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Jenison Family Papers UA.10.3.446

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

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East Lansing , MI 48824

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections
Creator:	Jenison family (Fredrick Cowles Jenison, 1881-1939)
Title:	Jenison family papers
ID:	UA.10.3.446
Date [inclusive]:	1877-1939
Physical Description:	7 Cubic Feet and one oversized volume
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: "Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

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Biographical Note

The Jenison family resided in Lansing, Michigan and included Nelson F. Jenison (born December 18, 1855; died November 3, 1907), his wife Alice Cowles Jenison (born October 4, 1860; died November 12, 1915), their son Frederick Cowles Jenison (born November 26, 1881; died February 12, 1939), and Frederick's second wife, Edith T. Jenison (nee Thompson) (born October 5, 1881; died April 21, 1938).

Nelson and Alice Jenison operated the Lansing Dry Goods Store at 121-123 N. Washington Ave. The Jenisons supplemented their income by means of investments, primarily in municipal bonds and some stocks. Frederick Cowles Jenison attended Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) from 1902 to 1907, majoring in engineering. He maintained a lifelong interest in the college, which manifested in several ways, primarily by his financial support of the athletics program.

On January 2, 1909, Frederick married Amy Prudden of Indianapolis, Indiana. They resided at 800 N. Washington Avenue, Lansing, Michigan until 1917, when they moved to 403 Seymour. Frederick lived at this address until his death in 1939. In 1918, Frederick and Amy divorced. Two months after the divorce, Frederick married Edith J. Thompson.

A successful businessman, Frederick owned and operated the Frederick C. Jenison Insurance Agency of Lansing. The agency, staffed by Jenison and a secretary, sold general insurance and surety bonds, and was located in the Capitol National Bank Building (later called the Hollister Building). Jenison also managed the family property, the Jenison Building located at the corner of N. Washington Ave. and Ottawa St. The building was leased to the F.W. Woolworth Co. during the 1920s and 1930s. Both of these ventures proved profitable.

Following his death in 1939, Frederick C. Jenison, having no heirs, bequeathed his entire half-million dollar estate to Michigan State College. A portion of the legacy was used to pay for the building of the Jenison Fieldhouse. Another large portion of the estate was used to pay for the extensive remodeling of the President's House. Since the entire estate was presented in Jenison's mother's name, Alice Cowles Jenison, the President's home was named the Cowles House in her memory.

(Sources: Kuhn, Madison. Michigan State, The First Hundred Years; The MSU Press, 1957. East Lansing, Michigan; Lansing City Directory, 1938; This is Michigan State University 1975 Facts Book; Plaque in the Jenison Fieldhouse; Course Catalogs, Archival Documents.)

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Scope and Contents

The bulk of the collection consists of Frederick C. Jenison's papers for the period 1907-1939. Included are personal and business records, primarily expenditure reports. The personal correspondence includes copies of letters that Jenison sent. The papers are most complete for the 1930s, less complete for the 1920s, and rather incomplete for the period 1910-1920. One significant portion of the collection consists of check stubs, both personal and business, for most of the period 1907-1939. These check stubs include the recipient of the check, the amount of the check and the reason for which the check was written. Additionally, extensive personal bills for the 1930s are found in the collection which include some detailed, weekly grocery bills, as well as utility bills and various other household expenditures. Also, Jenison kept a record of all expenditures for his automobiles (several during the 1930s). His business papers include correspondence with the insurance companies that he represented, as well as his account records with those companies.

The Nelson F. Jenison papers document his financial activities for the period, 1877-1907. These papers include deeds, mortgages and investment records.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

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Conditions Governing Access

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Custodial History

Gift of the Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance, MSU, 1976-10-29.

