Mark Howard was born on May 27, 1817 in Maidstone, Kent, England. When he was thirteen years old, Howard, his parents, and brother emigrated to Ann Arbor, Michigan. Four weeks after their arrival, Howard’s father died, leaving instructions that his sons were not to return to England. They remained in Ann Arbor under the guardianship of Judge Dexter.

Howard worked in Ann Arbor as a postmaster, newspaper editor, and he involved himself in Whig politics. At the age of twenty-six, he became a local agent in Ann Arbor for the Protection Insurance Company of Hartford. A few years later, in 1846, Howard moved to Hartford to continue his work in insurance. In 1849 he inspired some confidence in Protection Insurance when, following the St. Louis fire, he went to the city to settle the losses with ready cash.

When the Connecticut legislature incorporated the Merchants' Insurance Company in 1857, Howard was asked to become its president. He agreed on
the condition that, in the case of insurance claims, the company would pay the entire capital in cash. The company flourished until 1871, when the Chicago conflagration consumed its assets. Ten days after the fire, former backers of the Protective and Merchants’ insurance companies founded the National Fire Insurance Company of Hartford and elected Mark Howard as its first president. As president, Howard advanced the idea that full insurance led to indifference and carelessness. He argued that if the insurance company paid three quarters of the loss, insurance rates would be lower insurance rates and loss less due to some risk being felt by the insured.

In addition to his work in insurance, Howard was active in politics and indeed was one of the founders of the Republican Party. He organized a system for collections, and was appointed by Abraham Lincoln to be Connecticut’s first internal revenue collector. Howard also made considerable profits in western land deals. From the years 1853 to 1856 alone there are in this collection 103 Military land grants issued by the General Land Office in Washington, D.C.

While still president of the National Fire Insurance Company of Hartford, Howard died in his home on January 24, 1887. He was survived by his wife, Angelina Lee Howard, and four children.

**Scope and Content**

Collection consists largely of letters written to Mark Howard by various business contacts. They cover such topics as stocks, land deals, legal matters, and politics. The early correspondence is almost entirely consumed by financial discussion, both personal and relating to insurance. Included are several letters from Howard’s lawyers, Mitchell Eackerand Marcus Osborn. Around 1860, however, there is a change to political letters, which can be seen in the many letters from Gideon Welles and William Faxon. In those years there is also plenty of military correspondence from Marcus Osborn, who was on a ship in the Gulf of Mexico. Howard also kept detailed personal records, ranging from savings for his children to interest on his own accounts. There are receipts indicating how much he spent on specific items of clothing and how much on foodstuffs. Also of interest are two boxes relating to Howard’s land grants in what are now the Midwestern states, with particular attention paid to Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois. There are land deeds, and one box of military land grants Howard bought from former members of the U.S. military from 1853 through 1856. In addition to those mentioned above, notable correspondents include Horace Greeley, James Barnard, James Babcock, Horatio Woodman, Joshua Phelps, James Dixon, and James Edmonds.

**Arrangement**
Materials are organized into four series based largely on form.

**Series I: Correspondence** consists of correspondence written by and to Mark Howard. Most has to do with Howard's personal and professional business: stocks, land grants, insurance claims, and lawsuits. Also included are some letters between members of the Howard family.

**Series II: Receipts, Bills, Accounts, Cheques** consists of highly detailed receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques. Includes item-level receipts for household and personal items such as food and clothing, as well as notes on investments.

**Series III: Western Real Estate** consists of documents relating to Mark Howard's real estate in what are now the Midwestern states; includes deeds, land grants, diagrams of townships, and military land grants bought by Howard.

**Series IV: Printed material** consists of broadsides, newspaper clippings, and journal articles collected by Mark Howard; subjects include Whig politics, insurance, and western states and territories.

Collection is arranged chronologically within in each series.

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**Restrictions**

**Access Restrictions**

There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

**Use Restrictions**

Use of the material requires compliance with the Connecticut Historical Society's Research Center regulation.

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**Subject Headings**

**Personal Names**

Babcock, James F., 1809-1877.
Barnard, James M.
Dixon, James, 1814-1873.
Eacker, Mitchell.
Edmunds, James M., 1810-.
Faxon, William, 1822- .
Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872.
Osborn, Marcus B.
Phelps, Joshua.
Welles, Gideon, 1803-1878.
Woodman, Horatio.

