

**A.L. Avery General Store Records, 1859-1905**  
**S 381.14 A954a, Manuscript**  
**36 boxes**

**Biographical Information**

Amos L. Avery (1831-1917) began his career as a storekeeper at an early age. He was only 23 years old when he began working at the Easthampton General Store. From there, he worked in the Bernardston, Massachusetts general store for 5 years. Following his marriage in Hawley, Massachusetts, Amos returned to his hometown of Charlemont, Massachusetts to go into business with Thomas Mayhew in a general store. This would be a second business that Amos would partner a Mayhew. An earlier general store existed in the 1850s under the name Mayhew & Avery.

In 1861, Amos and his brother, William bought out Mayhew, and formed W.H. & A.L. Avery. A few years later, in 1867, Amos bought out William's share and formed A.L. Avery. A year later, Amos also bought the building that housed the store. "The Baltimore," as it was known, was built by the Mayhew family. Amos would run the business as the sole proprietor until 1890, when his son Oscar would join him, resulting in the name change, A.L. Avery & Son. Amos died in 1917, leaving the business in the family, as Oscar's son Henry L. Avery would join as a partner in 1927. The Avery General Store stayed in the same family for over 140 years, making it one of the oldest family run businesses in the country.

**About the Collection**

The collection primarily focuses on the time of Amos' sole proprietorship, 1867-1890, with some earlier and later records. Receipts make up the bulk of the collection. There are scrapbooks and boxes of bills and receipts from suppliers and distributors, as well as freight bills, and butter receipts. Also included in the collection are account and daybooks. One account book dates back to 1859, making it likely it is from the earlier incarnation of Mayhew & Avery. The collection has several books of correspondence of Avery, mostly ordering supplies.

## Container List

### **Receipts and Correspondence**

#### Box 1

“The Golden Rule” newspaper  
Bills and Receipts, 1861  
Bills and Receipts, Feb.-May, 1862  
Bills and Receipts, June-Oct., 1862  
Bills and Receipts, Nov.-Dec., 1862  
Bills and Receipts, 1863  
Bills and Receipts, 1864  
Bills and Receipts, Jan.-June 1865

#### Box 2

Bills and Receipts, July-Dec., 1865  
Bills and Receipts, 1866  
Bills and Receipts, 1871, 1873  
Bills and Receipts, Jan.-July, 1875  
Bills and Receipts, Aug.-Dec., 1875  
Bills and Receipts, 1877  
Bills and Receipts, 1878

#### Box 3

Bills and Receipts, 1879  
Business and Personal Correspondence, 1874  
Business and Personal Correspondence, 1875  
Business and Personal Correspondence, Jan.-Mar., 1879  
Business and Personal Correspondence, April-Aug., 1879  
Business and Personal Correspondence, Oct. –Nov., 1879  
Business and Personal Correspondence, Dec., 1879

#### Box 4

Business Correspondence, June 1861-Jan., 1862, 1866  
Business Correspondence, Jan.-Mar., 1877  
Business Correspondence, April-June, 1877  
Business Correspondence, July-Sept., 1877  
Business Correspondence, Oct.-Dec., 1877  
Business Correspondence, Jan.-March, 1878  
Business Correspondence, April-June, 1878

#### Box 5

Business Correspondence, July-Sept., 1878  
Business Correspondence, Oct.-Dec., 1878  
Business Receipts and Correspondence, Jan.-Mar., 1876  
Business Receipts and Correspondence, April-June, 1876

Business Receipts and Correspondence, July-Oct., 1876  
Business Receipts and Correspondence, Nov.-Dec., 1876  
Personal Correspondence, 1876-1877

### **Butter Sales**

#### Box 1

1861-1863  
1873  
1874  
1877  
1879  
1880  
1881

#### Box 2

1882  
1883  
1885  
1886  
1892

### **Freight Receipts**

1861-1866  
1871  
1874  
1876-1877

### **Bound Volumes**

Account Books, 1866-1871  
Account Books, 1871-1875  
Butter Consignment Books, 1874-76, 1878-1879, 1881-1883  
Cash Ledgers, 1872-1878  
Daybooks, 1859-1864  
Daybooks, 1865-1866  
Daybooks, 1867-1869  
Daybooks, 1869-1873  
Daybooks, 1870-1873  
Daybooks, 1873-1874  
Daybooks, 1874-1875  
Daybooks, 1875-1876  
Daybooks, 1876-1877  
Letter Books (1-4), 1866-1874  
Letter Books (5), 1888-1891

Letter Books (6-7), 1899-1905

Miscellaneous—(Bank Pass books, Accounts payable and receivable, Poison sales, Name index,  
First Congregational Society)

Receipt Book, Nov. 1, 1875-August 1877

Receipt Book, April 11, 1880-Jan. 1, 1881

Receipt Book, Jan. 1, 1881-Jan. 1882.

Receipt Book, 1882

Receipt Book, 1883

Receipt Book, 1884

Receipt Book, 1885

Receipt Book, 1886

Receipt Book, 1887

Receipt Book, 1888

Receipt Book, 1889