Processing Information

Changed record group from 00125 to UA 10.3.446 to reflect Frederick C. Jenison's connection to Michigan State University. M. Badgley Malone, November 2019.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Insurance
- Insurance agents
- Lansing (Mich.)
- Ledgers (account books)
- Legal forms
- Letters (correspondence)
- Photographs
- Frederick C. Jenison Insurance Agency (Lansing, Mich.)
- Jenison, Alice Cowles
- Jenison, Edith Thompson, 1881-1938
- Jenison, Frederick Cowles, 1881-1939
- Jenison, Nelson F., 1885-1907
- Lansing Dry Goods Store
- Michigan State University. Class of 1906
- Michigan State University. Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance

Collection Inventory

Frederick C. Jenison Personal Papers		
Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence		
1927	box 6165	folder 1
1929	box 6165	folder 2
1931	box 6165	folder 3
1932	box 6165	folder 4
1933	box 6165	folder 5
1934	box 6165	folder 6
1935	box 6165	folder 7
1936	box 6165	folder 8
1937-1938	box 6165	folder 9
1937	box 6165	folder 10
Household Expenses		
1926-1928	box 6165	folder 11

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1930	box 6165	folder 12
1931	box 6165	folder 13
1932	box 6165	folder 14
1933	box 6165	folder 15
1934	box 6165	folder 16
1935	box 6165	folder 17
January - August 1936	box 6165	folder 18
September - December 1936	box 6165	folder 19
January - March 1938	box 6165	folder 20
April - June 1937	box 6165	folder 21
July - September 1937	box 6165	folder 22
October - December 1937	box 6165	folder 23
January - March 1938	box 6166	folder 1
April - June 1938	box 6166	folder 2
July - September 1938	box 6166	folder 3
October - December 1938	box 6166	folder 4
1939	box 6166	folder 5
Undated	box 6166	folder 6
Check Stubs		
September 9, 1914 - June 31, 1915	box 6166	folder 7
June 3, 1915 - December 10, 1916	box 6166	folder 8
December 15, 1915 - June 29, 1916	box 6166	folder 9
June 22, 1920 - September 19, 1921	box 6166	folder 10
September 19, 1921 - March 24, 1923	box 6166	folder 11
April 12, 1923 - August 6, 1924	box 6166	folder 12
August 7, 1924 - October 24, 1925	box 6166	folder 13
November 2, 1925 - January 10, 1927	box 6166	folder 14
January 10, 1927 - February 7, 1928	box 6167	folder 1
February 9, 1928 - November 3, 1928	box 6167	folder 2
November 5, 1928 - June 22, 1929	box 6167	folder 3
June 24, 1929 - April 2, 1930	box 6167	folder 4
April 4, 1930 - November 10, 1930	box 6167	folder 5

November 13, 1930 - September 1, 1931	box 6167	folder 6
September 1, 1931 - January 7, 1932	box 6167	folder 7
January 7, 1932 - October 5, 1932	box 6167	folder 8
October 5, 1932 - March 2, 1933	box 6167	folder 9
Check Receipts		
1933	box 6168	folder 1
1934	box 6168	folder 2
1938	box 6168	folder 3
1939	box 6168	folder 4
Alice C. Jenison Financial Papers		
October 1890	box 6168	folder 5
1916	box 6168	folder 6
Nelson F. Jenison - Purchase of Rugs, April 14, 1908	box 6168	folder 7
Divorce Decree of Frederick C. and Amy Jenison, 1918	box 6168	folder 8
Death Certificate of Edith T. Jenison, 1938	box 6168	folder 9
General Notes, 1934 - 1936, undated	box 6168	folder 10
Assorted Materials, 1938, undated	box 6168	folder 11
Newspaper Clippings about Nelson F. Jenison	box 6168	folder 12
Journal, 1937	box 6165	volume 1

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Frederick C. Jenison Financial Papers

Title/Description	Instances	
Taxes		
Michigan Head Tax Statement	box 6169	folder 1
Lansing 2nd Ward, City Tax Statements		
1925, 1928-1931	box 6169	folder 2
1932-1937	box 6169	folder 3
1877-1879, 1881, 1883-1887, 1890, 1904-1905	box 6169	folder 4
1906-1910	box 6169	folder 5
1914-1920	box 6169	folder 6
1921-1928	box 6169	folder 7

