



Hercules Inc. personnel cards 2134

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Manuscripts and Archives

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Wilmington, Delaware 19807

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URL: <http://www.hagley.org/library>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Manuscripts and Archives
Creator:	Hercules Incorporated
Title:	Hercules Inc. personnel cards
ID:	2134
Date [inclusive]:	1914-1990
Physical Description:	3.25 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Hercules Inc. was a manufacturer of chemicals and munitions based in Wilmington, Delaware. The records consist of a sample of employee personnel records, or service record cards, that date from circa 1914 to 1933, as well as copies of the company pension and retirement savings plans that date from 1982 to 1990. The cards typically contain information on personal characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, age, physical appearance, and family, and also on occupation, wage rates, promotion, discipline, and reasons for discharge. The plants are scattered around the country and thus provide an interesting regional sample of the industrial workforce during the 1910s and 1920s. Pension and retirement savings plans are for both Hercules Incorporated and Simmonds Precision Products, Inc.

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Historical Note

Hercules Inc. was a manufacturer of chemicals and munitions based in Wilmington, Delaware. The company was established in 1912 by T.W. Bacchus (1862-1944) as the Hercules Powder Company. The Hercules Powder Company was one of the companies created from the break-up of the E.I. du Pont de Nemours "powder trust" in 1911 as ruled by a U.S. Supreme Court decision. During its early years as a separate company, it continued to produce explosives and dynamite. Hercules gradually evolved into a diversified chemical company and was renamed Hercules Incorporated on April 29, 1966.

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Scope and Contents

The records consist of a sample of employee personnel records, or service record cards, that date from circa 1914 to 1933, as well as copies of the company pension and retirement savings plans that date from 1982 to 1990.

The service record cards cover wage workers at the following Hercules plants: Bacchus, Utah; Bessemer, Alabama; Brunswick, Georgia; Columbus, Kansas; Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Hercules, California; Hopewell, Virginia; Joplin, Missouri; Kenvil and Union (Parlin), New Jersey; Pluto, Michigan; Port Ewen, New York; Youngstown, Ohio; and the Wilmington, Delaware, Experimental Station. The cards cover the period from the beginning of the World War I expansion to the closure of plants and layoffs during the early years of the Depression. The cards typically contain information on personal characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, age, physical appearance, and family, and also on occupation, wage rates, promotion, discipline, and reasons for discharge.

The plants are scattered around the country and thus provide an interesting regional sample of the industrial workforce during the 1910s and 1920s. Most individuals are semi-skilled or unskilled workers, with a smaller number of machinists and other skilled trades. Almost all the workers are male, except that female workers were hired in relatively large numbers at the Port Ewen plant during the 1930s, presumably as a cost-saving measure. The workforce in the southern plants was a mixture of Caucasians and African Americans. Hispanic Americans are prominent at the Hercules plant near San Francisco, and immigrants from southern and Eastern Europe at the plants in New Jersey and New York. The cards show a number of family clusters and transfers between plants.

Pension and retirement savings plans are for both Hercules Incorporated and Simmonds Precision Products, Inc.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Laurie Sather 2020

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Litigators may not view the collection without approval.

Provenance

On Deposit from Hercules Incorporated.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Weapons industry -- Employees
- Explosives industry
- Personnel records
- Wages
- Hercules Powder Company

Collection Inventory

Employee service record cards, circa 1914-1933

Scope and Contents

The service record cards cover wage workers at the following Hercules plants: Bacchus, Utah; Bessemer, Alabama; Brunswick, Georgia; Columbus, Kansas; Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Hercules, California; Hopewell, Virginia; Joplin, Missouri; Kenvil and Union (Parlin), New Jersey; Pluto, Michigan; Port Ewen, New York; Youngstown, Ohio; and the Wilmington, Delaware, Experimental Station. The cards cover the period from the beginning of the World War I expansion to the closure of plants and layoffs during the early years of the Depression. The cards typically contain information on personal characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, age, physical appearance, and family, and also on occupation, wage rates, promotion, discipline, and reasons for discharge.

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prominent at the Hercules plant near San Francisco, and immigrants from southern and Eastern Europe at the plants in New Jersey and New York. The cards show a number of family clusters and transfers between plants.

Title/Description	Instances
Bacchus plant, Utah, A-Z	box 1
Bessemer plant, Alabama, A-Z	box 1
Brunswick plant, Georgia, A-T	box 1
Brunswick plant, Georgia, U-Z	box 2
Columbus plant, Kansas, A-Z	box 2
Goes plant, Ohio, fragment	box 2
Hattiesburg plant, Mississippi, A-Z	box 2
Hercules plant, California, A-M	box 2
Hercules plant, California, N-Z	box 3
Hopewell plant, Virginia, A-Z	box 3
Joplin plant, Missouri, A-Z	box 3
Kenvil plant, New Jersey, A-C	box 3
Kenvil plant, New Jersey, D-Z	box 4
Pluto plant, Michigan, A-Z	box 5
Port Ewen plant, New York, A-Z	box 5
Union plant, Parlin, New Jersey, A-G	box 5
Union plant, Parlin, New Jersey, H-Z	box 6
Wilmington Experimental Station, Delaware, A-Z	box 6
Youngstown plant, Ohio, A-Z	box 6

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Pension plans, 1982-1990

Scope and Contents

Pension and retirement savings plans are for both Hercules Incorporated and Simmonds Precision Products, Inc. The materials date from 1982 to 1990.

Title/Description	Instances
Hercules Incorporated, pension plan, 1985	box 7
Hercules Incorporated, retirement income plan, 1987-1990	box 7
Hercules Incorporated, saving and investment plan, 1984-1990	box 7

Simmonds Precision Engineering Systems, Inc., pension plan, 1982	box 8
Simmonds Precision Products, Inc., pension plan, 1986	box 8
Simmonds Precision Products, Inc., retirement savings plan, 1986	box 8

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