID id97348

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143593

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"Teter and Heany-1899." Ledger (1 item) for the Teter and Heany Development Co. dated May 2, 1899 to September 8, 1911. The ledger entries are in W. L. Teter's hand.

Accounting Ledger

Unit ID id97349

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143594

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Ledger dated July 20, 1899 to October 11, 1901 (1 item), unlabeled, July 1, 1899 to October 11, 1901. The ledger entries are in W. L. Teter's hand.

Box 3

Unit ID id97328

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143584

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

"Crown Standard Diary"

Unit ID id97350

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143595

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"Crown Standard Diary, 1902" (1 item). W. L. Teter's annotations in the diary are of a business and a personal nature and were made in Goshen, VA.

"Crown Standard Diary"

Unit ID id97331

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143596

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"Crown Standard Diary, 1903." W. L. Teter's annotations in the diary are of a business and a personal nature and were made in Philadelphia or Goshen, VA.

"Crown Standard Diary"

Unit ID id97351

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143597

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"Crown Standard Diary 1904" (1 item). W. L. Teter's annotations in the diary are of a business and a personal nature and were made in Norristown, and Philadelphia, PA, or Goshen, VA.

"Crown Standard Diary"

Unit ID id97352

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143598

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"Crown Diary 1905" (1 item). W. L. Teter's annotations in the diary are of a business and a personal nature and were made in either Goshen or Staunton, VA.

"Crown Standard Diary"

Unit ID id97353

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/143599

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

"Crown Standard Diary 1908" (1 item). W. L. Teter's annotations in the diary are of a business and a personal nature and were made in Philadelphia or Goshen, VA.