Lansing 4th Ward, City Tax Receipts		
1904-1910	box 6169	folder 8
1916-1920	box 6169	folder 9
1921-1924	box 6169	folder 10
1925-1928	box 6169	folder 11
1928-1931	box 6169	folder 12
1932-1938	box 6169	folder 13
1929, 1931, 1933	box 6169	folder 14
East Lansing Tax Receipts		
1927, 1929 - 1932	box 6169	folder 15
1932-1938	box 6169	folder 16
Federal Income Tax		
1916	box 6169	folder 17
1917	box 6169	folder 18
1918	box 6169	folder 19
1919	box 6169	folder 20
1920	box 6169	folder 21
1921	box 6169	folder 22
1922	box 6169	folder 23
1923	box 6169	folder 24
1924	box 6169	folder 25
1925	box 6169	folder 26
1926	box 6169	folder 27
1927	box 6169	folder 28
1928	box 6169	folder 29
1929	box 6169	folder 30
1930	box 6169	folder 31
1931	box 6169	folder 32
1932	box 6169	folder 33
1933	box 6169	folder 34
1934	box 6169	folder 35
1935	box 6169	folder 36

1936-1938	box 6169	folder 37
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Correspondence, 1922-1937	box 6170	folder 1
Stocks and Bonds-E.A. Pierce		
Correspondence, 1936, undated	box 6170	folder 2
Credits and Debits - No Stock Named, 1933-1937	box 6170	folder 3
Statements, 1932-1938	box 6170	folder 4
Village of Cass City-Michigan Water and Light, 1898	box 6170	folder 5
City of New Baltimore, Michigan, 1902	box 6170	folder 6
Drainage Bonds-Remington Dist., Wood County Wisconsin, 1906	box 6170	folder 7
City of Madison, Wisconsin-School Bonds, 1906-1914	box 6170	folder 8
Denver Area Irrigation Districts and Reservoir Company, 1909, 1912-1914, undated	box 6170	folder 9
Greene Canada Copper Co., March 14, 1912	box 6170	folder 10
Pere Marquette R.R., 1915-1938	box 6170	folder 11
Copper Range Co., June 21, 1916	box 6170	folder 12
Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, 1917-1938	box 6170	folder 13
North Butte Mining Co., April 24, 1926	box 6170	folder 14
U.S. Smelting Refining & Mine Co., 1926-1928	box 6170	folder 15
Chase National Bank, November 29, 1927	box 6170	folder 16
Central Trust Co., 1930-1937	box 6170	folder 17
Cities Services, 1931, 1937	box 6170	folder 18
Capitol National Bank, Lansing, 1932, undated	box 6170	folder 19
4th Liberty Loan, 1932-1935	box 6170	folder 20
U.S. Treasury, 1933-1938	box 6170	folder 21
U.S. Government, 1934-1935	box 6170	folder 22
Motor Wheel Corporation, 1934-1938	box 6170	folder 23
S.S. Kresge Co., 1935-1936	box 6170	folder 24
Chrysler Corp., 1935-1938	box 6170	folder 25
Eastman Kodak, 1935-1938	box 6170	folder 26
Parke Davis, 1935-1938	box 6170	folder 27
Chesapeake & Ohio R.R., 1935-1938	box 6170	folder 28

Pure Oil Co., 1936	box 6170	folder 29
City National Bank, 1936, undated	box 6170	folder 30
Packard Motor Car. Co., 1936-1938	box 6170	folder 31
American Telegraph and Telephone, 1936-1938	box 6170	folder 32
Kroger Grocery, 1936-1938	box 6170	folder 33
Standard Oil Co., 1937	box 6170	folder 34
Woolworth, F.W. Co., 1937-1938	box 6170	folder 35
General Motor Corp., May 20, 1938	box 6170	folder 36
National City Bank of New York, May 23, 1938	box 6170	folder 37
International Radio Corp., December 30, 1938	box 6170	folder 38

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Nelson F. & Frederick C. Jenison Properties

Title/Description	Instances	
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Warranty Deeds, 1887, 1908, 1926	box 6170	folder 40
Mortgages		
Interest and Insurance Clause, 1877, 1887	box 6170	folder 41
Discharge, 1878, 1885, 1888, 1906, 1908	box 6170	folder 42
Assignment of Mortgage, 1908	box 6170	folder 43
Building Contract		
Hot Water Heating, 1902	box 6170	folder 44
City Steam Heat, 1926	box 6170	folder 45
Plumbing Contract, undated	box 6170	folder 46
Contract Selling Land on Washington Ave. to N.F. Jenison, January 19, 1884	box 6170	folder 47
Lease with F.W. Woolworth Co. , April 15, 1927	box 6170	folder 47
Agreement to rebuild a wall, 1911	box 6170	folder 48
Title Abstract - Lot 348 Chesterfield Hills, 1926	box 6170	folder 49
Papers, 1878, 1890, 1891	box 6170	folder 50
Bond, 1877	box 6170	folder 51
Legal Brief for interviewing Nelson F. Jenison in case over bonds, 1906	box 6170	folder 52

