WISCONSIN

Appleton, WI

194. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

4321 North Ballard Road
Appleton, WI 54913

Phone: (920) 628-2311
Fax: (920) 628-4853
Website: https://www.thrivent.com/
Hours: M-F 8 am-4 pm; appt. req’d; information requests subject to approval

Contact person:
Janice Krahn, Corporate Archivist: (920) 628-2311: janice.krahn@thrivent.com

Research center: Corporate Archives

Overview:
Records of historical value generated by Aid Association for Lutherans (German Heritage), Lutherans Brotherhood (Norwegian Heritage), and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and its subsidiaries/affiliates. Materials consist of administrative and operational records (annual statements, advertising materials, marketing materials, policy forms, board of trustee/director minutes, speeches, news clippings), company publications, photographs and slides, audio/visual materials, and artifacts. 3,450 ft. of records from 1898-present. Contact the archivist for information on finding aids.

Madison, WI

195. Wisconsin Historical Society

Library-Archives Division
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Phone: (608) 264-6460
Fax: (608) 264-6472
E-mail: askarchives@wisconsinhistory.org
Website: wisconsinhistory.org
Hours: Archives: M-F 8 am-5 pm; Sat 9 am-4 pm; no appt. necessary
Overview:
The Wisconsin Historical Society is a comprehensive repository for archival materials related to Wisconsin. The institution also has collected widely on a national basis in the topical areas of trans-Appalachian settlement in the Revolutionary and early national periods, socialism, organized labor, mass communications, and civil rights and anti-war movements. In addition to the noteworthy collections listed below, the Historical Society has hundreds of other business collections spanning the entire history of Wisconsin covering topics that include the fur trade, mining, lumber, land speculation, advertising, clothing manufacturing, shipbuilding, tourism, and just about anything else that relates to Wisconsin.

Noteworthy Collections:

- Singer Manufacturing Company (1850–1975). 100 cu. ft. and 2,000 reels of microfilm
  Records of the sewing-machine company, founded by Isaac M. Singer in 1851, which grew to dominate the market for the remainder of the nineteenth century. Singer pioneered many business techniques including installment buying, trade-ins, and total control of the manufacturing process from raw product to distribution and sale to the customer. It was also one of the first American corporations to operate in an international market. Background and misc. historical materials, incorporation records, outgoing and incoming administrative correspondence, advertising materials and publications, subject files, and legal and financial records. Outgoing correspondence (dated primarily 1877–1924 and mainly available on microfilm) includes letters dating from the presidencies of George McKenzie, Frederick G. Bourne, and Douglas Alexander that concern domestic and foreign management policy and routine administrative matters. Incoming correspondence consists of routine letters received at
the New York executive office from 1861 to 1879, and letters and reports from both domestic (1851–1904) and foreign (1854–1909) agencies and factories.

Legal records and correspondence, 1846–1906, pertain to patent assignments, litigation, and contracts. There are also court documents and transcripts, files of published patent decisions, misc. patent drawings, and information on the acquisition and management of various properties and buildings.

Advertising material consists of incoming letters, 1868–1978, and samples of nineteenth-century advertising, company publications, brochures, and blank forms. Subject files include circular letters, examiners’ reports on company problems, and traveling notebooks of company executives. There are also extensive files about losses experienced in Russia following the 1917 Revolution, in Central Europe during the 1930s and 1940s, and in Japan and Germany during World War II.

A large quantity of nineteenth-century financial records pertain to overall financial operations as monitored by the New York City office and to the operations at the Elizabethport, NJ, factory. Included are general ledgers and journals, cashbooks, check registers, and some payroll records. Accounting source documents such as bills and receipts document operational details of the 1850s. A few records and letterbooks relate to subsidiary companies or companies acquired by Singer such as the Wheeler and Wilson Co., the Morley Sewing Machine Co., and the National Machine Co.

The processed portion of this series is summarized above, dates 1850–1968, and is described in the register.

• McCormick-International Harvester Collection. 5,000 cu. ft. and thousands of reels of microfilm.

Collection encompasses the personal papers of Cyrus H. McCormick, his wife Nettie Fowler McCormick (1835–1923), and their descendants, Cyrus H. McCormick, Jr., Harold F. McCormick, Stanley A. McCormick, Mary Virginia McCormick, Anita McCormick Blaine, and Fowler McCormick; records of the McCormick Estates; records of people and businesses in Virginia; and business records of the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company and the International Harvester Company.

