

1344  
Nash Motors Company Records

Repository:

Seaver Center for Western History Research, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Span Dates:

1890-1938, undated  
1975 (magazine article about Thomas B. Jeffery)  
1977 (NHM curator notes)

Extent:

Boxes: 5 legal, 14 letter; 6 ½ letter, 1 record storage

Language:

English

Conditions Governing Use:

Permission to publish, quote or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder

Conditions Governing Access:

Research is by appointment only

Preferred Citation:

Nash Motors Company Records, Seaver Center for Western History Research, Los Angeles County  
Museum of Natural History

Abstract:

The records were created by the Thomas B. Jeffery Company of Kenosha, Wisconsin and the Nash Motors Company of Maryland. Correspondence; financial and accounting records; insurance records; purchase contracts and inventory lists; Rambler price and parts lists, catalogs, sales brochures and magazines; patents. A few personal papers of Thomas B. Jeffery's last will and testament and estate.

Historical Note:

Thomas Buckland Jeffery (February 5, 1845 – April 2, 1910) was born in Devon, England and came to the United States with his parents in 1863. His business began with the manufacture of bicycles, named the Rambler. The first automobile Jeffery Rambler was produced in 1902. (The Oldsmobile was the first real

production gasoline car in the U.S. The Rambler was the second, and Ford was third in 1903.) 1,500 Ramblers were built and sold in the first production year. In 1914, the heirs changed the name of the car to Jeffery in honor of the founder. The last Jeffery motor car produced was in 1917. (The above information was culled from "The Clifford Sklarek Thomas B. Jeffery Historical" by Clifford Sklarek, published in *Antique Motor News*, April 1975, volume 14, number 4, pp. 17-32.)

On August 16, 1916, the Thomas B. Jeffery Company of Kenosha, Wisconsin, was sold to the Nash Motors Company of Maryland. After the sale, Nash moved its headquarters to Kenosha. During the years of 1913-1920, Nash was manufacturing vehicles for the military, including the Nash Quad Truck during World War I. In 1921, Nash had branches in Chicago, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Omaha.

Scope and Content Note:

The records were created by the Thomas B. Jeffery Company of Kenosha, Wisconsin and the Nash Motors Company of Maryland. Correspondence; financial and accounting records; insurance records; purchase contracts and inventory lists; Rambler price and parts lists, catalogs, sales brochures and magazines; patents. A few personal papers of Thomas B. Jeffery's last will and testament and estate.

Notable are clippings, correspondence, patent records and lawsuit records beginning in 1902 for challenges by George B. Selden's patent to automobile manufacturers. Papers include the Association of Licensed Automobile Manufacturers, a group formed to collectively defend against the patent challenge.

The collection also includes the following: a magazine article (dated 1975) about Thomas B. Jeffery; and NHM curator notes (dated 1977).

Box 1-A (Files 1-14)

1904-32 Jeffery and Nash records, including sale contract dated August 16, 1916

Box 1-B (Files 1-10)

1904-11 Price lists, catalogs, magazines

Box 1-C (Files 1-20)

1902-10 Rambler: parts and price lists, manuals, sales brochures  
Undated

Box 1-C (Files 21-49)

1911-15 Rambler and other models: price lists, catalogs, magazines

Box 1-C (Files 50-75)

1905-10 Jeffery price lists, catalogs, magazines

## Box 1-C (Files 76-83)

1893-1911 Jeffery price lists, catalogs, magazines

## Box 2-A (Files 1-21)

1904-10 Jeffery correspondence

## Box 2-B (Files 1-21)

1904-39 Nash correspondence

## Box 3-A (Files 1-11)

1909-38 Nash (primarily)

## Box 3-B (Files 1-3)

1905 Jeffery

## Box 4 (Files 1-7)

1916-20 Jeffery baseball league and other sports leagues

## Box 5 (Files 1-20)

1910-20 Jeffery and Nash records

## Box 6 (Files 1-14)

1918-20 Correspondence, invoices, ledger sheets and vouchers between Nash and U.S. Army and War Department.

## Box 7 (Files 1-21)

1902-23 Jeffery and Nash: accounting, receipts, correspondence and inventory lists

## Box 8 (Files 1-12)

1907-12 Jeffery purchase contracts

## Box 9-A (Files 1-5)

1909-11 Jeffery insurance policies, correspondence, claims

## Box 9-B (Files 1-8)

1902-13 George B. Selden patent lawsuits; Association of License Automobile Manufacturers;  
shipment ledger 1902-05; Ransom E. Olds patent for friction clutch  
1975 Magazine, *Antique Motor News*, April, 1975 with 16 pp. article on Jeffery

## Box 9-B (Files 9-15)

1903-33 Jeffery and Nash  
1976 NHM curator notes

## Box 9-B (Files 16-21)

1903-12 Jeffery personal papers including last will and testament and estate; Selden patent papers

## Box 10 (Files 1-5)

1910-11 Jeffery personal estate papers

## Box 11 (Files 1-11)

1890-1903 Patents

## Box 12 (File 1)

1912-14 Advertisement

## Box 13 (Files 1-4)

1917-18 Nash receipts, vouchers, bills, correspondence

## Box 14 (Files 1-12)

1913-19 Nash and War Department papers

## Box 14 (Files 13-30)

1916-19 Nash and Office of Chief of Ordnance

## Box 15 (Files 1-24)

1917-19 Nash and Office of Chief of Ordnance, regarding manufacture of Nash Quad Trucks and other vehicles for military use

## Box 16 (Files 1-7)

1901-38 Jeffery and Nash contracts, correspondence, financial and insurance papers; Selden patent records

Box 1ov Record Storage

1912-31 Jeffery Ledger for appraisal of buildings and equipment, volumes 1-2; Lafayette Motors Company salary pay roll