Safe Deposit Box Leases, September 20, 1911	box 6170	folder 53
Bill of Sale Frederick C. to Edith Jenison, 1937	box 6170	folder 54

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Frederick C. Jenison Business Papers

Title/Description	Instances	
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Property at Corner of Washington Ave and Ottawas Street	box 6171	folder 2
State and Federal Unemployment Taxes paid, 1937 - 1938	box 6171	folder 3
State Accident Fund, 1936, 1937	box 6171	folder 4
Office Expenses		
1929, 1931-1935	box 6171	folder 5
1936-1938, undated	box 6171	folder 6
Correspondence with Phone Co., June 13, 1934 - November 16, 1938	box 6171	folder 7
Phone Bills, January 26, 1933 - January 11, 1939	box 6171	folder 8
Office Rent, January 1, 1932 - February 1, 1939	box 6171	folder 9
Insurance Bills, 1937 - 1938	box 6171	folder 10
Michigan Audit Bureau re: Capital National Bank, 1932	box 6171	folder 11
Hartford Livestock Insurance Co.- Correspondence and Account Records, 1934 - 1939	box 6171	folder 12
Maryland Casualty Company		
Correspondence, 1924, 1930-1936	box 6171	folder 13
Account Records, April 5, 1934 - April 7, 1938	box 6171	folder 14
Michigan Surety Company		
Correspondence, April 1, 1936 - April 1, 1938	box 6171	folder 15
Account Records, April 5, 1934 - April 7, 1938	box 6171	folder 16
New Amsterdam Casualty Company-Correspondence and Account Records, January 5, 1936 - March 1939	box 6171	folder 17
New Hampshire Fire Insurance Co.		
Correspondence, April 1, 1934 - April 30, 1938	box 6171	folder 18
Account Records, 1934-1935	box 6171	folder 19
Account Records, 1936	box 6171	folder 20

Western Underwriters Assoc. Instructions, 1936	box 6171	folder 21
New Hampshire Fire Insurance Company Account Records		
1937	box 6172	folder 1
1938	box 6172	folder 2
January - March 1939	box 6172	folder 3
Aero Insurance Underwriters, Description, Blank Policy Application	box 6172	folder 4
Queen Insurance Company		
Correspondence		
1935-1936	box 6172	folder 5
1937-1938	box 6172	folder 6
Account Records		
1933	box 6172	folder 7
1934	box 6172	folder 8
1935	box 6172	folder 9
January - May 1936	box 6172	folder 10
June - December 1936	box 6172	folder 11
January - June 1937	box 6172	folder 12
August - December 1937	box 6172	folder 13
January - May 1938	box 6172	folder 14
June - December 1938	box 6172	folder 15
January - April 1939	box 6172	folder 16
St. Paul Insurance Company 1933 Financial Statement and Blank Application	box 6172	folder 17
St. Paul Fire & Marine Ins. Co.		
Correspondence		
1934	box 6172	folder 18
1935	box 6172	folder 19
1936	box 6172	folder 20
1937	box 6172	folder 21
1938	box 6172	folder 22
Bills, 1938	box 6172	folder 23
Blank Policy and Instruction Form	box 6172	folder 24

Account Records		
September - December 1933	box 6172	folder 25
January - June 1934	box 6173	folder 1
July - December 1934	box 6173	folder 2
January - September 1935	box 6173	folder 3
September - December 1935	box 6173	folder 4
January - May 1936	box 6173	folder 5
June - December 1936	box 6173	folder 6
January - May 1937	box 6173	folder 7
June - December 1938	box 6173	folder 8
January - May 1938	box 6173	folder 9
June - December 1938	box 6173	folder 10
January - March 1939	box 6173	folder 11
St. Paul Mercury Indemnity Co.		
Correspondence		
1934-1936	box 6173	folder 12
1936 - 1938, March 1939	box 6173	folder 13
Account Records		
February - October 1937	box 6173	folder 14
October - December 1937	box 6173	folder 15
April - August 1938	box 6173	folder 16
September - December 1938	box 6173	folder 17
Scottish Union and National Ins. Co.		
1934	box 6173	folder 18
1935	box 6173	folder 19
1936	box 6173	folder 20
1937	box 6173	folder 21
1938	box 6173	folder 22
April 1939	box 6173	folder 23
Miscellaneous, 1930 - January 1939	box 6173	folder 24

