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Horatio Seymour, 1810-1886. Papers, 1741-1920.

The papers in this collection are concerned principally with the land holdings and business dealings of the Seymour family and the related Bleecker and Tibbits families. The early papers relate largely to the history and disposal of lands, especially in the counties of Albany, Herkimer and Oneida, acquired during the colonial period by the Bleecker family (Barent, Rutger, and John Rutger). The papers include deeds and leases, surveys by John Lawyer and others, statements expenses incurred in connection with Cosby's Manor and Ellice Lands (administered first by John R. Bleecker and later by Benjamin Tibbits). Early accounts are with Philip Schuyler, financier and land holder. There are papers and documents connected with the division and settlement of the estate of John R. Bleecker, including will, inventories of lands and property, and accounts with Horatio Seymour.

Horatio Seymour had a great interest in the development of the New York

State Canal system, and there are a number of papers concerned with the draining

of the Canaseraga Swamp Lands in connection with the building of a lateral canal.

There is an account book giving use of the canal in the year 1826-27. A suit

involving shipment of wheat on the canal in the 1840's (Alden Lee vs. Robert Fero),

in which Crocker and Seymour represented, the defendants gives interesting

insights into canal trade.

The development of business in the city of Utica appears throughout the whole collection from the time of the Bleecker and Lansing holdings to the period after the Civil War. There are some papers concerning milling at Oriskany, iron manufacturing, banking (Farmer's Loan and Trust Co.), and the Utica Insurance Company, in which Alexander B. Johnson and Henry Green were both greatly involved. One letter book contains copies of letters mailed by these two men on insurance company business. There are also a number of letters from Henry Green, business agent, to the Seymour brothers on other business matters.

In 1853, a corporation was formed to build the Saint Mary's Ship Canal connecting Lake Superior with the lower Great Lakes. John F. Seymour and Erastus Corning were directly involved in this venture. This file of papers is very full, giving information on the formation of the corporation, the agreement with the Michigan state government, problems involved in building the canal, etc. Letters from the agent, Charles T. Harvey, are very interesting and detailed touching on technical problems, labor problems, etc. Upon completion the canal was turned over to Michigan, and the corporation was paid in timber and mineral lands on the northern peninsula. A new corporation was formed to develop these lands, Saint Mary's Canal Mineral Company, of which John F. Seymour and Benjamin Tibbits were directors. Closely connected with this latter company was the Fox and Wisconsin Improvement Co.

TM Midel

# Seymour, Horatio, 1810-1886.

Papers, 1741-1886.

12 v. and 7 boxes.

In Cornell University Library, Collection of Regional History and

University Archives (694, 1218)
Governor of New York. Correspondence, diaries, deeds, inventories of property and household goods, accounts, and other business records of the Seymour, Tibbitts, and Bleecker families. Relates to the history and disposal of lands in Albany, Herkimer, Oneida, and the New York counties to the settling of estates, and to Saymour's other New York counties, to the settling of estates, and to Seymour's land investments in western New York. Includes general store, lumbering, and boat accounts and papers relating to the Utica Insurance Co., the Fox and Wisconsin Improvement Co., and the Saint Mary's

(Continued on next card)

MS 62-2952

[2]

Seymour, Horatio, 1810-1886.

Papers, 1741-1886.

(Card 2)

Falls Ship Canal Co. Correspondents include Goldsbrow Banyar, Barent Bleecker, John Bleecker, Rutger Bleecker, John Bradstreet, Erastus Corning, Henry Green, Charles T. Harvey, Alexander B. Johnson, Richard Lansing, John Lawyer, John Scott Morio, Philip Schuyler, Henry Seymour, John Seymour, Frazier Spraker, Benjamin Tibbitts, Clarkson Tibbitts, George S. Trast, and D. C. Whitwood. Described in the Annual report of the curator, Cornell University Library, Collection of Regional History (1946–48) p. 37.

