

**Title:** John Pritzlaff Hardware Company

**Reference Number:** Mss-0607

**Inclusive Dates:** 1881 – 1957

**Bulk:** 6.854 cu. ft. total

**Location:** Sm Mss (000.03 cu. ft.)  
LC, Sh. 009-010 (1.2 cu. ft.)  
BV, Sh. 053 (6.0 cu. ft.)  
OS XLG (24 items)

**Abstract:** John Pritzlaff and A.F. Suelflohn established a hardware store in 1850. It grew steadily, enabling Pritzlaff to buy out his partner in 1853. As the business prospered, Pritzlaff shifted his attention to the wholesale side of the business, and in 1875, he built a warehouse on Plankinton Ave. that supplied the inventory for local retailers. In 1884, the business was incorporated as the John Pritzlaff Hardware Company, and three generations of the family led the company through two world wars and the Great Depression. During the 1950s, however, competition from national hardware chains forced the company to close its doors in 1958.

**Scope and Content:** The collection is organized into a small manuscript collection, oversize items and ledgers. The small manuscript collection contains anniversary materials, clippings and other promotional materials. The oversize items include letters and other personal materials relating to John Pritzlaff. The ledgers date from 1881-1954 and cover a variety of materials relating to the company.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Language:** English

**Administrative Note:** The collection was donated by a variety of individuals, including Beverly Wilke. It was processed and added to by R. Fuhrman (1988-1990), Steve Daily (1994-1995, 2008) and Kevin Abing (2003). The finding aid was retyped by Amanda Wynne in 2009.

Contents
<b>Small Manuscript Collection (1 Folder)</b>
100 years Service/Progress Booklet, 1850-1950
75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet, 1925 (2 copies)
Clippings and articles, 1950
Correspondence, 1958
Inventory of antiques and artifacts, undated
Program, Centennial Dinner at Wisconsin Club, 1950
Promotional Item for Blotter
Promotional Item for Flexible Flyer Sleds (3 copies)
Purchase order to George Warren Company, July 1899
<b>OS XLG</b>
Golden Anniversary Announcement of John and Sophia Pritzlaff, 1842-1894

Letters	
<b>Catalogs</b>	<b>Location</b>
John Pritzlaff Hardware Catalog, 1907	LC Sh. 9
John Pritzlaff Hardware Catalog, 1925	LC Sh. 9
John Pritzlaff Hardware Catalog, 1936	LC Sh. 9
John Pritzlaff Hardware Catalog, 1952	LC Sh. 10
John Pritzlaff Hardware Catalog, 1956	LC Sh. 10
John Pritzlaff Hardware Catalog, Machinist's Tools and Supplies, undated	LC Sh. 10
<b>Ledgers</b>	<b>Location</b>
Agent's Sales, 1899-1905	BV, Sh. 053
Bills Receivable II, 1878-1882	BV, Sh. 053
Cash Note Ledger "A", 1891-1895	BV, Sh. 053
Cash Postings #2, 1886-1892	BV, Sh. 053
Catalog Duplicates (1936, 1952, 1956)	BV, Sh. 053
Executive Committee, 1910-1934	BV, Sh. 053
General Ledger "B", 1907-1910	BV, Sh. 053
Minutes: Executive Committee, 1954-1957	BV, Sh. 053
Notes and Bills Receivable I, 1872-1877	BV, Sh. 053
Preferred Stock Dividend Record, 1927-1957	BV, Sh. 053
Private Balance, John Pritzlaff, 1883-1905	BV, Sh. 053
Private Record: Proceeding of the Executive Committee, 1910-1954	BV, Sh. 053
Private Stock Ledger #1, 1884-1916	BV, Sh. 053
Record: contains Corporation Articles, By-Laws, etc. and stockholders' meeting minutes, 1905-1913	BV, Sh. 053
Record: minutes of Stockholders, board of directors and executive meetings, 1935-1952	BV, Sh. 053
Rent Receipts, 1885-1898	BV, Sh. 053
Sales, 1876-1933	BV, Sh. 053
Stock Holders' Record #1, 1883-1958	BV, Sh. 053
Stock Ledger "C", 1920-1954	BV, Sh. 053
Stock Ledger "P", 1920-1954	BV, Sh. 053
Time ledger, 1881-1886	BV, Sh. 053
Time ledger, 1881-1886	BV, Sh. 053
Time ledger, 1883-1885	BV, Sh. 053
Time ledger, 1885-1890	BV, Sh. 053
Time ledger, 1886-1893	BV, Sh. 053
Time ledger, 1891-1894	BV, Sh. 053
Two unmarked volumes that contain copies of various correspondence as well as mailings to stockholders, sales agents, etc.	