

**Collection #**  
**M 1100**

**SCHWOMEYER CH & CO. GROCERY STORE  
LEDGERS, 1865–1941, BULK 1865–1917**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 half size manuscript box

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1865–1941, bulk 1865–1917

PROVENANCE: Douglas K. Hutchinson, Ph.D., Antioch, Ill., 2011.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2011.0322

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

This collection pertains to a grocery store that was located on South Meridian Street near downtown Indianapolis. Charles H. Schwomeyer was the original proprietor of the store. In 1867, his partner was Augustus Sogemeyer. The grocery store underwent many title changes during its operation. After Sogemeyer disappears from the record, the store is eventually titled Schwomeyer CH & Co, during which time Charles Schwomeyer owned and operated the grocery store. William Rathert became involved with the store in 1875; after Schwomeyer died, and the name was changed to William Rathert Grocery. The name then changed from William Rathert to William Rathert & Sons, then finally to Rathert Brothers (William F. and Paul E.).

Charles H. Schwomeyer was born in Germany on December 22, 1825. His daughter, Louise [Louisa] married William Rathert. Schwomeyer died on August 12, 1907.

William Rathert was born in Germany on May 14, 1852. At the age of fifteen, he traveled to Indianapolis, where his uncle, Fred Prange, was a contractor. His first foray into the grocery business was with his wife's father, Charles Schwomeyer. When Schwomeyer died Rathert conducted business alone until William F. and Paul E. Rathert, his sons, became his partners.

### Sources:

#### Materials in the collection

City Directories, accessed May 12, 2014 via Ancestry.com.

[http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=usdirectories&so=2&pcat=37&new=1&gsfn=Charles+H&gsln=Schwomeyer&rank=1&gss=angs-c&mswpn\\_ftp=Indianapolis%2c+Marion%2c+Indiana%2c+USA&mswpn=40138&mwpn\\_PInfo=8-%7c0%7c1652393%7c0%7c2%7c3247%7c17%7c0%7c1893%7c40138%7c0%7c](http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=usdirectories&so=2&pcat=37&new=1&gsfn=Charles+H&gsln=Schwomeyer&rank=1&gss=angs-c&mswpn_ftp=Indianapolis%2c+Marion%2c+Indiana%2c+USA&mswpn=40138&mwpn_PInfo=8-%7c0%7c1652393%7c0%7c2%7c3247%7c17%7c0%7c1893%7c40138%7c0%7c)

Dunn, Jacob Piatt. *Indiana and Indianans: A History of Aboriginal and Territorial Indiana*. Vol. 5. Chicago: American Historical Society, 1919.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains bound ledgers (1865 – 1917) used in the Schwomeyer CH & Co. Grocery Store (after 1908 William Rathert Grocery) to record patrons' names, balances, and amounts paid. Also included is a 1941 tax form from the grocery store, which by then had become Rathert Brothers.

## **CONTENTS**

### CONTENTS

Ledger, Oct. 1865–Sept. 1866.

Ledger, Sept. 1866–Oct. 1867.

Ledger, Nov. 1871–May 1873.

Large ledger, May 1908–Jan. 1917.

Annual tax form for Rathert Bros., 1941.

### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1100).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.