



Finding Aid for

**COGSWELL BROTHERS GENERAL STORE RECORDS
ACCESSION 28.459.7**

Finding Aid Published: January 2011



20900 Oakwood Boulevard · Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
research.center@thehenryford.org · www.thehenryford.org

28.459.7

COGSWELL BROTHERS GENERAL STORE RECORDS

Papers, 1882-1891

.33 linear feet in 1 box

These records document the operation of the Cogswell Brothers General Store of Cincinnatus, New York from 1882 to 1891. While it is known that the Cogswell brothers, Charles and Arthur, were born in Cincinnatus (1857 and 1862 respectively), except for materials in this collection, no other records exist documenting a Cogswell Brothers General Store operating in Cincinnatus in the 1880s.

It is known, however, that the Cogswell brothers operated the E.E. Ellis store in Etna, New York (one county to the west) from 1882 to 1891. When Ellis went bankrupt in 1891, the Cogswells bought him out and ran the store under their own name from 1891 until 1942.

In 1928, agents of Henry Ford acquired old stock from the Etna store to help furnish the General Store which Ford had relocated to Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan from Waterford, Michigan. The materials comprising this collection were part of that acquisition.

The records comprise seven folders of correspondence and statements (bills and invoices) which have been calendared; and seven folders and four rolls of freight bills. These two groups of materials have been arranged chronologically. One additional folder, containing an undated list of General Store goods with their prices, completes the collection.

Additional information on the Cogswell brothers is filed with the "Elias Brown General Store" materials in E.I. Accession #186.

BOX 1 1-1 Correspondence and Statements; 1882

- Letter from Conklin & Mersereau, Seed Merchants, Binghamton, NY, 2/12/82, quote prices on seeds and reference to sending samples
- Letter from sister, J.K.? Cogswell, 8/24/82, buying out stock of another firm?
- Card from J.W. & Louis K., confirming 1 case of goods, shipped by railroad 9/8/82 from Cortland, NY
- Letter from The National Bank of Cortland, 9/7/82, response to their ordering a checkbook
- Letter from J. S. Atwell & Co., wholesale dealers in Fancy Goods, Hosiery & Notions, Syracuse, NY, 9/16/82
- Letter from J. S. Atwell & Co.?, 9/20/82, about receiving an order?
- Letter from John Crouse & Co., Wholesale Grocers,

- Syracuse, NY, 9/29/82, about application for a license from IRS
- Letter from U.S. Internal Revenue, Deputy Collector's Office, NYC, 10/4/82, about special tax as dealers in mfd. tobacco?, owe more money
 - Letter from Sperry, Neal & Hyde, Importers & Jobbers of Dry Goods, Notions, Hosiery, White Goods, Hats, Caps, Etc., Syracuse, 10/6/82, about samples of flannels
 - Letter from Credit Dept., Tefft, Weller & Co., NYC, 10/10/82, about Cogswell Bros. not receiving goods
 - Letter from Lee Tweedy & Co., NYC, 10/10/82, can't send samples of sackings, sold out
 - Invoice from Tefft, Weller & Co., 10/13/82, purchase of indigo pts. (prints?) 6.30
 - Letter from T.W. & Co., 10/17/82, check on piece of O.D. Blanket (?)
 - Invoice from Sperry, Neal & Hyde, Notion Dept., Syracuse, 10/23/82, shipped order: misses vests, tubular braid
 - Letter from Empire Mills, R. Brown & Sons, Wholesale & Retail Dealers in Flour, Feed, Meal & Grain, Ithaca, NY, 10/25/82, shipping flour
 - Letter from The Graphic, 10/28/82, says "too much matter for a poster," better in form of a circular
 - Letter from Hollister & Noble, Wholesale Dealers in Rubber Boots and Shoes, Auburn, NY, 11/10/82, about supply of boots
 - Letter from Marcellus Falls (NY) Roller Mills, 11/10/82, supplies prices
 - Letter from Marcellus Falls (NY) Roller Mills, 11/20/82, praises quality of their flour
 - Letter from Syracuse, NY, 12/20/82, about H. B. Wells & Co. firm to be succeeded by Wells, Snook & Cook after 1/1/83 (boots and shoes), will send agent with samples
 - Letters from Irving Kester & Co., Wholesale Dealers in Grass Seeds, Dried Fruits, Beans, Peas, Grain Bags, &c., Buffalo, NY, 12/23/82, will take their dried apples in BBL's., Cortland at 7-1/2, "We accept your proposition."
 - 12/30/82, saying dried apple market has declined and "therefore you need not make the amt. very large," would take 5 or 10 tons
 - Monthly statement (bill) from McAdam & Rathbun, Dr., Utica, 12/9/82
 - Statement from G. N. Crouse & Co., Dr., Syracuse, NY

1-2 Correspondence and Statements; 1883

- Letter from C. A. Whitney & Co., Flour, Provisions & Seeds, Binghamton, NY, 1/6/83, telling them they

don't want butter, but will give 29 cents for eggs, delivered.