The collection also includes administrative correspondence, financial records, reports, interviews, notes, and subject files of the McCormick Biographical Assoc., the Nettie Fowler McCormick Biographical Assoc., and the Reaper Centennial Celebration.
For more a more detailed description of the contents of the McCormick-IHC Collection, search under “McCormick Collection” in the Archives Computer Catalog, or consult our list of frequently asked questions.

- McCormick Family Papers
  Contain correspondence, diaries, genealogies, financial and legal records, landscape and architectural plans, medical reports, photographs, scrapbooks, and subject files documenting their personal lives, business, philanthropic and political activities, estates, investments, and travel.

  Records include advertising literature, catalogs, correspondence, financial records, legal and patent records, minutes of stockholder and board of directors meetings, payroll records, exhibit catalogs, and photographs. Among other topics these records trace the development of agricultural mechanization and the evolution of the modern business corporation.

  Records consist primarily of advertising literature; product catalogs; technical publications such as operator’s manuals, instruction papers, parts catalogs, and service manuals; agricultural bulletins; news releases, public relations files, and company magazines; market research studies; financial and legal records of the company’s Russian operations (1908–1919); and photographs, posters, and films.

  The collection also includes some payroll records, product catalogs, and instruction papers of three of the companies that merged in 1902 with the company to form IHC: the Deering Harvester Co., Milwaukee Harvester Co., and Plano Harvester Co. IHC records extensively document the history, development, and marketing of its tractors, stationary engines, farm implements, and industrial equipment.

  Collectors of tractors and antique farm equipment can find the visual materials and technical information required to restore and operate many of the products manufactured by International Harvester. However, the collection does not include blueprints, daily serial number lists, customer records, and “build card” information. For more information on how we can help collectors, please consult our frequently asked questions page.
Milwaukee, WI

196. Johnson Controls, Inc.

507 E. Michigan St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Phone: (414) 524-2287
Fax: (414) 524-3232
E-mail: kenneth.wirth@jci.com
Website: www.johnsoncontrols.com
Hours: M-F 7:45 am–4:30 pm; appt. required

Contact person:
Ken Wirth, Records and Archives Project Manager: (414) 524-2287; kenneth.wirth@jci.com

Overview:
Print files, photographs, slides, films, corporate publications, news clippings, annual reports, advertising and sales materials such as catalogs and pamphlets, product samples, and other artifacts collected since the company’s founding. Significant holdings regarding company founder Professor Warren Johnson (1847–1911). 500 lin. ft. of records from 1885 to present.

197. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries

Archives Department
P.O. Box 604
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0604

Phone: (414) 229-5402
Fax: (414) 229-3605
E-mail: askarch@uwm.edu
Website: http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/arch/
Hours: M, Tu, F 8 am–4:30 pm; Tu, W 8 am–8 pm during semesters; M-F 8 am–4:30 pm at other times

Contact person:
Michael Doylen, Dept. Head: (414) 229-6980; doylenm@uwm.edu

Finding aids: Exist for the majority of manuscript collections and archival series; contributed to a state of Wisconsin database, Archival Resources in Wisconsin.
Published information on archival holdings: Print guides, website, online finding aids

Overview:
The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries advance the campus mission of teaching, learning, research, and service by providing scholarly resources and services. We facilitate the discovery and exchange of ideas, and the creation, preservation, and sharing of knowledge. Over 5.2 million cataloged items from the fifteenth through the twenty-first centuries, especially from the twentieth.

Noteworthy collections:
  Records trace the history of the brewery, the bottling plant, various branches, and Valentin Blatz’s estate.
  Papers include documentation of the Peoples Brewing Company, the first major African-American owned brewery in Wisconsin.
  Records pertain to the Milwaukee radio and television stations owned by the Journal Company and includes the largest surviving body of television news footage in southeastern Wisconsin.
- Pabst Brewing Company Records (bulk, 1873–1940). 60 cu. ft.
  Documents the administrative and financial history of the Pabst Brewing Co. and its various subsidiaries.
- West Bend Company Records (1911–1989). 46 cu. ft. + 1 microfilm reel (35 mm.)
  Records of a West Bend, WI, manufacturing firm best known for its aluminum cookware.