

Inventory of the

Groenewold Business
Forreston, Illinois

Collection

In the

Regional History Center

RC 36

INTRODUCTION

Mr. George Groenewold donated the Groenewold Business Collection, Forreston, Illinois, to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on October 4, 1978.

Property rights in the collection 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: 2.25
Number of containers: 2 boxes + 7 volumes
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 36

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records in this collection document the business enterprises of George Groenewold from 1932-1954 in Forreston, Illinois. They consist primarily of record and account books of specific business interests (i.e. poultry, eggs, and furs) and general business financial records. There also is some personal correspondence in German and English from 1867-1871. Researchers should note that although George Groenewold's fur business was internationally known, the collection only partially documents its significance. It does, however, provide a balanced picture of his many business interests.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Mr. George Groenewold, founder of the Groenewold Fur and Wool Company is an immigrant from Friesland (Germany) who arrived in the United States in January 1924. He worked on a farm his first year in America and then attended and finished his schooling at a local academy during the next several years.

In the months after leaving school, in order to support himself, Mr. Groenewold began hauling milk and cheese locally and then to Chicago. His experiences in Chicago encouraged him to diversify into other businesses, such as poultry and eggs and by the second year his inventory included seven trucks.

In 1929 Mr. Groenewold founded the fur and wool company business based on contacts he had made in his other businesses. By concentrating on every type of pelted animal native to the midwest trapped by farmers and by hiring sheep raisers to shear their own sheep, Mr. Groenewold placed himself in an enviable position: raw materials he needed for his business were readily available, almost in finished form, and were fairly easily acquired.

Throughout the next thirty four years other interests were added (a nursery, farm implements) but the fur and wool business remained dominant. In 1963 George Groenewold

turned the business over to his son, Grant, but not before his company had become one of America's largest exporters to Europe of fur and wool products.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Forreston
Fur Trade
German Americans
Groenewold Fur and Wool Company
Immigrants, German
Poultry Industry

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
1	1	Poultry, Egg, Hide, and Wool Record, (September 1932-January 1940)	
	2	Poultry and Egg Record, (June 1934-November 1939)	
	3-4	Poultry Accounts, December 12, 1940-June 20, 1944	
	5	Egg Record, January 2, 1941-July 28, 1944	
	6	Hide and Wool Record, 1941	
	7	Feed Account, 1941-March 14, 1942	
	8	Hide Record, 1945-June 23, 1948	
	9	Farm Implement Record, 1941-May 1942	
	10	Machinery Record, 1941-1945	
	11	Parts Record, 1941-1945	
	12-13	Fur Record, 1946-1948	
	14	Nursery Record, ca. 1949	
	15	Burlap Record, 1951-1954	
	16	Assets, 1946-June 1948	
	17	Sales Record, 1946-June 1948	
	18	Cost of Sales, January 1946-June 1948	
	19	Expenses, January 1946-June 1948	
	20	Liabilities, January 1946-June 1948	
	21	General Expenses, 1949	
	22	Farm Expenses, 1949	
	23	Ledger, 1941-1944	
	4	1-2	Accounts Receivable, n.d.
		3	Personal Items, 1867, 1871
4		Statements of Purchase, 1944-1946	
5		Stock Price Lists, 1944	
Oversize		Volumes	
	1	Poultry Ledger, 1941-May 19, 1943	
	2	Feed Record, 1941-1943	
	3-4	Fur Record, November 1944-1945; 1950-1954	
	5	Business Record, 1949	
	6	Purchase and Disbursement Record, 1949	
	7	Sales and Receipts Record, 1949	