- Letter from Irving Kester & Co., 1/5/83, enclose 503.78 for invoice of 12/30/82 (d. apples?)
- Letter from D. M. & E.G. Halbert, Jobbers of Dry Goods, Carpets & Nations, Binghamton, NY, 1/15/83, prices on fabric?
- Statement from Wells, Snook & Cook, 1/19/83, 66.24 due from old business
- Letter from George Craver & Son, Seed merchants, Binghamton, NY, 1/19/83, reference to seed samples, timothy and clover
- Letter from Pittsfield, Mass, 1/30/83, 2 samples flannel, pink and cardinal
- Letter from Pittsfield, Mass., 2/8/83, will buy butter, box with package of roll butter of fair color (not white) each roll covered with a cloth and good quality
- Letter from I. Kester, 2/12/83, sends samples of seeds
- Letter from Pittsfield, Mass., 2/12/83, can get price you ask on butter
- Letter from Pittsfield, Mass., 2/13/83, more about butter
- Letter from C. A. Whitney & Co., Binghamton, will take eggs at 23 cents
- Statement from Cogswell, 3/31/83 to C.A. Whitney & Co., for eggs
- Letter from Anderson, Gregg & Son, mfrs. and jobbers, Boots and Shoes, 4/14/83, reply about men's sandals at cheap price earlier, otherwise price is firm, no factories running now
- Letter from T. H. Watts, agent for Minnesota Flour, wholesale dealer in butter, cheese, eggs, Scranton, PA, 4/13/83, abt. consignments to Cogswell of ?
- Letters from Sperry, Neal & Hyde, importers and jobbers of dry goods, notions, hosiery, white goods, hats, caps, etc., 4/27/83, confirming purchase of 4 Marseillectwills, 2 pc cochio (calico?) prints;
- 5/5/83, change to order of Julliard bunting, ordered G not C
- Letter from The Graphic, 5/26/83, printed bills for them
- Price List from Sweetser, Pembroke & Co., NYC, 6/20/83, woolen dept.
- From Cogswell, 8/6/85 to D.S.& W. Railroad, accused them of sending 10 BBL's. flour to Marathon, not Cortland, they replied, not to blame
- Letter from Anderson, Gregg & Son, 8/23/83, about cheap price on rubber ___? (woonsockers?), advise take advantage of break in rubber markets
- Letter from McKinney & Everts, Wholesale Grocers, Packers & Provision Dealers, Binghamton, NY, 8/28/83,

- about package of trout shipment
- Letter from C. W. Rockwell & Co., Woolen Mfrers, Rockwells Mills, Chenango Co., NY, 9/1/83, be patient abt. shipment of woolens
- Statement from L. N. Chamberlain, Mfrers Custom Made Boots & Shoes, Owego, NY, 9/11/83, 12 pr. boys rubber boots
- Letter from Pittsfield (Frank), 9/13/83, chatty
- Letter from J. & G. N. Crouse, Wholesale Grocers, Syracuse, NY, 9/22/83, quote price they will buy (I think) kerosene oil in sound condition
- Letter from John A. Hamilton, Syracuse, NY, 10/83, about baking powder, many baking powder Mfrers. "putting in powder on consignment," their agents request return by time of invoice
- Letter from Credit Dept., Tefft, Weller & Co., NYC, 10/20/83, about credit and risk and trusting them
- Price List for Paper Hangings, 1882-3 season, from Smith & Wallace, jobbers in paper hangings, Cortland, NY, borders, friezes, ceiling decoration, window curtains, oil shades
- Letter from Cortland Mills, 12/31/83, availability of flour, "The day for Patents and high priced flours is beginning to change, the stores here are selling very little. One reason is we small millers are making a good satisfactory flour that is equal in many respects at much less cash."

