

Inventory of the

**Rockford Mitten and Hosiery
Company**
Rockford, Illinois

Records

In the
Regional History Center

RC 38

INTRODUCTION

Mr. J.H. Ederstrom donated the Rockford Mitten and Hosiery Company Records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on October 16, 1978.

Property rights in the collections are held by the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 3.25
Number of containers: 2 boxes + 7 volumes
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 38

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Rockford Mitten and Hosiery Company records trace the corporate activities of a textile manufacturer from 1881 to its dissolution in 1957. The minute books (1881-1957) detail company policies, organizational changes, and financial conditions. An examination and analysis of the company's financial statements and its relationship to subsidiary corporations are documented in the audit and annual reports (1918-1955). Additional financial information is available in the general ledgers (1935-1956), profit/loss reports (1926-1954), and the income tax returns (1913-1955). Only the subsidiary Beloit Hosiery Company is represented in the collection in company minutes (1936-1955). Finally, the corporate charter, amendments, by-laws, and stockholders certificates and records supply supplementary historical evidence.

A comprehensive collection, the Rockford Mitten and hosiery Company records provide excellent source material for research in corporate business development and the evolution of the textile industry during the first half of th twentieth-century.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Rockford Mitten Company, founded by Thour Munthe John Nelson, and William Talcott, began operations in 1879 and incorporated on November 29, 1881 under the laws of the state of Illinois for the purpose of manufacturing mittens and gloves.

During the early years of its existence the company principally manufactured leather gloves either lined with material knitted on the same machine used for knitting stockings or unlined. The St. Charles Woolen Mills of St. Charles, Missouri, William Ziock, president, supplied most of the yarn used at that time. Because of his long and successful career in the knitting business, the company invited Mr. Ziock to consolidate the St. Charles Woolen Mills with the Rockford Mitten Company. Mr. Ziock agreed to the proposed merger, took the assets of his store into the new organization, and in 1885 consolidation took place; the new company became the Rockford Mitten and Hosiery Company. Almost immediately, leather glove manufacturing discontinued and the manufacture of hosiery became the primary business

venture. The company introduced yarn, stockings, blankets woolen piece goods to its line as business expanded

On October 28, 1918, the company changed its name to the Rockford Textile Mills, Inc. In addition to the Rockford business, the company owned 100% of the capital stock in three subsidiary companies: Beloit Hosiery Company, Inc., Seneca Falls, New York; Tenn-Rock Hosiery Company, McMinnville, Tennessee; and Manchester Mills, Inc., Manchester, Tennessee. Labor and management problems forced the Rockford Textile Mills to liquidate operations in 1954. Finally, on March 4, 1957, the company voluntarily decided to dissolve the corporation and distribute its assets to the stockholders in accordance with recommendations from the Board of Directors.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Beloit Hosiery Company
Munthe, Thour
Nelson, John
Rockford
Rockford Mitten and Hosiery Company
Rockford Textile Mills, Inc.
Talcott, William A.
Textile Industry
Ziock, W.H.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Corporate Charter and Amendments, 1881-1957
	2-4	Minutes, 1881-1957
	5	List of Stockholders, (1903-1953)
	6	Records on the Issuance of Shares, (1917-1954)
	7-8	Stockholders Ledgers, 1895-1955
	9	Annual Reports, 1929-1955
	10-14	Audit Reports, 1918-1954
	15	Report covering Progress Made in Rehabilitation of Company, 1928
	16	Liquidation of Assets, 1952-1957
	17	Salary Schedules, (1917-1945)
	18	Pension Trust Records, 1945-1954
	19	Pension Trust Agreement, 1949
	20	Profit and Loss Reports, 1926-1954
	21	Income Tax Return Computations, (1918-1954)
2	1	Personal Property Tax Schedules, 1944-1956
	2-3	Federal Income Tax Returns, 1913-1955
	4	Minutes, Beloit Hosiery Company, 1936-1955
	5	Aerial Photograph of Company, n.d. (1)
Oversize	2 volumes	General Ledgers, 1935-1956
	5 volumes	Certificates of Stock, 1882-1891, 1904-1955