

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

## A Guide to the C. R. & T. J. SUTHERLAND, COMMISSION MERCHANTS, PAPERS

### Collection Summary

Business papers, including correspondence, bills, quotes, checks, railroad freight claims and related materials generated in the course of business by C. R. & T. J. Sutherland, Commission Merchants, a leading Albany produce dealer in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Collection Title:** Sutherland Commission Merchants Papers

**Call Number:** MG 274

**Creator:** C. R. & T. J. Sutherland partnership

**Inclusive Dates:** c. 1900 – c. 1923

**Bulk Dates:** c. 1900 – c. 1923

**Abstract:** C. R. and W. J. Sutherland, commission merchants, was one of Albany's leading produce dealers in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, specializing in milk, butter, cheese, and eggs. This collection contains what must have been a small proportion of the business correspondence the C. R. and W. J. Sutherland firm generated during its course of business. It includes letters, claims, orders, quotes, cancelled checks, and similar documents, mostly with respect to the firm's suppliers, occasionally its ultimate retail customers, as well as railroad freight damage claims and similar transportation documents.

**Quantity:** 1 small 2.5" document box

### Administrative Information

**Custodial History:** Purchased from Arnold A. Kaplowitz. Boston MA

**Preferred Citation:** Sutherland Commission Merchants Papers, MG 274. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

### Acquisition Information:

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### Processing Information:

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<b>Restrictions</b>
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**Restrictions on Access:** *None*

**Restrictions on Use:** Permission to publish material must be obtained in writing prior to publication from the Chief Librarian & Archivist, Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.

<b>Index Term</b>
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**Persons**

Brunner, William F. – Patterson Parchment Paper Company  
Sutherland, Charles R.  
Sutherland, Willard J.

**Organizations**

A. A. Walter & Co. Potato Chips, Albany, NY (Blue Ribbon Potato Chips)  
A. D. McIntyre Company, Chicago, IL  
Alling Rubber Company, Albany, NY  
American Separator Co, Hannibal, NY  
A. P. Porter & Co, Lewistown, MO  
Austin & Company, Albany, NY  
Brown & Cushing General Insurance, Saratoga Springs, NY  
B. S. Pearsall Butter Co., Elgin, IL  
Chas Rogers & Son, Cohoes, NY  
Chas. Wigginton & Co., Louisville, KY  
David Bradt, Becker & Co., Albany, NY  
D. E. Wood Butter Company, Elgin, IL  
Ed. S. Vail Butterine Co., Chicago, IL  
Ellsworth Vrooman, Schoharie, NY  
F. B. Watrous, Green Island, NY  
Fred E. Rosebrock & Co., New York, NY  
Geo. Ahlheim Co., Albany, NY  
Hotel Worthy, Springfield, MA  
H. R. Wright Produce & Provisions, Albany, NY  
H. S. Patrick, Deer Ridge, MO  
H. T. Pond, New York, NY  
Howe's Cave Creamery Co., Schoharie, NY  
Hutchinson Produce Co, Hutchinson, MN  
Hygienic Ice & Refrigerating Company  
Jacob Zoller Company, Little Falls, NY  
Jas. H. Matthews & Co., Pittsburgh, PA  
James Rowland & Co., New York, NY  
Joe H. Krenrich Commission Butter & Eggs Company, New York, NY  
J. O. & G. N. Rowe, Oneonta, NY  
John C. Mahr & Sons, New York, NY  
John S. Martin & Co., New York, NY  
Mandan Creamery & Produce Co., Mandan, ND

MG 274 – Sutherland Commission Merchants Papers

Matthews & Harrison, Kingston, NY  
Mahony Manufacturing Company, Troy, NY  
Mendel, Crote & Co., Cincinnati, OH  
Monarch Refrigerating Co, Chicago, IL  
Moseley Brothers, Grand Rapids, MI  
National Express Company, Albany, NY  
New England Box Co., Greenfield, MA  
New York Central & Hudson River Railroad Co.  
New York State National Bank, Albany, NY  
Nipissing Mining Co., LTD, Cobalt, Ontario, Canada  
North American Storage Co., Paynesville, MN  
Nunn & McNally, Lewistown, MO  
O. D. Gilman & Co., Chicago, IL  
Oetjen Butter Company, Inc., New York, NY  
Omaha Cold Storage Company, Omaha, NE  
Oneida County Creameries Company, Utica, NY  
O. Sands Company, Chicago, IL  
Palmer-Hubbard Company, Independence, Iowa  
Paterson Parchment Paper Co., Passaic, NJ  
Phenix Cheese Company, New York, NY  
Produce Dealers' Service Bureau, Chicago, IL  
Red Wing Butter & Egg Co, Red Wing, MN  
Rose and Kiernan, Albany, NY  
R. R. Rogers, Detroit, MI  
Saginaw Beef Co., Saginaw, MI  
S. Munn Son & Co, New York, NY  
Stacey Cheese Company, Little Falls, NY  
Stephen Underhill, New York, NY  
Sutherland & McMillan, Pittston, PA  
T. E. Purcell & Co., Chicago, IL  
The Manual of Statistics Company, New York, NY  
Troco Nut Butter Co., New York, NY  
Troy Cold Storage Company, Troy, NY  
United States Packing Co., Chicago, IL  
Unition Creamery Co., Somerset, PA  
Vandewater & Irwin, Poughkeepsie, NY  
Vermont Farm Machine Co., Bellows Falls, VT  
Western Cold Storage Company, Chicago, IL  
W. H. Baker, New York, NY  
W. H. Porter, Ancram, NY  
William Funck, Importer and Wholesale Dealer, Albany, NY  
William J. Skillicorn, Inc., Albany, NY  
W. O. Saxton & Co., New York, NY  
W. W. Reed Co., Albany, NY  
Young Men's Christian Association, West Albany Railroad Branch of New York Central  
Lines, Albany, NY