1-3 Correspondence and Statements; 1884

- Letter from Cortland Mills, 1/2/84, about buckwheat and other kinds of flour they sell
- Statement to G. N. Grouse & Co., Dr., lists of costs with balance due
- Letter from Ackerman & Skinner, wholesale boots and shoes, Syracuse, NY, 3/4/84, abt. mix-up in order, return those not in sample
- Letter from Fred H. Gee (cousin), Fair Haven, 3/17/84, wants to buy abt. 50 lbs. of the best maple sugar they can get, not above 12.2/lb.
- Price list on seeds from Conklin & Mersereau, Binghamton, 3/18/84
- Letter from John M. Duff, wholesale dealer in butter, cheese, eggs, poultry, flour, produce, &c., Syracuse, NY, 3/21/84, does not care to buy any maple sugar from them but will try to give them a good price if they send some.
- Letter from F. T. Newell, Grocer, Binghamton, NY, 3/24/84, wants to wait on maple sugar til "market gets down to a figure where it can be sold to families." Will buy eggs.
- Letter from C. T. Doremus, general produce commission merchants in butter, eggs, pork, poultry, game, calves, fruits, Newark, NJ, 3/25/84, heard of them, will be pleased to sell for them at any time, quotes current prices for eggs stiff and firm, 25 cents/dozen; fresh new butter fine 33-35 cents; hog dressed calves 8 to 11 cents
- Letter from H. M Jeffery, Hotel and Dining Rooms, Auburn, NY,

3/28/84, inquiring about sugar.

- Letter from Fred H. (cousin), Fair Haven, NY, 3/31/84, save a box of best sugar you can find.
- Letter from Conklin & Mersereau, Binghamton, NY, 4/11/84, regret seed they sent was not satisfactory, would rather supply credit and send something better
- Letter from F. T. Newell, 4/1/84, paid for sugar
- Letter from T. H. Watts, dealer in fine butter and cheese, Scranton, PA, 4/3/84, hold off on the sugar, not selling as well as last year and lots being produced nearby, sells 12 to 12-1/2 cents.
- Letter from F. T. Newell, 4/11/84, paid for sugar, send more if can get it.
- Letter from M.C. Fenton, Fenton's Ranch, Blockburgh (?), Humbolt Co., Calif., 4/20/84 "... am in need of britches. There is no tailor (sic) shop in this country worth a damn. plenty of ready-made clothing. . .but that wont (sic) does. If you will pick from your store a pants pattern of your choice only not too light and send to Reeds in Cortland (he has his size). Have him make and send them to you and you pack and send them to Blocksburgh. . .
- Statement from Tefft, Weller & Co., NYC, 5/7/84, covering mdse.
- Letter from Tefft, Weller, 6/18/84, don't carry line of colored jerseys so can't send cream jersey but can make from finest French Jersey Cloth, give particulars, can't return, send silk gloves.
- Credit Bill from Sperry, Neal & Hude, 6/19/84, on parasols
- Letter from F. W. Collins, Cortland, NY, 6/24/84 bill for pants from the tailor, apologizes for something being lost
- Letter from National Bank of Cortland, 12/9/84, abt. credit

1-4 Correspondence and Statements; 1885

- Credit Voucher from S. Burkhalter & Co., Wholesale Grocers, NYC, 1/21/85, 1 bbl., N.O. Molasses
- Letter from Office of Markstein & Rosenthal NY Store, Pittsfield, Mass., 1/27/85, found place for them to send butter, will send sample of fabric
- Receipt from Jelliffe, Wright, Hoag & Co., Produce Commission Merchants, 1/27/84, 4 _____ 1 bbl eggs (to sell for them)
- Letter and envelope from D.M. Ferry & Co. Seed Merchants, Growers; Detroit to W. & G.H. Homes in Cincinnati, can you find someone who is willing to receive a box of seed originally intended for J.K. Comstock, Taylor NY (fill in the blank)
- Statement from Markstein & Rosenthal, Dealers in Dry Goods, Fancy & Millinery Goods, 1/31/85, mdse., butter proved very good
- Shipping receipt from Syracuse, Binghamton & New York Railroad Co., Marathon station 3/10/85, from E.W. Wade, Amerstdam, NY, 1 box, 100#
- Letter from Carter & Van Alstyne, NY, 3/23/85, quotes market prices butter, eggs, cheese, beans, d. apples, poultry, awaiting your shipment
- Statement from Thompson & Byington, Jobbers of Hats, Caps, Straw Goods, Trunks, Satchels, Gloves, Mittens, Rubber Clothing & Whips,

Syracuse, NY, 3/27/85, mdse.

