

Arkansas State Archives

Arkansas Digital Archives

NEARA finding aids

NEARA

Black Rock Pearl Company records, 1919-1936

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/neara-finding-aids>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Black Rock Pearl Company records, Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives, Powhatan, Arkansas.

Use and reproduction of images held by the Arkansas State Archives without prior written permission is prohibited. For information on reproducing images held by the Arkansas State Archives, please call 501-682-6900 or email at state.archives@arkansas.gov.

Black Rock Pearl Company records
SMCNE.0002.0010

Finding aid prepared by the Arkansas State Archives

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

June 12, 2020

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives
11 Seventh Street
Powhatan, Arkansas, 72458

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical Note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	4
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	6

Summary Information

Repository	Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives
Title	Black Rock Pearl Company records
Date [inclusive]	1919-1936
Extent	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation

Black Rock Pearl Company records, Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives, Arkansas State Archives, Powhatan, Arkansas.

Biographical/Historical Note

Button finishing plants in Iowa and New York were supplied by tons of button blanks that came from small factories lining the northeastern Arkansas rivers, which teemed with the freshwater mollusks that naturally grew mother-of-pearl-lined shells. Supplying the button blank factories with raw material offered farm families extra income because shell harvesting fit around the ebb and flow of agriculture. Factories, which had to be close to a railroad for shipping outbound cargo, had button-cutting machines with various sized tubular saws that generated small to large button blanks.

Black Rock Pearl Company formed in 1900, began output in 1901, shut down due to a labor strike, and was purchased by a Davenport, Ohio, company. Harvey Chalmers Pearl Button Company, based in Amsterdam, New York, operated at two factory locations in Black Rock. By 1914, the Rockport Pearl Button Company was located between Falls Creek and the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad track spur. In 1936, the manager was V.C. Howe.

Scope and Contents

This collection has three checks that were found at the abandoned Black Rock Pearl Company. The paycheck exemplifies rate of pay for the early 20th century and the expense checks provide previously unknown details about the factory such as the name of the company and general manager.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives 07/24/2014

Revision Description

Revise notes to reference Arkansas State Archives. 06/22/2016

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17-U.S. Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The person using this material is liable for any infringement.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Jim McCall, Little Rock, Arkansas, 2014.

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
1919 August 9: Paycheck to B. Smith	2	1
1936 May 12: Expense Account check		
1936 May 26: Expense Account check		