

Guide to the Ithaca Small Business Collection

The History Center in Tompkins County
110 North Tioga Street, Suite 204A
Tompkins Center for History and Culture
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-273-8284
www.thehistorycenter.net
archives@thehistorycenter.net

Collection Number V-62-1-1

Updated 2022

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Ithaca Small Business collection contains material relating to a variety of Ithaca-based businesses, including advertisements, receipts, invoices, and research materials telling the story of businesses that existed in the community from 1800 to 2017. Most of the material in the collection corresponds to industries or types of businesses, for example coal or florists. Other folders contain materials relating to specific businesses within those industries, for example Art Matrix or Ithaca Wall Paper Mills. The contents of this collection illustrate the diverse livelihoods of Ithaca residents and the products and services they provided to their community. Some occupied only a brief moment in time, while others lasted many decades, changing in name or purpose and merging with other businesses as time went on. While the materials in each folder create specific and diverse looks at particular businesses in Ithaca, this collection synthesizes this information to paint a broad-brush look at local businesses.

Apart from the folders containing materials from specific Ithaca businesses, the collection contains three folders in the back of the second box that speak to Ithaca small businesses generally. One is a book of caricatures depicting Ithaca businessmen around the year 1906 in alphabetical order. Another contains research on Ithaca businesses located on State street in various years. Finally, the last folder contains general information on local businesses.

CONTAINER LIST

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Folder Number</i>
Box 1	
Auto Repair, Garages, and Filling Stations (1907-1964)	1
Bakeries and Confectioners – M.W. Quick (1897)	2
Barbers (1948)	3

Barrels and Cooperage – H.V. Bostwick (1904)	4
Bookstores – Taylor & Carpenter, Triangle (1893-1951)	5
Buses – Ithaca-Myers Motor Bus (pre-1950)	6
Clothing	
Clothing Stores (1885-18970)	7
Ithaca Costume Company (1937-1993)	8
Angelheart Designs (1992-1997)	9
Coal (1891-1931)	10
Computer Graphics – Art Matrix (1985-1987)	11
Consulting – Advanced Design Consulting (2017)	12
Dairy – Arctic Ice Cream and Milk Company, Furman Bros. (1928-1971)	13
Dance Instruction (ca. 1890s-ca. 1912)*	14
*Trigger warning: this folder contains offensive materials relating to racist depictions of certain groups.	
Delivery – Ithaca Delivery (n.d.)	15
Department Stores – Rothschild’s Bros. (1892-ca.1980)	16
Dry Goods	
Dry Goods (1871-1907)	17
Levi Kenney (n.d.)	18
Engraving – Ithaca Engraving Company (mid-20 th century)	19
Florists (1897-1959)	20
Framing – The Frame Shop (1996)	21
General Stores	
Ellis and Aldrich (1880)	22
Morgan Mosher (1839-1889)	23
Gift Boxes – Paperhorse Trading Company (ca. 1990)	24
Glassware (1899-late 20 th century)	25

Box 2

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Folder Number</i>
Gold Extracting Company (1923)	26
Gravestones (1845-1937)	27
Grocers (1890s)	28
Hardware (1890-1899)	29
Home Dairy (1993-2003)	30
Hotel – Glen Mountain House (1884-1890)	31
Ice – Illston Ice Company (1883-1895)	32
Ingalls – Shoes/Luggage (n.d.)	33
Insurance (1874-1917)	34
Inventions and Patents (1867)	35
Iron Works (1904)	36
Laundry – Ithaca Laundry (1996)	37
Lightning Rods (n.d.)	38
Liveries (1897, 1908)	39
Lumber (1859-1963)	40
Magazines – Mayers (n.d.)	41
Meat Markets	
Ithaca Beef Company (1884-1893)	42
James Welch (1861-1919)	43
J.G. Wortman (1908)	44
Milling – Fall Creek Milling Company (1909)	45
Musical Instruments	
B.F. Lent (1894, 1908)	46
Ithaca Organ Company (1881)	47
Reuning and Sons (1992)	48
Natural Market – Ludgate Farms (ca. 1990)	49

Oil – Correct Oil Company (1932)	50
Painting and Wallpaper Hanging – William Egan (1952)	51
Pottery – Ithaca Potteries (1800-1887)	52
Printing – Forest Hill Printing Company (1912)	53
Publishing – Comstock Publishing Company (1927-1930)	54
Radio Stations (n.d.)	55
Real Estate (1907)*	56
*To be deaccessioned	
Shoes (1905-1909)	57
Stoves – The Ithaca Stoves Works (1996)	58
Wagons (1879-1884)	59
Wallpaper – Ithaca Wall Paper Mills (1900-1906)	60
Wine – Six Mile Creek Vineyard (n.d.)	61
Wine and Gifts – Made in New York (n.d.)	62
Caricatures of Ithaca Businessmen (1906-1907)	63
Research Materials on Ithaca Businesses on State Street (1807-1966)	64
General Ithaca Businesses	65

Generous support for updating this collection came from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation

