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Manuscript Register

**MSS #281**

**Alderman Furniture Store  
and Bullard Furniture Store  
Records**

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Arranged and described

by

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## History of Alderman Furniture Company and Bullard Furniture Company

In 1885, Morris H. Alderman, a young recent immigrant to New Haven from Riga in Latvia, (although it is not known whether he lived in Latvia, or came there from somewhere in Russia), opened a small furniture store in New Haven. The location was in the vicinity of what is now in the year 2001 the New Haven Railroad Station. By the year 1900 he had moved his business, known as The M. H. Alderman Furniture Co. to Union Street. In 1906, the building was sold and the site was cleared as part of the property that was required to build the new Union Railroad Station for New Haven.

Morris Alderman moved his business into a bigger building on the west side of Congress Avenue north of Lafayette Street. His family lived in one of the upper floors of the building. Morris was joined in his business by his elder son Herman, and subsequently by sons Julius and then Abner. The business became The M. H. Alderman & Sons Furniture Company. Morris died at age 58 in 1925.

In 1926 his sons purchase additional property abutting the store on Congress Avenue and then built a much larger building with 4 floors, 2 elevators and an attached warehouse that had its own entrance on Lafayette Street. Like other businesses, the company went through extremely hard times during the depression, but managed to hold on.

During the Second World War furniture was virtually unavailable, and while Julius Alderman primarily ran the store, Abner Alderman worked for a defense contractor involved with the manufacture of rubber pontoon boats and worked in the store weekends. The business managed to stay open during the war. When the war over and home furnishings once again became available, the business prospered, as there was strong consumer demand for merchandise.

In 1958, redevelopment was a major force in New Haven, and Congress Avenue was part of it. The store building with its warehouse was taken. Abner Alderman, who by then had bought out his brothers from the business and was the sole owner, arranged to build a new building for his store in part of the redevelopment area at corner of College and George Streets. As planning got underway, Abner had the opportunity to lease a substantial part of the building to the local television station, WNHC as it was then known, and revised his plans to include space for the TV station and his furniture store.

In the same year his son Myles graduated from Yale and entered the business. As final arrangements were being made to physically move the furniture inventory into the new location, Abner had another opportunity to lease more of the building and decided not to move his furniture business into his new building at all. (The television station later moved from the building in the 1980's, but the building has remained an office building, with the Yale Medical School currently being the major tenant.)

With the change of plans, and with a young member of the next generation on board Abner began looking for an operating furniture company to buy to merge with his business, as growth and expansion was envisioned. A temporary location on Crown Street was rented for the business while the search was made. In the fall of 1959, The W. B. Hall Furniture Company on State Street in New Haven was purchased by The M.H. Alderman Furniture Company and the name changed to The Alderman Hall Furniture Company. Hall's had been in business in New Haven since 1887, and the Alderman business moved into the Hall building on State Street.

In 1960, The H. M. Bullard Company at the corner of Elm and Orange Streets in New Haven was purchased by Abner Alderman. The purchase included the furniture business and the large 5 story building that housed it. The furniture store occupied the lower 3 floors and the basement. The upper two floors were leased for commercial office space.

Bullards had been founded in 1898 by Uriah Keller and Henry Bullard, and had originally been known as Keller & Bullard. In 1914 the business was incorporated and the name changed to The H. M. Bullard Company. In 1926 they purchased land at the corner of Orange and Elm Streets had built a new large building. The upper floors were leased to the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad.

When the Aldermans purchased Bullards they ran the business as "Bullards incorporating Alderman-Hall", and after 2 years ran the company as just Bullard's. (Bullard's had been a much larger business than either Alderman's or Hall's, and thus the Bullard name was much more widely known.)

In 1967 the Aldermans purchased a furniture store in Waterbury known as Hampson-Mintie & Abbott, an old-line downtown store. It was operated as Bullards. An old A & P warehouse building of 98,000 sq. ft. on Ferry Street in New Haven was purchased for a warehouse. In July of 1969 Abner Alderman died suddenly at the age of 62, and Myles became president of the company.

