

## NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG3624.AM: Raymond Brothers Clarke Company (Lincoln, Neb.)

Records: 1891-1950

Lincoln, Lancaster County and Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, Neb.:  
Wholesale Grocery Business

Size: 24.0 cu.ft.; 27 volumes and 2 boxes

### HISTORICAL NOTE

Isaac M. and Aaron S. Raymond founded the Raymond Brothers Company, Lincoln's first wholesale grocery business, on January 11, 1872. It was first located at the southeast corner of 11<sup>th</sup> and "P" Streets. The company's volume of business soon reached \$110,000.

Exactly ten years after its founding, Raymond Brothers Co. admitted two of its employees, George H. Clarke and T.F. Lasch into partnership. By this time, 1882, the company distributed products all over Nebraska and into northwest Kansas. In 1886, Raymond Brothers built a new four-story, 40,000 square foot building at the southeast corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and "O" Streets. Around this time, Lasch left the firm.

In 1897, Aaron S. Raymond left the company to help form the Lincoln Drug Company. Raymond Brothers then became the Raymond Brothers Clarke Company. Its articles of incorporation, filed in 1897, showed that the firm had a capitalization of \$280,000. The business was headquartered in Lincoln, with a branch in Deadwood, South Dakota. This branch was later moved to Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

By 1900, Raymond Brothers Clarke Company was one of the largest wholesale grocery firms in the Midwest. It boasted fifty employees and fifteen traveling salesmen serving Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota.

Sons of Isaac M. Raymond, one of the original founders, continued to run the business after his death. In 1950, however, the company's articles of incorporation were revised to allow the firm to enter other fields of business. A year later the company was no longer in the wholesale grocery field. Liquidation of its stock was completed in 1951. A year earlier the Scottsbluff warehouse had been sold to the Nash-Finch Company of Minneapolis. The merchandise from the Lincoln warehouse was cleared by the sale of items to local customers.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consist of 27 volumes and two boxes of manuscript material arranged in five series: 1) Account Books, 1913-1948; 2) Inventories, 1930-1950; 3) Orders and Receipts, 1891-1931; 4) Customer Listings, 1893-1894; and 5) Miscellaneous Financial Papers, 1920-1931.

This material consists of the financial and merchandise records of Raymond Brothers Clarke Co. of Lincoln, Nebraska. These records reflect the business dealings and holdings of what was one of the Midwest's largest wholesale grocery firms.

**Series 1** contains Account Books, 1913-1948. The first seven volumes, 1913-1919, show distribution of sales and profits, recapitulation figures, sales deduction, and salesmen's premiums. The other thirteen volumes, 1936-1948, are divided into sections detailing journal entries affecting accounts receivable, cash receipts, sales distribution figures, sales returns, checks, petty cash, purchases, and merchandise transfers. Purchases from the Acme printing Company are given a separate section in some of these volumes.

The Inventories, 1930-1950, of **Series 2** provide detailed reports of merchandise carried by Raymond Brothers Clarke Company. Each volume or folder is broken up into sections which describe products of three different types: general items, stationery materials, or holiday products. The inventory sheets show the date, department, item description, stock or size numbers, quantity held, price, and totals.

The Orders and Receipts, 1891-1931, of **Series 3** also show merchandise carried by Raymond Brothers Clarke Company. Through letters and invoices which are included in this series, too, orders are placed and records of prices and payments are shown. Although these records aren't as comprehensive as the inventories of Series Two, they do provide information about the most commonly ordered items for the years covered.

**Series 4** consist of a volume of Customer Listings, 1893-1894. Included in this volume are evaluations of business and businessmen dealt with by Raymond Brothers Clark Co. providing, in many cases, in depth analyses of the worth of various businesses and the financial status of those who own them. It is an excellent source as it gives unique information about businesses throughout Nebraska. An alphabetical index is provided.

The Miscellaneous Financial Papers of **Series 5** include cash and check register sheets, 1929-1931; banking materials, 1922-1924; tax receipts, 1920-1924; and account/computation sheets.

The collection was retrieved from the old Raymond Brothers Clark Co. warehouse, at 8<sup>th</sup> & "O" Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska, around 1972.

## DESCRIPTION

Series 1 - Account Books, 1913-1948  
Volume

1. 1913
2. 1914
3. 1914-1917 (alphabetical listing of companies)
4. 1915
5. 1916
6. 1917

7. 1917-1919
8. 1936
9. 1937
10. 1938
11. 1939
12. 1940
13. 1941
14. 1942
15. 1943
16. 1944
17. 1945
18. 1946
19. 1947
20. 1948

Series 2 - Inventories, 1930-1950  
Volume

1. 1930
2. 1931
3. 1932
4. 1933
5. 1934
6. 1935
7. 1936

Box 1  
Folder

1. 1938 - General
2. 1938 - Stationery
3. 1938 - Holiday
4. 1939 - General
5. 1939 - Stationery
6. 1939 - Holiday
7. 1940 - General
8. 1940 - Stationery
9. 1940 - Holiday
10. 1941 - General
11. 1941 - Stationery
12. 1941 - Holiday
13. 1942 - General
14. 1942 - Stationery
15. 1942 - Holiday
16. 1943 - General
17. 1943 - Stationery

18. 1943 - Holiday
19. 1944 - General
20. 1944 - Stationery
21. 1944 - Holiday
22. 1945 - General
23. 1945 - Stationery
24. 1945 - Holiday
25. 1946 - General
26. 1946 - Stationery
27. 1946 - Holiday
28. 1947 - General
29. 1947 - Stationery
30. 1947 - Holiday
31. 1948 - General
32. 1948 - Stationery
33. 1948 - Holiday
34. 1949 - General
35. 1949 - Stationery: Index – p.75
36. 1949 - Stationery: p. 76-143
37. 1949 - Holiday
38. 1950 - General
39. 1950 - Stationery: p. 1-72
40. 1950 - Stationery: p 73-144
41. 1950 - Holiday: p. 1-75
42. 1950 - Holiday: p. 76-150

Series 3 - Orders and Receipts, 1891-1931

Box 2

Folder

1. 1891
2. 1891
3. 1891
4. 1896-1897
5. 1896-1897
6. 1896-1897
7. 1896-1897
8. 1908, 1917
9. 1918-1922
10. 1923
11. 1923
12. 1924
13. 1924
14. 1924
15. 1924
16. 1924

- 17. 1924
- 18. 1924
- 19. 1925-1931(?)

Series 4 - Customer Listings, 1893-1894

- 1. Customer Listings, 1893-1894

Series 5 - Miscellaneous Financial Papers, 1920-1931

- 1. Banking Material, 1922-1924
- 2. Tax Receipts, 1920-1924
- 3. Account/Computation Sheets

Cash and Check Register Sheets, 1929-1931 (**Oversize**)

AIF/psw            02-27-1980  
Revised TMM        03-13-2017

**Subject headings:**

Clarke, George H.  
Raymond, Aaron S., 1843-1922  
Raymond, Isaac M., 1844-1909  
Raymond, William H., 1872-1954  
Grocery stores -- Nebraska  
Lancaster County (Neb.) -- History  
Lincoln (Neb.) -- Businesses  
Lincoln (Neb.) -- Grocery stores  
Merchants -- Nebraska  
Scottsbluff (Neb.) -- Businesses  
Scottsbluff (Neb.) -- Grocery stores