- Letter from H.J. Gifford, Oswego, NY, 4/13/85, sugar came OK, can you send 50-100 lbs. equally as good
- Letter from Thompson & Byington, 5/27/85, - send more money
- Letter from Owego, 6/4/85, mix-up on bill (boots and shoes)
- Letter from Law Offices of Cantor & Seldner, 7/15/85, succeeded in collecting money for a claim against Caster & Van Alstyne in their favor
- Letter from the New York Bowery Fire Insurance Co., Cortland Agency, 7/20/85, abt. insurance for their business
- Letter to Mr. Stevenson, Cortland Agency for NYC from Cogswell Bros. about insurance, they want insurance from good companies be insured, \$3000 to \$4000, located in a wood frame, block next to the hotel
- Letter from E.T. Cehuseh (?), 7/21/85, promised to pay bill
- Letter from National Bank of Cortland, 7/22/85, character reference for Mr. Stevenson, insurance man
- Letter from Stevenson, Westchester Fire Insurance Co., NYC, 7/25/85, about insurance
- Statement from C.A. Peters, importer and jobber of notions, hosiery, underwear, white goods, laces, jewelry, ladies and gents furnishing goods, etc., 8/1/85, for jerseys, ruching, and silk ribbons
- Statement from C.A. Peters, importer and jobber of notions, hosiery, underwear, white goods, laces, jewelry, ladies and gents furnishing goods, etc., 8/1/1/85, for 1/2 oz. (? prob. doz.) Berk Oalls
- Letter from Westchester Fire Insurance Co., 8/31/85, offers 3 different policies at \$1000 each
- Statement from D.P. Rhoades, Wholesale Dealer in Notions, Syracuse, 9/5/85:

13 doz. vests and pants	52.00
9 doz. vests and pants	31.50
2 doz. shirts and dus (?)	20.00
2 # saxony yarn	1.90
2 # ball yarn	1.60
5 # black German knitting	4.60
15 # colored German knitting	15.30
1/2 dozen shirts	6.00
1/2 dozen shirts	6.00
- Letter from Stevenson, 9/22/85, about insurance
- Letter from S.P. Pierce & Sons, importers and jobbers of crockery, glass, plated ware, kerosene goods, etc. etc., Syracuse, NY, 10/22/85, about lighting ----?, chimneys
- Letter from Tefft, Weller, 11/2/85, sending satin brocade at higher price than requested
- Letter from Stevenson, 11/18/85, had to replace Westchester Policy because they ordered it off when they didn't take it immediately
- Letter from Ackerman & Skinner, wholesale boots & shoes, 12/10/85, Cogswell Bros. didn't received what promised, they said they sent it all and it must have been taken in transit, make affidavit of what is missing
- The Joost Cracker & Baking Co., Mfrers. Joost Crackers, Cakes,

Snaps, &c., Binghamton, 12/26/85, refuse their order because promised exclusive business to White & Nichols, even though did business with them late 1882 to July 1884

1-5 Correspondence and Statements; 1886

- Bill for Letter Heads, Bills, from Fred H. Gee (cousins), Job Printer, Cortland, NY 2/12/86 + chatting
- Letter from E. & O. Ward, Produce Commission Merchants, wholesale agents for Alex. Hornby's Steamed Cooked Wheat & Oats & St. Leon Spring Water, 2/15/86, referred to them
- Letter from T. H. Watts, 3/15/86, can send eggs, have no trade for hams or shoulders or would try to help them out

1-6 Correspondence and Statements; 1889

- Statement, Markstein & Rosenthal, 10/5/89:

15 tons clover seed	750.00
40 boxes codfish	4000.00
3 spools thread	.14
1/2 rubber cord	.02
7 Bales Boot MI?	420.00
1 Roll Batting	.10
50 doz. rub? shirts	1000.00
1/4 lb. Tea	.10
1 cake soap	.06
3 yd. calico? cambric?	.12
700 yd. Blk Sat	1400.00
1000 yd. cold (?) silk	900.00
1/2 doz. Coats cotton (thread?)	.28
TOTAL	<hr/> 8470.82

1-7 Correspondence and Statements; undated

- Statement from H. Cordenio Smith & Co., Marcellus Falls, NY, 10/25, \$33.50 (?)
- Letter from Irving Kester & Co., 12/28, about the apples
- Letter from New York Bowery Fire Insurance Co.
- Statement (order?), hats, caps, large:
 - men's fur
 - men's wool
 - men's silk caps
 - boys wool
 - boys straw
 - men's straw
 - men's Panama
 - men's scotch caps
- Envelope addressed to Ms. Nellies Kingman, Binghamton, NY

1-8 Freight Bills; 1882

1-9 Freight Bills; 1883
1-10 Freight Bills; Jan-Jun 1884
1-11 Freight Bills; Jul-Dec 1884
1-12 Freight Bills; Jan-Jun 1885
1-13 Freight Bills; Jul-Dec 1885
1-14 Freight Bills; 1886
1-15 Freight Bills; Mar 1888-Mar 1889
1-16 Freight Bills; Mar 1889-Jan 1890
1-17 Freight Bills; Jan-Nov 1890
1-18 Freight Bills; Nov 1890-Sep 1891
1-19 List of Purchases with Prices; undated