Subjects

Land grants Illinois.
Land grants Michigan.
Land grants Wisconsin.

Geographic Names


Genre Forms

Holographs; holographs, signed; printed forms completed in manuscript.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Item, Collection Title, Collection number (Box #, Folder #). Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut.

Processing Details

Original EAD instance compiled by NHPRC project staff in September 1999. Updated to EAD 2002 in December 2010.

Accruals

The collection is open, but additional material is not expected.

Related Material

An index of catalog cards is available to aid access to this collection and material in other collections. Access is through writer, recipient and date. The card catalog is located in the library reading room. The reader is also directed to the Print Room and Museum for non-documentary materials.
There are photocopies of several of the letters from the collection, dating from 1856-1859, which are filed at the end of the correspondence series.

Microfilm copy available.

Contents:

I. Correspondence

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<td>Correspondence to Mark Howard from family members; includes an 1830 &quot;Voyage book to America&quot;. 1830-1833</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from General A. David Wright, J. Beach, Samuel Welch, and John Howard. 1834-1835</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Correspondence; includes that from John Howard and Joseph Allen. 1836</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from B.H. Packard, John Howard, Herman Camp, George Corselins, and James Wood. 1837</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from H.D. Mandeville, F. Sawyer, Lyman Hollister, and George Whitney. 1838</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from John van Fossen, C.N. Ormsby, George Renwick, and Joseph Comstock. 1839</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from Mitchell Eacker, Sydney Keats, L.C. Goodale, and Hay Stevenson. January - February 1840</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from Mitchell Eacker, John Wells, James Howard, and Isaiah Thomas. March - June 1840</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from Justin Rice, Henry Bridge, Mitchell Eacker, James Edmonds, and Henry Acker. July - September 1840</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from E.L. Fuller, Mitchell Eacker, Thomas Martin, James Conger. October - December 1840</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from William Woodbridge, William Maynard, Mitchell Eacker, and John Wells. January - February 1841</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from Mitchell Eacker, John Howard, Jonathan O'Hara, Erastus Bacon, and Russell Palmer. March - April 1841</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from J.C. Allen and J.L. Whiting. May - December 1841</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from Edward Cochran, Jason Packard, William Maynard, and Stephen Cornell. April - June 1842</td>
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Mark Howard papers, 1826-1888

2 3 Correspondence, mostly between Mark Howard and Mitchell Eacker; also letters from W.H. Pease and J.P. Cleaveland. July - August 1842
2 4 Correspondence; includes that from H.P. Beck, Daniel Hicks, J. Snow, Philo Fuller, and Augustus Ball. September - December 1842
2 5 Correspondence; includes that from Philo Fuller, A.S. Kellogg, J.G. Patterson, and George Walker. 1843
2 6 Correspondence; includes that from Mitchell Eacker, William Burnett, Joshua Howard, and William Woodbridge. January - March 1844
2 7 Correspondence; includes that from A. Brisbane, Philo Fuller, Edward Belknap, and John Edmonds. April - June 1844
2 8 Correspondence; includes that from John Edmonds, William Woodbridge, S. Barstow, and William Stevens. July - August 1844
2 9 Correspondence; includes that from P.C.H. Brotherson, S. Barstow, Daniel Gillet, and George Lee. September - October 1844
2 10 Correspondence; includes that from George Lee, Augustus Ball, and William Roth. November - December 1844
2 11 Correspondence; includes that from A. Brisbane, Chester Hazard, S. Barstow, J. Snow, and George Bates. January - August 1845
2 12 Correspondence; includes that from S. Barstow, G.H. McLean, and Lake White. September 1845
2 13 Correspondence; includes that from Stephen Vickery, G.H. McLean, and Samuel Dexter. October - December 1845
2 14 Correspondence; includes that from Mitchell Eacker, E.A. Warden, John Howard. January - October 1846
2 15 Correspondence, mainly between Mark Howard and Mitchell Eacker; includes some concerning Mary Pettibone and Sylvester Abel. November - December 1846
2 16 Correspondence; includes that from John Howard, Mitchell Eacker, Sylvester Abel, and J.M. Barnard. January - July 1847
2 17 Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn, D. McIntyre, and Sylvester Abel. August - December 1847

Box Folder
3 1 Correspondence; includes that from William Conner, H. Baldwin, D. McIntyre, and Marcus Osborn. January - March 1848
3 2 Correspondence; includes that from William Conner, S.L. Loomis, and William Robbins. April - June 1848
3 3 Correspondence; includes that from D.W. Clark, William Robbins, James Howard, and Sylvester Abel. July 1848
3 4 Correspondence; includes that from S.L. Loomis, William Robbins, Marcus Osborn, and William Gale. August - September 1848
3 5 Correspondence; includes that from M. Forbes, John Howard, D.W. McIntyre, and Sibyl Lawrence. October - December 1848

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3 6 Correspondence; includes that from D. McIntyre, John Wade, J.E. Field, Marcus Osborn, and John Howard. January - July 1849
3 7 Correspondence; includes that from John Camden, Jane Howard, D. Barstow, William Robbins, and James Baker. August - December 1849
3 8 Correspondence; includes that from William Connor, Marcus Osborn, Solomon Mann, and Sylvester Abel. January - March 1850
3 9 Correspondence; includes that from Sylvester Abel, Marcus Osborn, James Barnard, Stephen Felch, and William Holloway. April - August 1850
3 10 Correspondence; includes that from William Holloway, James Barnard, Solomon Mann, and Ina Howard. September - December 1850
3 11 Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn, John Howard, James Conger, and George Narbards. January - July 1851
3 12 Correspondence; includes that from Jane Howard, James Barnard, Sylvester Abel, and George Becker. August - December 1851
3 13 Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn, William Smith, and James Barnard. January - March 1852
3 14 Correspondence; includes that from Charles Osborn, George Barnard, and James Conger. April - May 1852
3 15 Correspondence; includes that from James Howard, D.W. Clark, and Marcus Osborn. June - July 1852
3 16 Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn, Joshua Phelps, and George Barnard. August - September 1852
3 17 Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn, James Barnard, and Walter Brown. October - December 1852
3 18 Correspondence; includes that from William Lee, Walter Brown, James Barnard, and Marcus Osborn. January - April 1853
3 19 Correspondence; includes that from James Barnard, George Barnard, Joshua Phelps, and Marcus Osborn. May - June 1853

Box  Folder
4  1 Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn, James Barnard, Charles Osborn, Ebenezer Cook, and Edmund Rice. July - August 1853
4  2 Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn, James Barnard, and Charles Osborn. September - October 1853
4  3 Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn, Edmund Rice, Mary Howard, and George Barnard. November - December 1853
4  4 Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn, Walter Brown, Solomon Mann, and Ebenezer Cook. January - March 1854
4  5 Correspondence; includes that from James Barnard and George Barnard. April 1854
4  6 Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn, F.W. Ruble, G.S.Hubbard, and George Barnard. May 1854
Correspondence; includes that from Horatio Woodman, George Barnard, James Barnard, and Charles Osborn. June 1854

Correspondence; includes that from Horatio Woodman, John Howard, George Barnard, H. Huntington, and David Bishops. July - August 1854

Correspondence; includes that from James Barnard and Marcus Osborn. September 1854

Correspondence; includes that from James Barnard, Marcus Osborn, T.L. Tilton, and Horatio Woodman. October 1854

Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn, George Barnard, Frank Lee, James Barnard, and John Lee. November - December 1854

Correspondence; includes that from James Edmonds, A.H. Reeder, and James Barnard. January - February 1855

Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn & Co., James Barnard, and George Barnard. March - April 1855

Correspondence; includes that from James Barnard, C.L. Emerson, David Olmstead, and George Barnard. May - July 1855

Correspondence; includes that from Eli Thayer, George Woodman, Marcus Osborn & Co., and Emanuel Russell. August - September 1855

Correspondence; includes that from George Barnard, George Woodman, and James Abbott. October - December 1855

Correspondence; includes that from Horace Greeley, James Barnard, George Barnard, H.A. Wilcox, and David Olmstead. January - March 1856

Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn & Co., Emanuel Russell, Eliza Bigelow, and Smyth, Twogood & Co. April - July 1856

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Correspondence; includes that from Charles Osborn, Marcus Osborn, Wilson Winslow, and George Satterlee. July - December 1858

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Correspondence; includes that from James Barnard, George Barnard, James Babcock, and Maria Wright. January - July 1860

Correspondence; includes that from James Babcock, George
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<td>Correspondence, mostly from James Dixon. August - November 1860</td>
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<td>Correspondence, mostly from James Dixon. December 1860</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Correspondence, mostly from James Dixon; some from Gideon Welles. January - February 1861</td>
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<td>Correspondence; including that from Gideon Welles, James Dixon, and William Faxon. March - April 1861</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Correspondence, mostly from Gideon Welles, William Faxon, and George Barnard. May - July 1861</td>
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<td>Correspondence; including that from Gideon Welles, George Barnard, William Faxon, and James Barnard. August - December 1861</td>
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<td>Correspondence, mostly from James Dixon, William Faxon, and Gideon Welles. January 1862</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Correspondence; includes that from James Dixon, Gideon Welles, and William Faxon. February - April 1862</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Correspondence from William Faxon and Marcus Osborn; in one letter from Osborn is a hand-drawn map of the Gulf of Mexico, including &quot;rebel vessels&quot; and &quot;rebel camp&quot;. May - June 1862</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Correspondence; includes that from Gideon Welles, Marcus Osborn, and William Faxon. July 1862</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Correspondence from Marcus Osborn, William Faxon, and Gideon Welles. August 1862</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Correspondence from Marcus Osborn, Gideon Welles and William Faxon; includes two licences granted to Charles Johnson to practise law at 19 Pearl Street in Hartford. September 1862</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn and William Faxon. October - December 1862</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn, William Faxon, and Gideon Welles. January 1863</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from William Faxon, Marcus Osborn, and Gideon Welles. February 1863</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from William Faxon, Gideon Welles, and Marcus Osborn. March 1 - April 15, 1863</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn, William Faxon, and Gideon Welles. April 16 - May 31, 1863</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from Gideon Welles, James Edmonds, and William Faxon. June - August 1863</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from William Faxon and Gideon Welles. September - December 1863</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from Horace Greeley, William Faxon, Gideon Welles, and W.E. Chandler. January 1864</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from James Edmonds, William Faxon, Gideon Welles, and John Porter. February - May 1864</td>
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<td>Correspondence; includes that from Gideon Welles, William Faxon,</td>
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and James Edmonds. June - December 1864
6 10 Correspondence; includes that from William Faxon and Isaac Schermerhorn. January - March 1865
6 11 Correspondence; includes that from William Faxon and Gideon Welles. April - December 1865
6 12 Correspondence; includes that from William Faxon and Gideon Welles. January - July 1866
6 13 Correspondence from William Faxon. August - December 1866
6 14 Correspondence; includes several letters from Mark Howard to his wife, Angeline Lee Howard. 1867
6 15 Correspondence from David Wright, Horace Greeley, and William Faxon; also included are letters from Mark Howard and from Joshua Phelps to Angeline Howard. 1868 - 1874
6 16 Correspondence from such men as Thomas Howard, Alfred Lee, and George Bates; includes a fragment from a letter to Rutherford B. Hayes. 1875 - 1877
6 17 Correspondence; includes that from Louisa Everson, Thomas Howard, Newton Edmunds, and William Faxon. 1878 - 1888
6 18 Correspondence; includes that from Marcus Osborn and James Dixon. 1830 - 1888
6 19 Correspondence; letter book containing copies of letters Mark Howard wrote, mostly on financial and business matters, to such men as David Wright, Lee, Bliss & Co., Charles Osborn, F. Brundage, Marcus Osborn, and James Barnard. September 1865 - July 1869