1. Real estate investment—New York (State) 2. General stores— New York (State) 3. Lumber trade—New York (State)

MS 62-2952

Cornell Univ. Library for Library of Congress

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# Allegany County

References to investments in lands. Letter from David Ellicott Evans to Henry Seymour, 1836. Folder 13.

# Albany, Albany County

Legal documents (deeds, leases, mortgages) referring to land in the city and under the Hudson River. Most of these documents involve the Bleecker family (Barent, John R., and Rutger) in some way but other persons concerned were: Philip Schuyler, James Roosevelt, Cornelius Low, Abraham Yates, Ten Eyck family, Van Cortlandt family, van Rensselaer family, Lansing family, Abraham Ten Broeck, Thomas R. Gold, John Morin Scott, Nott family, Tibbits family.

Folders 1-16, 20-30, 33, 37, 39.

# Banks and Banking

See Farmer's Loan and Trust Co., Ontario Bank. Folders 13-15, 29.

### Banyar, Goldsborow

One letter to Barent Bleecker, June 13, 1796. Name appears on abstract of title in Schoharie.

Folders 3, 27.

#### Bingham, Kinsley Scott, 1808-1861

Governor of Michigan. Document, 1852, presenting the project for the construction of St. Mary's Falls Canal; paper concerning the transfer of completed canal, 1855.

Folders 29, 31.

Black River and Utica Railroad

Report of suit against Benjamin Tibbits covers the formation of company, 1853.

Folder 32.

Bleecker, Barent

Name appears on many of the early legal documents of Albany, Herkimer and oneida Counties.

Folders 2-12, 27.

Bleecker, John R , -1849

Father-in-law of Horatio Seymour. Involved with land holdings in Albany and Utica areas. Papers include two account books with Horatio Seymour, 1844-1847, 1847-1859; accounts of Edward Ellice lands.

Folder 1-27, 37.

Bleecker, Rutger

Name appears on many of early legal documents of Albany and Utica areas. See abstract of title of lands of the Bleecker family in Folder 27. Folders 1-5, 27.

Bouck, William C , 1786-1859.

Governor of New York.

Letter from Horatio Seymour on politics, referring to Silas Wright, Feb. 3, 1848.

Folder 23.

Bryan, Daniel

Two letters to John F. Seymour in regard to political campaigning for

Bryan, Daniel, cont'd.

Horatio Seymour, October 23, December 23, 1859.

Folders 35, 36.

Buffalo, Erie County

Letter to Henry Seymour from David Ellicott Evans, 1829, regarding land investments, 1829.

See briefs of lawsuit, Alden Lee vs. Fero, 1840's which touch on wheat trade out of Buffalo on Erie Canal.

Folders 9, 17-19.

Butterfield, John, 1801-1869

Albany financier. Legal documents in connection with land holdings, iron manufacture.

Folders 7-9, 25, 29.

Canajoharie, Montgomery County

Deed and correspondence with Horatio Seymour concerning property.

Folders 31, 32.

Canals (construction)

See Erie Canal and St. Mary's Falls Canal.

Folders 8, 10, 18-21, 28-36.

Canasaraga Creek (swamp lands)

Papers concerning the drainage of the swamp lands south of Oneida Lake relating to the construction of a canal; towns of Lennox and Sullivan.

Folders 8, 12, 13, 16, 18-21, 32.

Cattaragus County (land investment)

See letter of David Ellicott Evans, 1836, and references to Olean.

Folders 9, 13, 14, 18, 23, 34-36.

Cayuga County (lands)

Henry Seymour purchased land at tax sales in a number of towns, 1820's.

Folder 7.

Conkling, Roscoe, 1829-1888

Senator, New York State.

Letter to Henry Green, agent for John F. and Horatio Seymour, in regard to the estate of Henry Seymour, father of Mrs. Conkling, 1860.

Folder 37.

Continental Insurance Company, Utica.

Printed statement of financial status, 1859.

Folder 34.

Corning, Erastus, 1794-1872.

Associated with St. Mary's Falls Canal Company, 1850's. Married daughter of Benjamin Tibbits.