Zimmer & Dunkak, Inc., New York, NY

**Subjects**

Active Food Packaging  
Advertising – Signs and Signboards  
Credit Ratings  
Dairy Products Industry  
Food Industry and Trade  
Grocery Trade  
Heating – Equipment and Supplies  
Merchants – Commission Merchants  
Refrigeration and refrigerating machinery

**Places**

Albany – New York – United States  
Ancram – New York – United States  
Cohoes – New York – United States  
Kentucky – United States  
Kingston – New York – United States  
Little Falls – New York – United States  
New York – New York – United States  
Oneonta – New York – United States  
Ontario – Canada  
Saratoga Springs – New York – United States  
Schoharie – New York – United States  
Troy – New York – United States  
Illinois – United States  
Iowa – United States  
Little Falls – New York – United States  
Massachusetts – United States  
Michigan – United States  
Minnesota – United States  
Missouri – United States  
Nebraska – United States  
North Dakota – United States  
Ohio – United States  
Kentucky – United States  
Pennsylvania – United States  
Utica – New York – United States  
Vermont – United States

**Document Types**

Marketing – Samples  
Correspondence – Letters  
Merchants – Private Bills  
Checks  
Telegraphs

### **Biography/History of**

**Abstract:** C. R. and W. J. Sutherland, commission merchants, located at 25 Hudson Avenue, was one of Albany's leading produce dealers in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Specializing in milk, butter, cheese, and eggs, the firm purchased commodities from local creameries, cheese factories, and egg wholesalers (not from individual farmers), located mostly in northeastern New York, but occasionally as far afield as Iowa and Kentucky. The firm further processed the commodities, packaged them, and sold them on to retail groceries and similar businesses. The business was formed in 1890 as a partnership between the brothers Charles R. Sutherland (1857-1918) and Willard J. Sutherland (1859-1932), both born in Schoharie as members of an old Albany-area family. Before entering partnership, Charles had experience in retail grocery sales and produce distribution, Willard in the retail grocery trade. Both were prominent in Albany business circles as local bank directors and as Masons. The business continued until around 1923, when it was dissolved following the retirement of Willard, the surviving partner. (It might be noted that Willard Sutherland was a pioneer automotive enthusiast who in 1906 became partner in one of Albany's earliest car dealerships, the Central Automobile Company. The material in this collection, however, does not reflect this aspect of Willard's interests.)

### **Scope and Contents of the Records/Papers/Collection**

This collection contains what must have been a small proportion of the business correspondence the C. R. and W. J. Sutherland firm generated during its course of business. It includes letters, claims, orders, quotes, cancelled checks, and similar documents, mostly with respect to the firm's suppliers, occasionally its ultimate retail customers, as well as railroad freight damage claims and similar transportation documents. The firm was a big consumer of parchment paper, which it used to wrap commodities, and the collection includes a series of letters to the Patterson Parchment Paper Company, Passaic NJ (including a parchment paper sample). Perhaps the most interesting items are several credit reports, obtained through Bradstreet's, on individuals the firm was considering as possible customers.

### **Organization of the Records/Papers/Collection**

The materials in the collection are organized chronologically in three separate subsets: business correspondence and related materials; parchment paper correspondence; cancelled checks; and credit reports. The largest component of the collection is the first listed: business correspondence and related materials.

<b>Detailed Description of the Records/Papers/Collection</b>
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The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	Business correspondence and documents: undated, 1900-1911
1	2	Business correspondence and documents: 1912-1923
1	3	Paterson Parchment Paper Co., Passaic, NJ – correspondence and samples
1	4	Cancelled checks
1	5	Credit reports