



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Brown Brothers & Company records

1825-1889 [bulk 1830s-1870s]

MssCol 410

Summary

Creator: Brown Brothers & Company

Title: Brown Brothers & Company records

Date: 1825-1889 [bulk 1830s-1870s]

Size: 45 linear feet (176 v.)

Source: Deposit, Brown Brothers, Harriman & Co, 1936

Abstract: Alexander Brown (1764-1834) emigrated from Ireland to Baltimore in 1800 and opened a dry goods business with which his four sons became associated. One son, John (1788-1872), opened a branch in Philadelphia in 1818 and expanded the business to include foreign exchange transactions. Another son, James (1791-1877) established Brown Brothers & Co. in New York City in 1825 and eventually absorbed the other branches. In addition, Brown Brothers & Co. was associated with the English firm of Brown, Shipley & Co. which was run by another brother, William Brown (1784-1864). In the early 1830s James Brown sold the dry goods portion of the company and concentrated on banking and trade. Thereafter, Brown Brothers & Co. became one of the most successful American banking houses. A 1930 merger created the present firm of Brown Brothers, Harriman & Co. Collection consists of accounting records of Brown Brothers & Co. and its allied enterprise, Brown, Shipley & Co. Most of the records cover the years when James Brown was a partner and include journals, 1828-1853, and ledgers, 1825-1880. There are also journals, 1837-1880, for Brown, Shipley & Co. Other records include letter books, consignments, custom house entries, records of sales, and accounts of New Orleans and Havana offices of Brown, Shipley & Co.

Access: Advance notice required.

Status note: Collection is unavailable pending digitization.

Preferred citation: Brown Brothers & Company records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Alexander Brown (1764-1834) emigrated from Ireland to Baltimore in 1800 and opened a dry goods

business with which his four sons became associated. One son, John (1788-1872), opened a branch in Philadelphia in 1818 and expanded the business to include foreign exchange transactions. Another son, James (1791-1877) established Brown Brothers & Co. in New York City in 1825 and eventually absorbed the other branches. In addition, Brown Brothers & Co. was associated with the English firm of Brown, Shipley & Co. which was run by another brother, William Brown (1784-1864). In the early 1830s James Brown sold the dry goods portion of the company and concentrated on banking and trade. Thereafter, Brown Brothers & Co. became one of the most successful American banking houses. A 1930 merger created the present firm of Brown Brothers, Harriman & Co.

Scope and Content Note

Collection consists of accounting records of Brown Brothers & Co. and its allied enterprise, Brown, Shipley & Co. Most of the records cover the years when James Brown was a partner and include journals, 1828-1853, and ledgers, 1825-1880. There are also journals, 1837-1880, for Brown, Shipley & Co. Other records include letter books, consignments, custom house entries, records of sales, and accounts of New Orleans and Havana offices of Brown, Shipley & Co.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Account books

Occupations

Bankers

Merchants

Subjects

Banks and banking

Business enterprises -- England -- Liverpool

Business enterprises -- New York (State) -- New York

Geographic Names

Great Britain -- Commerce -- United States

Havana (Cuba) -- Commerce

New Orleans (La.) -- Commerce

New York (N.Y.) -- Commerce

United States -- Commerce -- Great Britain

Names

Brown Brothers & Company

Brown, James, 1791-1877

Brown, John, 1788-1872

Brown, William, Sir, 1784-1864

Shipley, Joseph

Brown, Shipley & Co.

Container List

Acceptances

1835-1848, 1865, 1867-1870 lacking.

- v. 1 1832-1834
- v. 2 1849-1852
- v. 3 1852-1854
- v. 4 1853-1859
- v. 5 1854-1856
- v. 6 1854-1857
- v. 7 1856-1857
- v. 8 1857-1858
- v. 9 1859-1860
- v. 10 1860-1861
- v. 11 1861-1864
- v. 12 1863-1864
- v. 13 1866
- v. 14 1871-1872

Agencies

- v. 15 Agencies Ledger No. 1 1853-1859
- v. 16 Agencies Ledger No. 2 1659-1865
- v. 17 Agencies Ledger No. 3 1866-1870
- v. 18 Agencies Ledger No. 4 1871-1875
- v. 19 Agencies Ledger No. 5 1875-1880
- v. 20 Agencies Sterling Accounts No. 1 1865-1869
- v. 21 Agencies Sterling Accounts No. 2 1869-1871
- v. 22 Agencies Sterling Accounts No. 3 1871-1876
- v. 23 Agencies Sterling Accounts No. 4 1875-1879
- v. 24 Southern Agencies Blotter No. 2 1872-1876
No. 1 lacking.
- v. 25 Cash Account No. 4 1832-1833

No. 1-3 lacking.

Collateral Ledger

No. 1-4 lacking

- v. 26 Collateral Ledger No. 5 1872-1878
- v. 27 Collateral Ledger No. 6 1876-1881

Consignments

1835-1844, 1852-1872 lacking.