Folders 29, 31, 33, 34, 39.

Corning, Erastus, Jr

Papers concerning the estate of grandmother, Elizabeth Bleecker Tibbits, 1885. Folder 39.

Cosby's Manor

A large land patent in the Albany and Oneida county areas. Most of the

Cosby's Manor, cont'd.

Bleecker holdings were in some way connected with Cosby's Manor. Folders 3-10, 22, 27, 31, 47.

Cuyler, Cornelius

Indenture between Philip Schuyler and Cornelius Cuyler, 1741.

Folder 2.

Delaware County (land investment)

Henry Seymour acquired land, 1821.

Folder 7.

Deerfield, Oneida County

Adjoined Utica. Bleecker holdings here.

Folders 8, 10, 22, 23, 31.

DeWitt, Simeon, 1756-1834

Surveyor-General, New York State.

Report made to John Jay, Governor, on land surveyed for John R. Bleecker, March 12, 1798. Also referred to in "Proceedings" of proprietors of Canasaraga Creek swamp lands.

Folders 4, 16.

Economic conditions (1850's)

Inventory of stocks and bonds held by Benjamin Tibbits -purchase and market prices given, 1857. Letters from William A. Seaver to Horatio Seymour, 1858, concerning Seaver's bankruptcy. Letter from Frazier Spraker, agent to Horatio Seymour, February 1860.

Folders 33, 37.

Economic conditions (1880's)

Three letters to George M. Weaver from Charles Watson, treasurer of Erie and Kalamazoo Railroad, on market value of stock, June, 1886.

Folder 40.

Ellice, Edward

English absentee landlord of properties managed by John R. Bleecker, later by Benjamin Tibbits, son-in-law of Bleecker. Reports to Ellice on properties and income. See also collection #720.

Folders 15, 19, 23, 25, 30, 33.

Emigration

See Labor (1850's) in relation to construction of St. Mary's Falls Canal. Folder 30, 31.

Erie Canal (construction)

References to drainage of Canasaraga swamp lands; slips and piers in Albany and Utica; printed contract (blank) for keeping New York State canals in repair.

Folders 8, 10, 18-21, 32.

Erie Canal (trade)

See: Lee, Alden

Lee, Alden vs. Robert Fero.

References are made to tolls charged; products transported. Accounts, 1841.

Account book, 1826-27.

Folders 15-20, 31.

Erie County (land investment)

Letter from David E. Evans, Batavia, N.Y., concerning lots purchased by Henry Seymour for speculation, 1829.

Folder 9.

Erie Railroad

Letter to John F. Seymour from J. T. Henry, 1859, regarding the sale of land in Cattaragus County to the railroad for gravel to be used on roadbed. Folder 35.

Erie and Kalamazoo Railroad

See Economic conditions (1880's). Folder 40.

Evans, David Ellicott, 1788-1850

Congressman.

Two letters to Henry Seymour; 1829, one regarding property in Erie County; 1836, one regarding division of land holdings in Allegany and Cattaragus Counties.

Folders 9, 13.

Farmer's Loan and Trust Company, Utica

Henry Seymour's account, 1837. Schedule of contracts, 1830-1840. Folders 13-15.

Fox and Wisconsin Improvement Company

Company formed for development of lumber and natural resources of Wisconsin in which Horatio and John Seymour were interested. Long letter from M.L. Martin and also one from A.L. Smith to Horatio Seymour, 1859.

Fulton, Oswego County

Letters from R.H. Tyler to Horatio Seymour on business matters. Also short comments on political situation in Oswego County.
Folder 23.

Gold, Thomas Ruggles, 1764-1827

Congressman from Whitesboro, Oneida County.

Business dealings with Bleeckers.

Name appear on legal documents.

Folders 7, 8.

Green, Henry

Business agent for John F. and Horatio Seymour; connected with Utica Insurance Company.

Letters and accounts concerning land holdings in Olean area and midwest, insurance, canal and railroad matters. Also some personal letters from children.

