

GEORGE H. MORRILL COMPANY

PAPERS, 1866-1990, n.d.

MSS #4

Vol.: 1 box, 1 oversize folder, 1 blueprint box

Processed by: Jane E. Ward

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Provenance: A few items have their provenance marked on them, but the provenance of the majority of this collection is unknown.

Conservation: Newspaper clippings have been photocopied onto acid-free paper; in some cases the original clippings have been discarded due to their condition. Photographs have been placed in plastic mylar sleeves.

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish material from this collection must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director of the Norwood Historical Society.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The George H. Morrill Company, more popularly known as the Morrill Ink Works, was originally founded in 1845 in Andover, Mass., by Samuel Morrill (1804-1878). Morrill moved the works to South Dedham in 1856, at which time his sons George H. (1834-1909) and Samuel S. Morrill joined the business as partners. In 1869, the firm was dissolved but the business of printing inks was continued under the name George H. Morrill & Company. On Oct. 1, 1903, the company was incorporated under the name George H. Morrill Company.

The company manufactured inks not only in its Norwood, Mass., plant but also in San Francisco and New York. Branch stores and factories were opened in Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, and St. Louis, as well as San Francisco and New York City. In

1929, the company consolidated with four other ink companies under the name General Printing Ink Corporation. The Morrill Company retained its identity as the "Geo. H. Morrill Company Division, General Printing Ink Corp." In 1945, the company name was changed to the Sun Chemical Corporation, which is still in business today although no plant exists in Norwood.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The George H. Morrill Company papers consist primarily of photographs, the bulk of which date after the 1929 consolidation under the General Printing Ink Corp. name.

Folder 1 contains clippings and articles (1905-90) that give a history of the company, the 1929 consolidation, a 1930 look back at some of the employees about 1893, and some Morrill family history. Folder 2 (1866-70s, n.d.) contains a few company bills, some blank forms, and an undated company booklet that was probably produced early in the twentieth century.

Folder 3 contains miscellaneous photographs of the ink works in Norwood from 1880 to the 1940s and 1977; Folder 4 contains undated photographs of the Norwood works. Negatives of some of these photos in both folders are included. Folder 5 contains a typewritten report of a rail car accident in the Norwood yard on May 3, 1916, along with photographs. Most of the photos in this folder are undated, but two are marked 9/17/17.

Folder 6 contains photographs of the company's trucks through the years, beginning with 1927 up through 1941. Some dates were ascertained by the license plates on the trucks. Note the different license plates: Massachusetts, Texas, California, Michigan. Folder 7 contains undated photos of company trucks, all of which date after the 1929 consolidation under the General Printing Ink Corp. Also included in this folder is one photo of a Howard Flint Ink Co. truck.

Folders 8, 9, and 10 contain interior and exterior photographs of the Clearing, Ill., plant (near Chicago), most from 1937. There are a few undated photos here, including an aerial shot of the Clearing Industrial District. Multiple copies exist for most of these photos.

Folders 11, 12 and 13 contain photographs of the American Roto Plant in Clearing, Ill., taken on April 1, 1940. Like those in Folders 8, 9 and 10, multiple copies exist of these prints, and they include both interior and exterior shots.

Folder 14 contains photographs of the Pacific plant in California from 1928 and the 1940s, as well as undated photos. These are presumably of the plant located south of

San Francisco. Folder 15 contains photographs of the Los Angeles plant. All of these photos are undated but at least some were probably taken in the early 1950s, based on the automobiles parked in front of the building.

Folder 16 contains photographs of the "Branches & Filling Stations," including the Los Angeles Tank Station, 1927; four photos of the Seattle, Wash., office that are undated but were probably taken in the 1920s; and an undated photograph of four unidentified men. Duplicates of some of the 1937 and 1940 photos of the Clearing, Ill., plant were removed from the "Branches & Filling Stations" envelope and placed in Folders 8 through 13.

Folder 17 contains photographs that were removed from the "Clearing Plant Photos" envelope, but are believed to be of the Norwood, Mass., plant, based on the photographer's stamp on the back. These photos are undated.

Folder 18 contains a handwritten copy of a May 26, 1951 letter from "Lloyd" to "Dave" about the problems of what is now the Sun Chemical Corp. plant in Clearing, Ill., and referring to the plan in Oversize Folder 1. Also in this folder are 1977 and 1978 typewritten letters to retired Sun Chemical Corp. employees.

Oversize Folder 1 includes three copies of a Dec. 1881 plan of the Norwood, Mass., works; and an April 7, 1951 plan of the Sun Chemical Corp.'s Clearing, Ill., plant, referred to in the 1951 handwritten letter in F18. Multiple extra copies of the 1881 plan were removed from the collection.

The blueprints in Box 2 include two copies of an Oct. 1906 plan of the Norwood plant, and a 1941 blueprint of machinery.

CONTENTS LIST

Box Folder

1	1	Newspaper clippings and articles, including family genealogy, 1905-90.
2		Miscellaneous company items, 1866-70s, n.d.
3		Photographs of the Norwood, Mass., plant, 1880-1940s, 1977.
4		Photographs of the Norwood, Mass., plant, n.d.
5		Rail car accident in Norwood, Mass., yard, 1916-17.
6		Photographs of company trucks, 1927-41.
7		Photographs of company trucks, n.d.
8		Photographs of Clearing, Ill., plant, 1930, 1937.
9		Photographs of Clearing, Ill., plant, 1937.
10		Photographs of Clearing, Ill., plant, 1937, n.d.
11		Photographs of American Roto Plant, Clearing, Ill., 1940.
12		Photographs of American Roto Plant, Clearing, Ill., 1940.

Box Folder

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| 1 | 13 | Photographs of American Roto Plant, Clearing, Ill., 1940. |
| | 14 | Photographs of Pacific plant, Calif., 1928, 1940s, n.d. |
| | 15 | Photographs of Los Angeles plant, 1950s(?), n.d. |
| | 16 | Photographs of "Branches & Filling Stations," 1920s, n.d. |
| | 17 | Photographs of Norwood, Mass., plant, n.d. |
| | 18 | Sun Chemical Corp. materials, 1951, 1977-78. |

Oversize Folder

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| 1 | Dec. 1881 plan of Norwood, Mass., plant (3 copies); 1951 plan of Sun Chemical Corp. plant in Clearing, Ill. |
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Box

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| 2 | Blueprints: Oct. 1906 Norwood plant (2 copies); 1941 print of machinery. |
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