



Reed-Harlin Company Records (R0489)

Collection Number: R0489

Collection Title: Reed-Harlin Company Records

Dates: 1904-1978

Creator: Reed-Harlin Company (West Plains, Mo.)

Abstract: The Reed-Harlin Company Records are minutes of meetings of the stockholders and board of directors of the Reed-Harlin Company, a wholesale grocery firm based in West Plains, Howell County, Missouri.

Collection Size: (1 roll of microfilm)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Reed-Harlin Company Records* (R0489); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The records were loaned for microfilming to the University of Missouri by the South Central Missouri Genealogical Society on June 10, 1994 (Accession No. RA0597).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Reed-Harlin Company Records can be found in the following collections:

Howell County Bank Records (R1225)

Processed by: Processed by John Bradbury, July 29, 1994. Revised by Niki Cox, February 9, 2023.

Historical Note:

The West Plains Grocer Company was organized on May 7, 1904, in West Plains by John R. Reed, Benjamin F. Wood, William "Tan" Tandy Harlin, James Patterson Harlin, and James M. Herd. John R. Reed of Gainesville was the principal stockholder and president, and James P. Harlin of West Plains was resident manager of the company's operations, each until their deaths in 1949 and 1946, respectively. Benjamin F. Wood became president in 1947, followed by James Earnest "Good" Hard, who presided at the time of dissolution.

The firm became the Reed-Harlin Grocer Company on February 6, 1912, and the Reed-Harlin Company in 1954. During the company's most successful period through the 1940s, the firm engaged in the wholesale grocery market in a multi-county area in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. There were branch offices in Cabool and Willow Springs, Missouri, and Hardy and Mammoth Spring, Arkansas. Declining revenue and increased expense led to the decision to liquidate on November 8, 1978, at which time negotiations were opened to sell the remaining assets to the General Grocer Company.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in the original order.

Scope and Content Note:

The records begin with the organization of the company in 1904 as the West Plains Grocer Company, and continue through its dissolution in 1978. The earliest minutes in this collection were transcribed from excerpts selected and photocopied from the original record book, 1904-1942. There is a gap in the records from January 4, 1919 to December 19, 1942. The remaining records consist of original typewritten minutes, 1944-1978.

Container List:

| | |
|--------|---|
| v. 1-2 | Minutes |
| Roll 1 | v. 1 May 7, 1904 - December 19, 1942 |
| | v. 2 December 16, 1944 - November 8, 1978 |

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| Business records--Missouri--Howell County | v. 1-2 |
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