

**Pollard Family  
Papers, 1860-1917  
MSA 593**

**Introduction**

This collection consists of materials relating to the Pollard family of Cavendish, Vermont, including both family letters and documentation of various incarnations of family businesses over two generations. The bulk of the collection involves family business ventures in the 1880s and 1890s, when the Pollard brothers were operating a wholesale and general store, and when Fred Pollard was investing in the stock market and dealing in postage stamps. The collection was purchased by the VHS from Arnoldf Kaplowitz on 4 August 2010 (ms. acc. no. 2010.10). The collection is housed in one archival flip top box and occupies .5 linear feet of shelf space.

**Biographical Notes**

Don Carlos Pollard (1840-1921) was born in Plymouth, Vermont, and, as a child lived in the home where President Coolidge took his oath of office. He married Sarah Jane Moor (1841-1935), also of Plymouth, who was the maternal aunt of Calvin Coolidge. Don Pollard ran the general store in Plymouth Notch; was elected a state senator in 1912; and served as the Cavendish selectman for 17 years. He later moved his business to Cavendish in 1863. His children, Fred Don (1861-1935) and Park Hiram (1869-1955) Pollard were associated with the Cavendish store. Specifically, Fred Don Pollard was operator of the store and also married Lois Etta Bryant of Weston, Vermont. Park Hiram Pollard, in addition to working in the store, was also a candidate for Vermont governor in 1930 and 1942. Don and Jane Pollard's other children included Dallas Franklin (1875-1973), who ran a dry goods store in Bellows Falls, and Mary Victoria (1863-1892).

**Scope and Content**

The bulk of the collection documents the Pollard family business, a general store. This store went through a number of configurations, first as J. B. Pollard in the 1860s. In 1863, Don Pollard moved his store from Plymouth Notch to Cavendish, Vermont, in order to be nearer to the railroad; once there, he and Fletcher Sherwin opened under the Pollard and Sherwin store name. Don Pollard's son, Fred, took over operation of the store in 1880; and it became Moore and Pollard in 1883 when Fred Pollard formed a mercantile partnership with Frank C. Moore and bought the business of E. L. Roberts in the building owned by his father, Don Pollard. Moore retired in 1886 and, in 1889, Fred Pollard brought in his brother Park Hiram to form the Pollard Brothers firm. The Pollard family business, under all its various names, was a general store, which sold a wide variety of products, including window shades, glazed windows, tobacco, sugar, medicines, footwear, shawls, rope, carpets, petroleum products, and food. The collection contains financial records and business correspondence, including many receipts for these

products. In particular, there are numerous letters involving the price of wheat products bought from Fisher and Wise of Boston.

Fred Pollard's other business ventures are also documented in the collection. In addition to his involvement with the store, he spent time working the stock market, both in New York and Boston. The collection also contains evidence to suggest that Fred Pollard had an interest in postage stamps, either as a collector or an investor. Judging from his estate inventory from 1921, Don Pollard (Fred Pollard's father), had also invested in the stock market quite successfully. Fred Pollard's financial correspondence showing investments in banks, government and municipal bonds, mining stock, railroads, and many other enterprises is in the collection. Much of this financial correspondence is contemporary with the Spanish-American War and may reflect the economic climate of that time period.

Additionally, the collection contains a number of family letters from 1877-1917, which document the lives of several Pollard family members separate from their business ventures.

### **Related Materials**

There is a fairly comprehensive summary of the Pollard family, its business endeavors, and its close ties to the Coolidge family, including visits to the White House, in Volume 2 of *Families of Cavendish* (Call number 974.31 C315f v. 2 in the VHS library).

### **Inventory**

MSA 593:1	J. B. Pollard, 1860-1885
2	Moore and Pollard, 1883-1884
3	Pollard Brothers, 1885-1890
4	Pollard Brothers, 1891-1895
5	Pollard Brothers, 1896-1902
6	Fisher and Wise Flour, 1889-1897
7	Pollard family letters, 1877-1890
8	Pollard family letters, 1891-1917
9	Investments, 1886-1898
10	Investments, 1899-1902
11	Coin and stamp collecting, 1894-1902
12	Miscellaneous

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