In 1971, with 2 downtown stores in Waterbury & New Haven, and major population growth in the suburbs, Myles began to look for a suburban location. In 1972 a 3+ acre site in Branford was found and construction begun on a new building. The Branford store was opened in the fall of 1973. In 1974 the next door neighbor of the Bullard store in Waterbury, the known as The Colonial Bank, wished to expand, and purchased the building that housed the Waterbury store from the Alderman family. In 1977 the main floor of the New Haven store was totally renovated.

In 1983 Myles Alderman was approached by developers from Hartford seeking to purchase the New Haven Bullard building. A sale was consummated and the Bullard Furniture Company was consolidated into the one store at on Route One in Branford.

In 1988 the Ferry Street warehouse was sold and a new warehouse and store addition was built on to the existing Branford store, doubling the size of that facility.

In 1997, with Myles's sons grown, married and in their own professions, Myles decided it was time to close the business. The business ceased all retail operation by the end of that year, and in November of 2000, the United States Postal Service purchased the property for a regional distribution facility.

For 112 years, from 1885 until 1997, the Alderman family had been continuously involved in retailing home furnishings in the greater New Haven area.

By Myles H. Alderman  
January 30, 2001

ALDERMAN FURNITURE STORE AND BULLARD FURNITURE STORE  
RECORDS

Content Guide

Box I

Folder A

1. Original articles of the company partnership between Uriah G. Keller and Henry M. Bullard written 31 August, 1898.
2. Copy of Certificate of Incorporation, 1904.
3. Keller and Bullard Co. - certificate of increased capital stock, 1905.
4. Copy of certificate to change name, May 1905, to the H. M. Bullard Co.
5. The H. M. Bullard Co. - certificates of increase of capital stock, 1909, 1920, 1923, 1927, 1935.
6. Copy of Certificate of Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation of the H.M. Bullard Co., 1961.

Folder B

1. Book - minutes of the Keller & Bullard Co. 1904-1919, including by-laws.

Folder C

1. H. M. Bullard store receipts - 1912, 1916, 1925.
2. (3) personal account books.
3. Shubert Theater program with Bullard advertisement.
4. 1929 stock certificate.
5. H.M. Bullard Co. certificates of issue of additional stock, 1950.

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Folder D

1. Contract to build the Bullard Building, corner of Elm & Orange Streets, 1926.
2. Bills for construction work.
3. Construction photos, 1926.

Folder E

1. Correspondence concerning 1958 Oak Street redevelopment project.

Folder F

1. Misc. articles, 1960-1997, including leaving New Haven for Branford in 1982, and final closing in 1997.

Folder G

1. Photos Morris H. Alderman in front of Congress Ave. store, 1918.
2. (2) photos Morris H. Alderman.
3. Jennie Alderman & daughter Edith - wife & daughter of M.H. Alderman.

Folder H

1. Photos, 1960, The H. M. Bullard building, corner of Elm & Orange Streets, at the time of purchase by Abner Alderman.

Folder I

1. Misc. - notebook 1909-1911, Morris Alderman.
2. Misc. - sale advertisement.
3. Misc. - Obit of Abner A. Alderman, 1969.
4. Misc. - receipt letter
5. Misc. - NHCHS Journal Dec. 1969, p. 100, photo M. H. Alderman Furniture Store in 1885.
6. Misc. - negative of above photo.

Folder J

1. Misc. photos.

Folder K

1. Plate negative of M. H. Alderman Furniture Co., 165-173 Congress Ave.
2. Plate negative of 1926-7 construction, originally moved to this location in 1906 from Union Street.

Box 2

Folder A

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Minutes of the H.M. Bullard Company, May 1912 – December 1929

Folder B

Minutes of the H.M. Bullard Company, March 1930 – December 1945

Folder C

Minutes of the H.M. Bullard Company, February 1946 – June 1961

Folder D

Stock Certificates, 1961 & 1986