



Carter & Scattergood records 0376

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on September 14, 2021.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Manuscripts and Archives

PO Box 3630

Wilmington, Delaware 19807

askhagley@hagley.org

URL: <http://www.hagley.org/library>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Historical Note	3
Scope and Content	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	5

Summary Information

Repository:	Manuscripts and Archives
Creator:	Carter & Scattergood
Title:	Carter & Scattergood records
ID:	0376
Date [inclusive]:	1826-1903
Physical Description:	0.8 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Philadelphia chemical manufacturing firm of Carter & Scattergood was founded in 1834. It continued to do business under that name until 1911, when it was sold to the Henry Bower Chemical Manufacturing Company. Their records include day books, ledgers, receipt books, laboratory books containing records of wages, materials, processes and apparatus; production tables; correspondence including one describing in detail the first four years of the firm's operations; and receipts and bills.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Note

The Philadelphia chemical manufacturing firm of Carter & Scattergood was founded in 1834. It continued to do business under that name until 1911, when it was sold to the Henry Bower Chemical Manufacturing Company.

The business was founded in 1754 by John Elliott (1713-1791), who had come to Philadelphia from Bolton, England, the previous year. Elliott originally dealt in glass, to which was added the silvering of mirrors. The business was continued by his son, John, and by his grandsons, John and Elliott. The grandsons further expanded the business to include drugs, paints and colors and constructed a manufacturing laboratory at 19th and Pine Streets around 1812.

John Carter (1800-1877), the son of a Maryland miller, entered the firm as an apprentice in 1816. On January 1, 1834, he formed a partnership with Joseph Scattergood, a druggist and graduate of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, and purchased the chemical branch of the Elliott firm, then consisting primarily of the manufacture of acids. Carter & Scattergood added the production of aqua ammonia, copper sulphate, sulphuric ether, calomel, potassium chlorate, potassium bichromate, Prussian blue,

chrome yellow, chrome green, and the tartarates of soda, potassium and antimony. The firm was the first in the United States to produce yellow prussiate of potash (ca. 1834), and red prussiate of potash (potassium ferrocyanide), chemicals used in dyeing, calico printing, blueprinting, and other industrial applications.

John Carter's son, John Elliott Carter (1838-1922), entered the firm in 1858, and Scattergood's son, George Jones Scattergood, in 1860. John Carter retired in 1871 and Joseph Scattergood in 1877. George Scattergood retired in 1890, leaving John E. Carter the sole partner for a time. Charles Evans, a grandson of John Carter, was made a partner in 1900, and John Pim Carter, the son of John E. Carter, in 1903.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content

Carter & Scattergood was formed January 1, 1834 between John Carter, the son of a Maryland miller and Joseph Scattergood, a druggist and graduate of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. They purchased the chemical branch of the old Elliott firm which primarily manufactured acids. Carter & Scattergood added the production of aqua ammonia, copper sulphate, sulphuric ether, calomel, potassium chlorate, potassium bichromate, Prussian blue, chrome yellow, chrome green, and the tartarates of soda, potassium and antimony. The firm was the first in the United States to produce yellow prussiate of potash (circa 1834), and red prussiate of potash (potassium ferrocyanide), chemicals used in dyeing, calico printing, blueprinting, and other industrial applications. The collection include day books, ledgers, receipt books, laboratory books containing records of wages, materials, processes and apparatus; production tables; correspondence including one describing in detail the first four years of the firm's operations; and receipts and bills.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Manuscripts and Archives

PO Box 3630

Wilmington, Delaware 19807

askhagley@hagley.org

URL: <http://www.hagley.org/library>

Access Restrictions

No restrictions on use.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Material

Henry Bower Chemical Manufacturing Company records (Accession 1070), Manuscripts and Records Department, Hagley Museum and Library

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Chemical industry
- Dyes and dyeing
- Potassium dichromate
- Chrome-yellow
- Prussian blue

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
Transfer ledger - history of the company to 1893 by John E. Carter	box 1
Transfer ledger - brief update to company history through 1900	box 1
Transfer ledger - letter to Charles Munroe, Special Agent, Census Office stating brief company history, 1901 November 26	box 1
Transfer ledger - letter to Munroe with further company history details, 1901 November 29	box 1
Transfer ledger - letter to Le Roy Brooks including brief history of "prussiate" and discussion of possible overproduction, 1903 September 29	box 1

Transfer ledger - two short entries mentioning new partners, 19021903	box 1
--	-------

Transfer ledger - table showing production of yellow prussiate of potash, 1895-1910	box 1
--	-------

General note

This business was sold to Henry Bower Chemical
Manufacturing Co. in 1911.

Transfer ledger - table showing production of black char, 1899-1910	box 1
---	-------

Transfer ledger - table showing production of prussiate potash including consumption of raw materials and cost of production analysis, 1891-1910	box 1
--	-------

Transfer ledger - table showing oil consumption at Prussiate Furnaces, undated	box 1
---	-------

Transfer ledger - table showing annual production of yellow prussiate potash and average selling price per pound FOB Philadelphia, 1834-1910	box 1
--	-------

Transfer ledger - table showing monthly deliveries of yellow and red prussiate potash, January 1870-1908	box 1
---	-------

Carter & Scattergood daybook, 1834 January -1835 December	box 1
---	-------

Carter & Scattergood's drugstore daybook, 1834 January -1835 December	box 1
--	-------

Drugstore ledger, 1834-1835	box 1
-----------------------------	-------

Carter & Scattergood laboratory book, 1834 January-December	box 2
---	-------

Scope and Contents

wages, materials, fuel, apparatus, miscellaneous supplies and
expenses, inventory of materials, unfinished preparations
received from John Eliot, January 1824; inventory of
manufactured articles taken from John Elliott stored in the
laboratory; inventory of apparatus and fixtures rented with
the laboratory and goods finished from and credited to the
laboratory

J. Carter and Jos. Scattergood's receipt book, 18341836-1837	box 2
--	-------

Scope and Contents

receipts for wages and miscellaneous receipts

Correspondence - "Carter & Scattergood, 1839", 1836 May 9-1860 December 17	box 2
---	-------

Scope and Contents

includes bills of lading, memo on the history of John Elliot's predecessor firm

Laboratory book containing accounts of manufacture of various chemicals and criticism of processes used, 1828-1858undated	box 2
---	-------

Scope and Contents

includes rental agreements; statement of capital involved in partnership, 1858; loan records; personal expenses

Correspondence - "Carter & Scattergood, 1838", 1826 August 28-1838 June 4	box 2
---	-------

Scope and Contents

personal letters from John Carter to Samuel Allinson; one letter dated July 4, 1838 to John Elliott describing the first four years of the Carter & Scattergood firm

Agreement of Sale between John E. Carter, Charles Evans and John P. Carter, co-partners, and the Henry Bower Chemical Manufacturing Company for sale of Carter & Scattergood, undated	box 2
---	-------

Certificate of the Franklin Insitute awarded to Carter & Scattergood at the 12th Exhibition of Domestic Manufactures for a specimen of Prussian Blue, 1842 October 18-31	box 2
--	-------

Letters from John Carter to Joseph Scattergood, 1843 July	box 2
---	-------

Bills of lading and receipts, undated	box 2
---------------------------------------	-------

Jar of red prussiate of potash	box 2
--------------------------------	-------

Jar of animal char (new process)	box 2
----------------------------------	-------