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Frederick C. Jenison Personal Financial Papers

Title/Description	Instances	
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Cancelled Checks, 1937	box 6174	folder 2
Safe Deposit Box Rent Receipts, 1937 - February 1938	box 6174	folder 3
Check Stubs		
April 2, 1908 - January 2, 1909	box 6174	folder 4
March 25, 1933 - October 4, 1933	box 6174	folder 5
October 4, 1933 - July 21, 1934	box 6174	folder 6
July 19, 1934 - October 5, 1935	box 6174	folder 7
July 10, 1935 - January 26, 1937	box 6174	folder 8
January 28, 1937- March 24, 1938	box 6174	folder 9
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Frederick C. Jenison Business Financial Papers

Title/Description	Instances	
Deposit Slips, March 27, 1937 - December 24, 1937	box 6175	folder 1
Cancelled Checks		
December 31, 1937	box 6175	folder 2
January 1938	box 6175	folder 3
February 1938	box 6175	folder 4
March 1938	box 6175	folder 5
April 1938	box 6175	folder 6
May 1938	box 6175	folder 7
June 1938	box 6175	folder 8
July 1938	box 6175	folder 9
August 1938	box 6175	folder 10
September 1938	box 6175	folder 11
October 1938	box 6175	folder 12
November 1938	box 6175	folder 13
December 1938		

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	box 6175	folder 14
January 1939	box 6175	folder 15
February 1939	box 6175	folder 16
Checking Account Statement		
1931	box 6175	folder 17
1932	box 6175	folder 18
1933	box 6175	folder 19
January - March 1934	box 6175	folder 20
Deposit Books		
(2) Jenison Bldg., September 4, 1912 - June 8, 1927	box 6175	folder 21
(3) Jenison Bldg., July 22, 1924 - February 14, 1939	box 6175	folder 22
Check Stubs		
February 4, 1909 - March 31, 1910	box 6175	folder 23
Jenison & Pattengill Ins., April 18, 1911 - January 10, 1912	box 6175	folder 24
April 10, 1912 - August 20, 1912	box 6175	folder 25
January 15, 1915 - October 13, 1920	box 6176	folder 1
June 9, 1916 - October 178, 1918	box 6176	folder 2
October 19, 1918 - September 8, 1920	box 6176	folder 3
September 13, 1920 - November 19, 1921	box 6176	folder 4
November 23, 1921 - July 21, 1923	box 6176	folder 5
July 23, 1923 - November 19, 1924	box 6176	folder 6
November 21, 1924 - May 20 , 1926	box 6176	folder 7
May 22, 1926 - April 7, 1928	box 6176	folder 8
April 7, 1928 - December 23, 1929	box 6176	folder 9
December 27, 1929 - April 17, 1931	box 6176	folder 10
April 20, 1931 - January 7, 1932	box 6177	folder 1
January 8, 1932 - February 17, 1933	box 6177	folder 2
March 1, 1933 - April 7, 1933	box 6177	folder 3
April 13, 1933 - March 30, 1934	box 6177	folder 4
April 13, 1933 - March 30, 1934	box 6177	folder 5
December 28, 1934 - December 31, 1937	box 6177	folder 6
Receipt Book,, August 24, 1931 - April 15, 1939	box 6177	

Fishing Licenses & Button, 1933 New York; 1934 West Virginia	box 6178	folder 1
Offices Accounts Ledger, August 3, 1931 - June 21, 1933	box 6178	
Unpaid Accounts Book, 1939	box 6178	

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Volumes

Title/Description	Instances
Cash Book Ledger, December 1934 - April 1939	volume 1

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Photographs

Title/Description	Instances
People. Jenison, Mrs. (Grandmother of Frederick C. Jenison)	box 6177 folder 7
Photographs taken by Frederick C. Jenison- waves on a lake shore titled "Approaching Storm" and log cabin titled "Pioneer Pride", 1937-1938	box 4322

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