

Title: William Frankfurth Hardware Company Collection

Reference Code: Mss-0387

Inclusive Dates: 1874 – 1961

Quantity: 001.6 cu. ft. total

Location: BV, Sh. 340 (0.8 cu. ft.)
BV, Sh. 324 (0.8 cu. ft.)

Abstract: William Frankfurth was born in Germany in 1829. He immigrated to the United States in 1849. After spending a year in Ohio, he moved to Milwaukee in 1850 and found employment with the Pritzlaff Hardware Company. In 1862, he opened his own small retail hardware store on the corner of Third and Chestnut (now W. Juneau Ave.). William expanded into wholesale hardware and moved into a new building at 116-118 Clybourn Street in 1885. The business continued to thrive after William passed away in 1891 as other family members, either by birth or marriage, directed the company. Another building was built along N. Plankinton Ave. in 1902 and a seven-story addition followed in 1920. At one point, Frankfurth Hardware was the largest hardware wholesaler in the Midwest, but it closed its doors in 1979.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of financial statements, contracts, correspondence, estate records and property acquisitions of the William Frankfurth Hardware Company.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English, German

Notes: The collection was revised and re-processed in June 2007 by Carl Osman.

Arrangement:

Folder Heading	Box #	Folder #
Land Sale – 367 Third Street & 310 Chestnut Street, 1874-1888, 1901.	1	1
William Frankfurth Hardware Co. – Documents, 1885-1922 Articles of incorporation, Articles of Association, Amendments	1	2
Haertel/Frankfurth Land Deal – 116-118 Clybourn Street, 1877-1885.	1	3
New Building, 116-118 Clybourn St., 1885. (Construction)	1	4
Frankfurth Hardware Co. – Miscellaneous Business, 1880-1919. Building Permit, Costs of building fixtures, Employee list, Stock holders meeting documents, advertisements.	1	5
Knox/Clauder Land Deal – 119-121 W. Water St., 1885.	1	6
New Building at 119-121 W. Water St., 1901-1902. Building permit, Construction contractor's papers.	1	7
New Building, 1901-1902 – Bids and Estimates.	1	8
New Building, 1901-1902 – Contracts & Specifications.	1	9

New Building, 1901-1902 – Bills and Receipts.	1	10
New Building, 1901-1902 – Boiler Bids, Specifications, etc.	2	11
Houghton/Frankfurth Land Deal – 123-127 W. Water St., 1901-1902. Land deed, Property contracts	2	12
Rundle Spence Land Purchase – 120 Clybourn, St., 1912-1915.	2	13
Judd/Tewless/Frankfurth Land Deals – 113-119 W. Clybourn St., 1919-1923. Property contracts, Will, Receipts for supplies, Property map.	2	14
Paula S. Frankfurth, 1929-1961 – Tax statement, Insurance documents (Note: Paula S. Frankfurth was the wife of Lorenz Frankfurth, oldest son of William Frankfurth and father of William Frankfurth II. Lorenz died in 1934. William, Lorenz and William II were all company presidents.)	2	15
Hedwig Hess Estate, 1950. Contracts, Probate papers, Stock sales receipts, Cemetery plot bill of sale, Tax records	2	16
Gustav Heynhold Estate, 1925-1926.	2	17
Victor Husting, 1889-1919. Property Deeds, Property contracts, Insurance Policies, Property sales receipts, Tax records. (Note: Husting was a traveling salesman for the Frankfurth Company.)	2	18
Peter Paulus Estate, 1941. (Note: Paulus became an employee of Frankfurth Hardware, 3 rd & Clybourn, when he was 12 years old and continued working for the company when it became a wholesaler on Clybourn & W. Water St. In 1899, the former Frankfurth Hardware retail store became the Peter Paulus Hardware Company. In 1917, Paulus re-joined the William Frankfurth Co. and was vice-president and treasurer at the time of his death in 1941.)	2	19
Miscellaneous: Letters about insurance re Albert Kraeft estate; Stockholders' proxy vote, 1932; List of contractors and bids, Dec. 12, 1890; Frankfurth Co. Letterhead; Letters in German from Jules Buffet, Ettlebruch; letters from William Frankfurth Co. to stockholder of Nome-Montana-New Mexico Mining Company; Letter from Dr. James A. Bach to register of deeds; Survey of building, lot 16, block 74, Ward 4. 503-505 N. Plankinton Ave. and 148-150 W. Clybourn, 1945, 1950.	2	20
William Frankfurth Hardware – Business Summary/Historical Info	2	21
OVERSIZE LEDGERS/RECORD BOOKS		LOCATION
Record Book (Contains drawings of Frankfurth building, business correspondence, company articles of association and by-laws, records of stockholders' meetings, financial records, stock certificate of 10 shares of Five Star Stores Inc.)	BV, Sh. 324	
City Purchases Ledger, 1907-1917	BV, Sh. 324	
Cash Ledger, 1895-1896	BV, Sh. 324	
Ladd's Discount Book, No. 2, 1907	BV, Sh. 324	