- v. 28 1834
- v. 29 1845-1851
- v. 30 Consignments, Purchases, Shipments, Insurance 1873-1877

- v. 31 Custom House Entries 1827-1833
- v. 32 General Ledger No. 1 1880
General Ledger - Gold
- v. 33 General Ledger No. 1 Gold 1868-1871
- v. 34 General Ledger No. 2 Gold 1872-1875
- v. 35 General Ledger No. 3 Gold 1876-1878
- v. 36 Gold - Cash 1863-1864
- v. 37 Instructions 1865-1866
Invoices
- v. 38 1828-1845
- v. 39 1829-1833
- v. 40 1833-1835
- v. 41 1835-1842
Journal
- 1840-1844 lacking.
- v. 42 1828-1829
- v. 43 1829-1831
- v. 44 1831-1833
- v. 45 1833-1834
- v. 46 1834-1835
- v. 47 1834-1836
- v. 48 1835-1836
- v. 49 1836-1837
- v. 50 1836-1837
- v. 51 1837-1838
- v. 52 1838
- v. 53 1838-1839
- v. 54 1845-1852
- v. 55 1851-1853
Ledgers
- v. 56 Ledger A 1825-1829
- v. 57 Ledger B 1825-1832
- v. 58 Ledger C 1833-1837
- v. 59 Ledger D 1838-1840
- v. 60 Ledger E 1837-1840
- v. 61 Ledger F 1840-1843
- v. 62 Ledger F 1840-1843
- v. 63 Ledger G 1843-1846
- v. 64 Ledger G 1843-1846
- v. 65 Ledger H 1846-1849
- v. 66 Ledger H 1846-1849

Ledgers (cont.)

- v. 67 Ledger I 1849-1853
- v. 68 Ledger I 1849-1853
- v. 69 Ledger J 1853-1856
- v. 70 Ledger K 1856-1859
- v. 71 Ledger L 1859-1861
- v. 72 Ledger M 1861-1863
- v. 73 Ledger N 1863-1865
- v. 74 Ledger O 1866
- v. 75 Ledger P 1867
- v. 76 Ledger Q 1868
- v. 77 Ledger R 1869
- v. 78 Ledger S 1870
- v. 79 Ledger T 1871
- v. 80 Ledger U 1872
- v. 81 Ledger V 1873
- v. 82 Ledger W 1874-1875
- v. 83 Ledger X 1876
- v. 84 Ledger Y 1877-1878
- v. 85 Ledger Z 1879

Letters

- v. 86 Letters To Thomas B. Curtis 1855-1858
- v. 87 Letters To Browns & Bowen And Wm. H. Graham 1856-1857
- v. 88 Letters (Various) 1858-1860
- v. 89 Letters (Various) 1859-1860
- v. 90 Merchandise Sales And Other Accounts 1851-1855

Private Accounts

- v. 91 Private Accounts No. 1 1864-1866
- v. 92 Private Accounts No. 2 1866-1868
- v. 93 Private Accounts No. 3 1869-1870
- v. 94 Private Accounts No. 4 1871-1872
- v. 95 Private Accounts No. 5 1873-1875
- v. 96 Private Accounts No. 6 1876-1878
- v. 97 Private Accounts No. 7 1879-1880
- v. 98 Receipts & Deliveries, Shipments 1828-1829

Sales

- v. 99 1826-1827
- v. 100 1827-1830
- v. 101 1829-1833
- v. 102 1832-1835
- v. 103 1834-1835
- v. 104 1835-1836

Sales (cont.)

- v. 105 1835-1838
- v. 106 Securities 1859-1866

Statements

1850-1862 lacking.

- v. 107 1825-1827
 - v. 108 1827-1830
 - v. 109 1830-1833
 - v. 110 1833-1836
 - v. 111 1836-1842
 - v. 112 1842-1849
 - v. 113 1842-1849
 - v. 114 1863-1864
 - v. 115 Sterling Drafts 1875-1877
- Stock Ledger And Dividend Book
- v. 116 Stock Ledger And Dividend Book 1866-1867
 - v. 117 Stock Ledger And Dividend Book 1868-1869
 - v. 118 Stock Ledger No. 1 1858-1873

Others lacking.

Stock Collection Ledger

- v. 119 Stock Collection Ledger No. 1 1872-1884
- v. 120 Stock Collection Ledger No. 1 1873-1889

Travellers Credit Ledger

- v. 121 Travellers Credit Ledger No. 1 1874-1878
- v. 122 Travellers Credit Ledger No. 2 1879-1881
- v. 123 Balance Sheet - Real Estate Valuations 1842-1852

New Orleans Office

1855-1874 lacking.

- v. 124 1844-1846
- v. 125 1845-1849
- v. 126 1846-1848
- v. 127 1849-1854
- v. 128 1875-1879

Havana Office

- v. 129 1861-1862
- v. 130 1862
- v. 131 1862

B. S. & Co

L, P, S lacking.

- v. 132 A 1837-1839
- v. 133 B 1839-1841
- v. 134 C 1841-1844

B. S. & Co (cont.)

- v. 135 D 1844-1845
- v. 136 E 1845-1847
- v. 137 F 1847-1848
- v. 138 G 1848-1849
- v. 139 H 1849-1850
- v. 140 I 1850-1851
- v. 141 J 1851-1852
- v. 142 K 1852-1853
- v. 143 M 1854-1855
- v. 144 N 1855-1856
- v. 145 O 1856-1857
- v. 146 Q 1858
- v. 147 R 1859
- v. 148 T 1860
- v. 149 U 1861
- v. 150 V 1861-1863
- v. 151 W 1863
- v. 152 X 1863
- v. 153 1 1864
- v. 154 2 1864-1865
- v. 155 3 1865-1866
- v. 156 4 1866
- v. 157 5 1866-1867
- v. 158 6 1867-1868
- v. 159 7 1868
- v. 160 8 1868-1869
- v. 161 9 1869
- v. 162 10 1869-1870
- v. 163 11 1870
- v. 164 12 1870
- v. 165 13 1870-1871
- v. 166 14 1871
- v. 167 15 1871-1872
- v. 168 16 1872
- v. 169 17 1872
- v. 170 18 1872-1873
- v. 171 19 1873-1874
- v. 172 20 1874-1875
- v. 173 21 1875-1876
- v. 174 22 1877
- v. 175 23 1877-1879

B. S. & Co (cont.)
v. 176 24 1879-1880