

## Guide to the Artemus W. Ham Family Papers

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Ham, Artemus W., Sr., 1892-1970
<b>Contributor:</b>	Ham, Alta Mereness, 1896-1974
<b>Contributor:</b>	Dokter, Betty Ham, 1922-1990
<b>Creator:</b>	Ham family (Las Vegas, Nev.)
<b>Title:</b>	Artemus W. Ham Family Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00056
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1857-1970
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1906-1970
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.02 Cubic Feet (4 folders (1 shared box) and 1 flat file)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.68 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Artemus W. Ham Family Papers (1857-1970) contain postcards written by family members, newspaper clippings about the Ham family, and a Nevada Senate Concurrent Resolution memorializing Artemus W. Ham, Sr. Also included are genealogy notes, a commencement program from Michigan Law School, and membership cards of Artemus W. Ham, Sr.

### Preferred Citation

Artemus W. Ham Family Papers, 1857-1970. MS-00056. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Historical Background

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Artemus W. Ham, Sr. (1892-1970) and Alta Mereness Ham (1896-1974) married in 1915 in Los Angeles, California. The couple moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1916. Artemus W. Ham worked as an attorney and specialized in mining law when they first moved to Southern Nevada. They

had three children in Las Vegas; Artemus W. Ham, Jr. in 1920, Betty Katherine Ham in 1922, and Robert Ham in 1927. The Ham family lived at 1000 Sixth Street in Las Vegas.

From 1924 to 1928, Ham served as the Las Vegas City Attorney. In the 1930s and 1940s, he became well-known as a divorce attorney for Hollywood celebrities seeking Nevada divorces. He and his wife, Alta, were very active in the Las Vegas community. Artemus W. Ham, Sr. was one of the founding members of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. They were also strong supporters of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). Artemus W. Ham Sr. passed away on May 25, 1970 and Alta Ham passed away on April 23, 1974.

Artemus W. Ham, Jr. (1920-1991) joined his father's law practice and later went into real estate. He continued the family tradition of philanthropy. Betty Katherine Ham Dokter (1922-1990) married Derald Dokter on February 23, 1942. She lived her entire life in Las Vegas. She passed away on May 11, 1990. Robert C. Ham (1927-1987) lived in Las Vegas, and passed away in 1987.

Source:

Ainlay, Thomas, Jr. and Gabaldon, Judy Dixon. *Las Vegas: The Fabulous First Century*. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2003.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Artemus W. Ham Family Papers (1857-1970) contain postcards written by family members, newspaper clippings about the Ham family, and a Nevada Senate Concurrent Resolution memorializing Artemus W. Ham, Sr. Also included are genealogy notes, a commencement program from Michigan Law School, and membership cards of Artemus W. Ham, Sr.

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## Arrangement

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Materials are arranged alphabetically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

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### Acquisition Note

Accession number: 78-39.

### Processing Information

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Angela Moor revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. In 2018 Joyce Moore revised the collection description, amended the finding aid, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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## Related Materials

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### Separated Materials

The photographs in this acquisition were removed from the collection and placed in the Betty Ham Dokter Photographs, 1892-1976. PH-00012. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

### Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Ham Family Photograph Collection, approximately 1900-1949, 1981. PH-00387. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dokter, Betty. Interview, 1977 February 27. OH-00471. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
  - Lawyers -- Nevada -- Clark County -- Biography
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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Commencement program, University of Michigan Law School graduation, Artemus W. Ham, Sr. listed in class roll, 1914	box SH-003
Membership cards of Artemus W. Ham, Sr. in various organizations, including the Las Vegas Shrine Club, Free and Accepted Masons of Nevada Number 32, Variety Clubs International, Life member of Las Vegas Nevada Lodge Number 1468 B.P.O. Elks, and State Bar of Nevada, 1928-1970	box SH-003
Newspaper clippings referring to Artemus W. Ham. Sr. and family, 1857-1968	box SH-003
Postcards, handwritten from family and friends to Ella Mereness (mother of Alta Merenes Ham), including some between Alta M. Ham and daughter Betty K. Ham, 1906-1937	box SH-003
Typescript, newspaper clippings from Needles, California, 1895  General: Oversize folder not found during processing 2015 June 03. Added in 2017.	flat file 02