Box Folder
7 1 Correspondence; letter book containing copies of letters Mark Howard wrote, mostly on financial and business matters, to such men as D.F. Pease, Phillip Pfaff, William Wesson, David Wright, and J.M. Dresser. January 1877 - April 1883
7 2 Correspondence; photocopies of letters of this collection. January - February 1856
7 3 Correspondence; photocopies of letters in this collection. March - April 1856
7 4 Correspondence; photocopies of letters in this collection. May - October 1856
7 5 Correspondence; photocopies of letters in this collection. November - December 1856
7 6 Correspondence; photocopies of letters in this collection. 1857
7 7 Correspondence; photocopies of letters in this collection. January - July 1858
7 8 Correspondence; photocopies of letters in this collection. August - October 1858
7 9 Correspondence; photocopies of letters in this collection. November - December 1858
Correspondence; photocopies of letters in this collection. January - July 1859

Correspondence; photocopies of letters in this collection. August - December 1859

II. Receipts, Bills, Accounts, Cheques

Box  Folder
7  12 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques; some relate to Mark Howard’s stock shares. 1837 - 1848
7  13 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques; includes a contract authorizing Marcus Osborn, Mark Howard’s attorney, to create Land warrants in Howard’s name. 1850 - 1855
7  14 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques. 1856
7  15 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques. 1857 - 1858
7  16 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques. 1859
7  17 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques. 1860
7  18 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques. 1861 - 1862
7  19 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques. 1863
7  20 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques. 1864
7  21 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques. 1865

Box  Folder
8  1 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques. 1866 - 1868
8  2 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques. 1869 - 1872
8  3 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques. 1873 - 1883
8  4 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques. 1837 - 1887
8  5 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques; receipt book noting bills paid and received. May 1854 - September 1865
8  6 Receipts, bills, accounts, and cheques; detailed accounts ledger. 1865 - 1887

III. Western Real Estate; Deeds, Land Grants, Diagrams of Western Townships

Box  Folder
8  7 Western real estate; mortgage deeds, indentures, and warranty deeds relating to land in the western territories. 1826 - 1837
8  8 Western real estate; indentures, deeds, and grants relating to land in the western territories. 1840 - 1844
8  9 Western real estate; mortgages, indentures, and deeds relating to land in the western territories. 1846 - 1853
8  10 Western real estate; mortgage deeds, indentures, and warranty deeds relating to land in the western territories. 1854 - 1855
8  11 Western real estate; mortgage deeds, bonds, and warranty deeds relating to land in the western territories. 1856 - 1859
Western real estate; mortgage deeds, indentures, and warranty deeds relating to land in the western territories. 1860 - 1864

Western real estate; contracts relating to land in the western territories. 1865

Western real estate; contracts, indentures, and warranty deeds relating to land in the western territories. 1866 - 1887

Western real estate; plans of townships, including Winona, Minnesota and Dunn County, Wisconsin. 1826 - 1887

Western real estate; plans of townships, including those in Illinois and Iowa. 1826 - 1887

Western real estate; military land grants bought by Mark Howard. April 1853

Western real estate; military land grants bought by Mark Howard. July - October 1853

Western real estate; military land grants bought by Mark Howard. January - May 1854

Western real estate; military land grants bought by Mark Howard. July - September 1854

Western real estate; military land grants bought by Mark Howard. November 1, 1854

Western real estate; military land grants bought by Mark Howard. November 1, 1854

Western real estate; military land grants bought by Mark Howard. November 1, 1854

Western real estate; military land grants bought by Mark Howard. December 1, 1854

Western real estate; military land grants bought by Mark Howard. December 2, 1854

Western real estate; military land grants bought by Mark Howard. January - June 1855

Western real estate; military land grants bought by Mark Howard. November 1 and December 10, 1855

Western real estate; military land grants bought by Mark Howard. December 15, 1855

Western real estate; military land grants bought by Mark Howard. June 16, 1856

Western real estate; military land grants bought by Mark Howard. October 30, 1857

Printed material; Charter and ordinances of Ann Arbor. November 10, 1834
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<td>Printed material; Columbus Insurance Company. October 24, 1849</td>
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<td>Printed material; Kansas. 1855</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Printed material; photocopies of publications issued by the Union League of America. 1863</td>
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<td>Printed material; photocopies of publications issued by the Union League of America. 1864</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Printed material; photocopies of the proceedings of the 1865 annual meeting of the Union League of America. 1865</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Printed material; newspaper clippings. 1826 - 1887</td>
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