

An Inventory of the Records of the
J. B. Hawley Merchandise Company
Central City, Colorado
(1880-1938)

The Hawley Merchandise Co
was organized at Central City,
Colorado March 8th 1880 with the
following stock holders
Henry J. Hawley President
Bernett E. Seymour Secretary & Treasurer.
Dr Henry Paul Donor
William O. McFarlane
Henry & William Helmer Stock Holders
James Farley
John Hancock
James P. Agnew
Mrs Lora E. Cox

Collection Number 299

a holding of
the Library of the Colorado Historical Society
Denver, Colorado 80203

Processed by Keith Schrum



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HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The J.B. Hawley Merchandise Company was organized in Central City, Colorado on March 8, 1880 with Henry Hawley as president. The company later succeeded in expanding operations by buying stores in Nevadaville and Cherry Creek. Handwritten entries made by Bennett E. Seymour in the daybook provide a brief history of Hawley Merchandise, biographical information on Henry James Hawley, and autobiographical material. Seymour reveals that he was a stockholder in the company and served as its secretary-treasurer for 54 years.

Seymour writes, "we did a large business for a number of years--\$200,000 and upwards but it was largely on credit and losses were large so the profits were not in proportion to the business done--however, we paid reasonable dividends. We passed through some very prosperous times and also the reverse. We tried to deal honestly with all, if we failed to do so, we trust we may be forgiven even as we forgive those who wronged us of well toward a hundred thousand dollars."

After a few years, the company discontinued its branch stores and operated only the original store which Henry Hawley managed continuously until his death in 1923. During that year, the company sold its grocery stock after nearly 43 years in business, but maintained an interest in rental of its former store buildings and in a few mining operations. The company was formally dissolved in 1938.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The Hawley Merchandise collection consists of one series, **Records (1880-1938)**, and contains photocopies of articles of incorporation, extension and renewal documents, a dissolution notice, photocopies of annual reports, a certificate of paid-up stock, a bound daybook (March-July 1880), and a booklet labeled "#2 Nevada Orders." Both the Daybook, and the Nevada Orders booklet contain entries of customer names, merchandise sold, and cost amounts. The provenance of the collection is unknown.

OTHER REPOSITORIES

The Gilpin County Historical Society and Museum in Central City holds documents related to Hawley Merchandise dated 1881 to 1912. The collection includes financial records and an undated photograph of H.J. Hawley and his wife, Annetta.

COLLECTION CONTENTS

FF DESCRIPTION

- 1 Articles of Incorporation (extension renewal): 1880, 1900
and 1921 (photocopies)
- 2 Daybook: March 8, 1880 to July 10, 1880
- 3 Certificate of paid stock: 1882
- 4 #2 Nevada Orders: 1887
- 5 Annual Reports: 1906 and 1938 (photocopies)
- 6 Notice of Dissolution: 1938 (photocopy)

CATALOGING INFORMATION

Collection Name: J.B. Hawley Merchandise Company

Title: Records, 1880-1938

Extent: .5 linear feet (20 pieces)

Historical Note: The J.B. Hawley Merchandise Company was organized in Central City, Colorado on March 8, 1880 with Henry Hawley as president. The company later succeeded in expanding operations by buying stores in Nevadaville and Cherry Creek. After a few years, the company discontinued its branch stores and operated only the original store which Henry Hawley managed continuously until his death in 1923. During that year, the company sold its grocery stock after nearly 43 years in business, but maintained an interest in rental of its former store buildings and in a few mining operations. The company was formally dissolved in 1938.

Scope/Contents: The collection contains photocopies of articles of incorporation, extension and renewal documents, a dissolution notice, photocopies of annual reports, a certificate of paid-up stock, a bound daybook (March-July 1880), and a booklet labeled "#2 Nevada Orders." Both the Daybook, and the Nevada Orders booklet contain entries of customer names, merchandise sold, and cost amounts.

Arrangement: Organized into the following series: 1. Records (1880-1938)

Provenance: Unknown

Finding Aid: Collection guide with inventory available in repository (folder level control).

Other Repositories: The Gilpin County Historical Society and Museum in Central City, Colorado holds documents related to Hawley Merchandise dated 1881 to 1912.