



## **Hale's Jewelers records, 1935-1953** **SCHS 490.00**

**Description:** Six ledgers and 1 folder of loose items.

**Biographical/historical note:** Hale's Jewelers was established in 1856 in Greenville, South Carolina by James Hunter Randolph. In 1887, Randolph's grandson, William Randolph Hale, took over the family business and renamed it Hale's Jewelers. Twenty years later, Hale's son, William Randolph Hale, Jr. became proprietor following his father's death. In 1923, William Randolph Hale, Jr. sold the business to Hewlett Sullivan, Sr., and Hale's remained with the Sullivan family for the remainder of the 20th century.

**Scope and content:** Records consist of six ledgers, one bound item, and several loose pieces of ephemera.

Five oversize general ledgers (1937-1953) include expenses for merchandise, salaries, advertising, supplies, interest, auto maintenance, and sundries. Ledgers are 33 x 39 cm. each. One legal size ledger (1935-1945) includes income from jewelry sales and repairs, payroll taxes, salaries, and personal information pertaining to employees.

Other items include a bound report from the Ernest F. Mills Co. of Charlotte (February 1948) details interactions with employees and includes critiques of salesperson's approach, attitude, ability, knowledge, and salesmanship in addition to a physical description of their gender, height, weight, eye color, etc. Loose items include two blank checks, promotional ephemera from jewelry companies, and an undated letter from the IRS regarding the "Victory Tax".

**Preferred citation:** Hale's Jewelers. Hale's Jewelers records, 1935-1953. (SCHS 0490.00). South Carolina Historical Society.

**Provenance:** Donor is the grandson of Hewlett Sullivan, Sr., the man who purchased the business from Randolph Hale, Jr. in 1923. Records taken from the store when the Sullivan family sold it in 2000. Gift of Christopher M. Sullivan; 2013.047.

**Search terms:**

Jewelers -- South Carolina -- Greenville.  
Jewelry.  
Clocks and watches.  
Jewelry -- History -- 20th century.  
Small business -- South Carolina -- Greenville.  
Bookkeeping.  
Greenville (S.C.)

South Carolina -- History -- 20th century.  
Business records.  
Ledgers (account books).

**Collection Inventory:**

*490.01 Ledgers*

490.01.01	Ledger, 1935 - 1945
490.01.02	General ledger, July 1937 – December 1939
490.01.03	General ledger, January 1942 – October 1944
490.01.04	General ledger, November 1944 – November 1946
490.01.05	General ledger, December 1946 – December 1949
490.01.06	General ledger, January 1950 – April 1953

*490.02 Miscellaneous items*