Folders 15, 16, 34-39; letter book, account books.

Hamilton College

Surveyor's map and explanation, March 26, 1813, of gift of 133 acres by John R. Bleecker.

Folder 6.

Harvey, Charles T

Business agent in charge of construction of St. Mary's Falls Canal.

Numerous and good letters on construction problems, weather conditions, labor and health problems. After completion of canal Harvey represented the

Harvey, Charles T , cont'd.

company in northern Michigan timber land development.

Folders 29-32, 47.

# Hatch, Junius R

Articles of agreement, 1835, between Hatch and a number of business men of Utica, in which Hatch agrees to act as agent to explore and invest in lands in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana. A total of over \$40,000 was placed at Hatch's disposal. Benjamin Tibbits, James Seymour and Charles Livingston among the business men involved. Three items.

# Herkimer County (lands)

Abstract of titles of property, Bleecker and Tibbits families. Folder 37.

#### Insurance Companies

<u>See</u> Utica Insurance Company, Continential Insurance Company. Folders 27-29, 34; letter book.

### Johnson, Alexander Bryan, 1786-1867

One letter, April 23, 1847, from A. Loomis, Little Falls. Numerous letters concerning activities of Utica Insurance Comapny, 1816-1821 (?), in letter book.

Folder 23; letter book.

# Labor (1850's)

See letters of Charles T. Harvey and others concerning sources of laborers, working and living conditions, wages in commection with the construction

Labor (1850's), cont'd.

of the St. Mary's Falls Canal.

Folders 30-32.

Lands (New York State)
Folders 1-16, 18-37, 39, 47.

# Lansing family

Many names from the Lansing family appear on various documents: Abraham,

John, Gerrit Jacob, Jeremiah and Richard. The Lansings were associated with

the Bleeckers in land holding (Glen, Bleecker and Lansing Patent).

Richard R., son of Gerrit Jacob, acted for father in sales of lands and

woolen mills on the Mohawk River, Oriskany, 1820's.

Folders 2-4, 7, 8, 12, 27, 42.

# Lee, Alden

Alden Lee owned at least one canal boat - contract for purchase of "S. Kellogg" in 1841 for \$700; statement of costs due Alden Lee for transportation, 1841; involved lawsuit, in which Lee was represented by Crocker and Seymour (Horatio), 1840's, resulting from a wheat shipment on the Erie Canal. Lee (Alden) vs. Fero (Robert).

Folders 15-19, 22, 23.

Lee, Alden vs. Fero, Robert Folders 16-19, 22, 23. Low, Cornelius P

Indenture (deed), with map, to Augustine Provost, 1771, to land in Albany.

Indenture (deed), to Rutger Bleecker, 1771, to land in Albany.

Folder 1.

# Lumber industry

Includes logging, sawing, tanning bark. New York State, Michigan and Wisconsin. Letters from Charles E. Russ to John F. Russ on lumbering in Wisconsin and Michigan, 1859. Surveyor's profile for mill site, 1836. Folders 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14-15, 20, 31, 35-37; account book.

### Manufacturing (iron, Utica)

Agreement to form company, 1849. Suit against Utica Iron Co. by Ontario Bank of Utica, 1853.

Folders 25, 28, 29.

# Manufacturing (woolen)

See Lansing letters concerning woolen ("fulling") mills at Oriskany. Folders 7-9.

# Michigan (lands)

In 1835, a group of men from Utica joined together to send Junius H. Hatch to Michigan and other mid-western states for the purpose of exploration and land purchase for speculation. Later in 1855, letters and papers concerning payments to be made to St. Mary's Ship Canal Co. in lands on northern peninsula. Letters from Charles T. Harvey, George Trast on timber and other natural resources.

Folders 13, 23, 27, 31-33

#### Miller, Morris Smith, 1779-1824

Congressman, jurist, Utica. Father of Rutger Bleecker Miller, 1805-1877, Congressman. Acted as business agent for Bleeckers.

