

Guide to the Plattsburgh Feed & Grocery Company Records, 1919-1938

78.2

Special Collections
Benjamin F. Feinberg Library
Plattsburgh State University College
Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901

By
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Introduction

The Plattsburgh Feed and Grocery Company was founded by Mark J. Davis and his nephew, Alex J. Davis. The two immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1888. Prior to 1913, George worked as a distributor for White Rose wholesale foods in New York City. In 1913, they started a wholesale food distribution business on Clinton Street in Plattsburgh, New York. Shortly after this, the company grew out of the space and moved to 72 Peru Street, where the company was located closer to its largest customer, the Plattsburgh Barracks. In 1936, Mark died and left ownership of the company to his nephew Alex. Alex operated the feed and grocery store for another twenty years until his own death in 1955. Alex's wife, Anna B. Davis became the executrix and sold the company to the Bouyea Baking Company in January 1956.

The records of collection 78.2 span from 1919 to 1938. Much of the collection centers on the billing, bidding, and sales of wholesale foods to the Quartermaster of the Army at the Plattsburgh Military Barracks. Other files include correspondence between the Plattsburgh Feed and Grocery Company and other wholesale distributors. The collection also contains miscellaneous receipts and three inventory books. Of particular interest is the correspondence with M.W. Houck & Brother Food Brokers. In April of 1937, a shipment of California raisins was seized by the New York State Department of Agriculture. According to the correspondence, the shipment of raisins was preserved in a chemical which proved to be harmful for consumption. The aforementioned incident is outlined in the back-and-forth communication between M.W. Houck & Brothers and the Plattsburgh Feed and Grocery Company.

Background Sources in Special Collections

Plattsburgh City Directory. Greenfield, Mass: H.A. Manning Company, Publishers, 1913-1957.

Newspapers

"Mark J. Davis, Prominent In Business, Dies." *Plattsburgh Daily Press*, 15 February 1936. Pg: 3.

"Bouyea Purchases Plattsburgh Feed." *Press Republican*, 23 January 1956. Pg. 1.

Contents

The collection is housed in one Hollinger box, consisting of 15 folders

Box 1: Company Records

Folder	Contents
1	Correspondence between Plattsburgh Feed and Grocery Co. and M.W. Houck & Brothers Food Brokers (1937)
2	Correspondence between Plattsburgh Feed and Grocery Co. and Eggleston Transportation, Inc. (1937)
3	Correspondence between Plattsburgh Barracks Army Quartermaster and Plattsburgh Feed and Grocery Co. (1929)
4	Plattsburgh Barracks Purchase Orders (Jan-Dec 1938)
5	Plattsburgh Barracks Government Bid Supply Contracts (Jan-Sept 1938)
6	Receipts of the Plattsburgh Barracks (1938)
7	Plattsburgh Barrack's Request for Quotation
8	Receipts--Miscellaneous
9	Quaker Oats Receipts and Order Forms (April-Nov 1938)
10	Standard Government Form of Invitation for Bids (April-Dec 1938)
11	Invitation, Bid, and Acceptance Forms (Nov-Dec 1937)
12	Customer Order Receipts (1933-1934)
13	Government Contracts With Plattsburgh Feed and Grocery Co., and Quotes to the Plattsburgh Army Barracks (Jan 1938)
14	Inventory Books (1919, 1931, 1938)
15	Miscellaneous