



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Henry S. Leszynsky cash book**

1867-1869, 1883-1884

MssCol 25776

Processed by Susan P. Waide, 2019

## Summary

**Creator:** Leszynsky, Henry S., 1822-1902

**Title:** Henry S. Leszynsky cash book

**Date:** 1867-1869, 1883-1884

**Size:** .19 linear feet (1 volume)

**Source:** Purchased from Mrs. Hudson's Fine Books & Paper, 2019

**Abstract:** Henry S. Leszynsky (1822-1902), born to a Jewish family in Goslin, Prussia (now Murowana Go\_lina, Poland), was a New York City wine and liquor merchant. Established as a dry goods merchant in Manhattan by 1850, he married Amelia H. Godfrey (1833-1912) in 1852. Leszynsky soon prospered as a dealer in wines and liquors, and was able to continue in the trade after bankruptcy in 1869. He and his family resided in Manhattan. The collection consists of one volume, the bulk of the content comprising personal and business cash book entries for Manhattan merchant Henry S. Leszynsky, 1867-1869 (pages 2-147). The volume also contains corporate minutes documenting the formation of the Bay Ridge Steamship Construction Company, 1883-1884 (pages 160-201). The Company was incorporated in March, 1883, to build and repair ships at a shipyard to be located in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. The remainder of the 721-page volume is blank; there is no apparent connection between the two sets of records.

**Preferred citation:** Henry S. Leszynsky cash book, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Susan P. Waide, 2019

## Creator History

Henry S. Leszynsky (1822-1902), born to a Jewish family in Goslin, Prussia (now Murowana Go\_lina, Poland), was a New York City wine and liquor merchant. Established as a dry goods merchant in Manhattan by 1850, he married Amelia H. Godfrey (1833-1912) in 1852. Leszynsky soon prospered as a dealer in wines and liquors, and was able to continue in the trade after bankruptcy in 1869. He and

his family resided in Manhattan.

The Bay Ridge Steamship Construction Company was incorporated in March, 1883, to build and repair ships at a shipyard to be located in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. Incorporators included Samuel Mawhinney and Edwin P. Carpenter of Worcester, Massachusetts, and A. Perry Bliven, Harry Craske (secretary), Robert H. Burdell, Warren Rosevelt, and James E. Smith, doing business in the New York City area. The company's office was located in Manhattan.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of one volume, the bulk of the content comprising personal and business cash book entries for Manhattan merchant Henry S. Leszynsky, 1867-1869 (pages 2-147). The volume also contains corporate minutes documenting the formation of the Bay Ridge Steamship Construction Company, 1883-1884 (pages 160-201). The Company was incorporated in March, 1883, to build and repair ships at a shipyard to be located in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. The remainder of the 721-page volume is blank; there is no apparent connection between the two sets of records.

Cash book entries record receipts and disbursements for Henry S. Leszynsky, 1867 April 6-1869 April 30 (pages 2-147). Personal and family expenses include petty cash for Henry S. and Amelia Leszynsky, housing and travel expenses, lessons and other items for their children, and donations to Jewish congregations and benevolent organizations. Entries also identify gifts, loans, and dealings with members of the extended family, such as Lesser Leszynsky of California and Mr. and Mrs. P. J. (Philip J. and Priscilla J.) Joachimsen of New York. Entries for business transactions provide the individual or firm name and the amount of the debit or credit, often promissory notes.

Minutes of the Bay Ridge Steamship Construction Company, 1883 March 15-1884 May 14 (pages 160-201), mention the selection of officers and board members, capitalization, the purchase and improvement of property in Bay Ridge, and receipt of payment towards construction of the yacht Speranza.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Account books

Minutes (administrative records)

### **Subjects**

Account books -- New York (State) -- New York

Alcoholic beverage industry -- New York (State) -- New York

Jewish families -- New York (State) -- New York

Jews -- Charities

Merchants -- New York (State) -- New York

Shipbuilding -- New York (State) -- New York

### **Geographic Names**

Bay Ridge (New York, N.Y.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.

### **Names**

Leszynsky, Henry S., 1822-1902

Bay Ridge Steamship Construction Company