Amateur historian. Typewritten and handwritten copies of manuscripts, reminiscences, and research materials (1905–1994) regarding the Des Champs and Lefeber families and various railroad companies, including the Midland Valley Railroad Company, the Kansas, Oklahoma, and Gulf Railway Company, and the Oklahoma City–Ada–Atoka Railway Company.

BX1 Manuscripts and Related Materials

FF1 The Short Line Midland Valley A Class I Railroad by John Lefeber Des Champs, typewritten manuscript. n.d.


FF2 The Short Line Midland Valley A Class I Railroad by John Lefeber Des Champs, typewritten manuscript. n.d.


FF3  Midland Valley by J.L. Des Champs.  1990
Includes "Author's Foreword," index by sections, and Des Champs' "pitch" to possible publishers.  15 pages.

FF4  "Muskogee and the Midland Valley" by John Lefeber Des Champs.  n.d.
Typewritten manuscript, 7 pages.

FF5  "The Railroads in Osage County" by John Lefeber Des Champs.  n.d.
Typewritten manuscript and copy, 4 pages.

FF6  "John William DeSchamps and John Lefeber DeSchamps" by John Lefeber Des Champs.n.d.
Typewritten manuscript and copy, 2 pages.

FF7  Lefeber, A.W.  Remembrances.  1957
"Midland Valley Railroad Company A.W. Lefeber's Kind Remembrances of 51 Years (1903-1954) of Association with Mr. Charles Edward Ingersoll and Family (Without Access to the Railroad's Records and from Memory, except as Quoted)."  76 pages, typed manuscript (2 copies).  Also includes note cards and other notes.

FF8  Lefeber, A.W.  Remembrances.  1914, 1988
A.W. Lefeber "remembrances" which are not in the final "Remembrances."  27 pages.  Also letter from Lefeber to Hugh Rooney.

FF9  Lefeber, A.W.  Notebook.  1905-1912
Copies of pages from A.W. Lefeber's notebook showing construction and rolling stock information; operating expenses (1905-07); coal traffic (1905-07); freight information (1905-07); and station information (1912).

F10  Pitts, J.J.  Correspondence, etc.  1980-1984
Includes "The Doodlebug Era Arrives" (20 pages), correspondence, news clippings, copies of photos, etc. pertaining to Pitts' considerable contribution to the Midland Valley "book" project.
BX2 Manuscripts and Related Materials

FF1 Correspondence. 1978-1992

F2-3 Manuscript, handwritten. 1979
Includes sections of handwritten, Midland Valley manuscript by John Lefeber Des Champs; Treve Wimer notes; Midland Valley Railroad Company seniority rosters; story and notes from Tulsa Democrat, Oct.-Nov. 1904; and transcripts of Bob Skinner tape, Carl White tape and Jim Brown tape.

FF4 Notes, handwritten. Notebooks and note cards. n.d.

FF5 Photograph Log. 1982
Log includes the following categories of information: from, subject, large negative in hand. size, large print in hand. size, 35 MM negative group and number, proof, remarks, and commercial lab.

FF6 Printed Materials.


"Oklahoma Department of Transportation State Railroad Map," 1989.


BX3 Research Materials

FF1 Central Oklahoma Railfan Club, Ltd. 1980, 1982
Copies of photos of Midland Valley Railroad locomotives from 1982 calendar. Also copies of The Dispatcher, newsletter of the Central Oklahoma Railfan Club, Ltd..

Includes diagrammatic sketch of locomotives and detailed information such as weight of engine, dimensions of heating surface tubes, size of cylinders, driving wheels, etc. Also "Statement of Locomotives" with the following information: engine number and size, boiler pressure, weight on driver, weight of engine, water gallons, coal tone, driving center, builder and number, year and cost.

FF3 Magazine Articles. 1979, 1982, 1994

FF4 Midland Valley Railroad - Hours of Services Act. 1978
Includes letter from John Sytsma, President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers to J.L. Des Champs re. the Midland Valley Railroad and the Hours of Service Act. Also contains copy of Public Law 91-169, copy of the Medals of Honor Act and the Hours of Service Act, court decision on Stoker Order - no. 5741 - ATS&F Railway Co. v. U.S.A, and statement of E.L. McCulloch in hearing on S. 1938 to amend the Hours of Service Act.

FF5 Midland Valley/Choctaw (historical). various
Photocopies of magazine, journal and newspaper articles, pages from books, and other printed materials. Subjects covered include histories of ATS&F Railway Co., KATY Railroad, Santa Fe Railroad, Choctaw-Oklahoma-Gulf Railway, Midland Valley Railroad, etc.


Tell arrival and departure times at various stations, names of officials - yard masters and dispatchers, and include maps of lines and connections. Also include timetables for Kansas, Oklahoma & Gulf RY. Co., Oklahoma City-Ada-Atoka Ry. Co., and Missouri Pacific Railroad Co.
FF8  Newspaper clippings.  
Subjects covered include train wrecks, and the history of the Midland Valley Railroad and fireman James A. Brown

FF9  Pawhuska/Osage Profiles.  
Includes excerpts from "Osage Oil" by Bill Burchard in Chronicles of Oklahoma, Osage Agency map and drawing of Council House, assorted correspondence pertaining to Des Champs manuscripts - "The Railroads in Osage County" and "John William DeSchamps and John Lefeber DeSchamps," and biography of John Lefeber Des Champs in Who's Who in the South and Southwest.

F10  Photographs (copies).  
Copies of photographs from several repositories including Missouri Pacific Historical Society, Olin Research Center, KATY Railroad Historical Society, Southern Methodist University Library, etc. The photographs depict railroad locomotives and cars, and other railroad structures.

F11  Seniority Rosters.  
Copies of Midland Valley Railroad Co. seniority rosters which give names of employees, seniority dates, titles of positions, and sometimes rates of pay.