Account of monies received on Bleecker leases 1808-1811.

Miller, Morris Smtih, 1779-1824, cont'd.

Four letters, 1821-1822, concerning the sale of the Lansing property including mills at Oriskany to Barent Bleecker.

Folders 5-8, 11, 34.

Moore, Le Grand, -1891

Husband of Amanda D. Moore.

Will and inventory of property, 1891, Utica.

Folders 40-41.

Nichols, L L

Engineer, St. Mary's Falls Canal.

Estimate of cost of construction, 1852.

Reports on technical problems.

Folders 28, 30, 31.

Nott, Eliphalet, 1773-1866

President of Union College, 1804-1866. Married Gertrude Peebles Tibbits, widow of Benjamin Tibbits. Legal documents, 1820, transferring property in Albany area to step-son, Benjamin Tibbits, who married Elizabeth Bleecker. Other members of the Nott family whose names appear on documents are Benjamin and Howard.

Folders 7, 12, 13, 16.

Olean, Cattaragus County (land investment)

References to lands acquired by Henry Seymour. See especially letter of David E. Evans, 1836.

Folders 13, 14, 18, 23, 34-36.

#### Oneida Reservation

See Canasaraga Creek swamp lands, towns of Lennox and Sullivan. Folders 8, 12, 13, 16, 18-21, 32.

## Onondaga County (land investment)

Legal documents, mostly in Pompey, having to do with the purchase of land by Henry Seymour.

Folders 5-9.

# Ontario Bank, Utica

Civil suit against Iron Company, 1853.

Folder 29.

# Oriskany Manufacturing Company

Woolen mill - "fulling." On Mohawk River, originally on property held by Lansings.

Folders 7-10, 27, 47 (undated, good).

# Oriskany, Oneida County

Legal documents. References to mills, both textile and lumber. Folders 7-11, 27, 29, 47.

### Oswego County (land investment)

Legal documents for land acquisitions of Henry Seymour. Contract between Henry Seymour and John Ramsay for timber logging, 1831.
Folders 10, 12.

### Platt, Jonas, 1769-1834

Congressman from New York, lawyer and county clerk in Herkimer and Oneida Counties.

Platt, Jonas, 1769-1834, cont'd.

Many references in fusiness matters with Bleeckers.

Folders 8, 12, 27.

Railroads (New York State)

See Black River and Utica Railroad Co., Erie Railroad, Utica and Schenectady Railroad Co.

Folders 12-14, 32, 35.

Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, Albany

Legal documents involving transfer of ownership of lands, dating 1765-1835.

Folders 1, 6-9, 13.

Richfield Springs, Otsego County

Insurance policy. John F. Seymour purchased personal property held on chattel mortgage, 1874.

Folder 39.

Roosevelt, James

Indenture, 1798, in which Thomas Stagg deeds land in Jersey Field, Herkimer County, 525 acres, in payment of debt.

Folder 4.

Saint Mary's Canal Mineral Land Company

An act to incorporate introduced in the New York Senate, 1858. Company succeeded St. Mary's Ship Canal Company. John F. Seymour and Benjamin Tibbits among directors. Reports on coal and oil from northern Michigan - to John H. Seymour from W.H. Edwards, 1859.

Folders 33-36.

Saint Mary's Falls Ship Canal Company

Company formed in 1853 to build the ship canal between Lake Superior and lower lakes. Erastus Corning and John F. Seymour involved. See: Kinsley Scott Bingham, Governor of Michigan; Charles T. Harvey, agent at time of construction of canal; and St. Mary's Canal Mineral Land Co. The completed canal was turned over to the state of Michigan, 1855. Papers in the collection are concerned with legal matters, technical problems and labor. Folders 28-36.

Sault Saint Marie Canal

See St. Mary's Ship Canal Company. Under this title is the estimate made by L.L. Nichols, engineer, 1852.

Folder 28.

Schuyler, David

Letter of patent, 1741, to David Schuyler, Stephen Rensselaer, Rensselaer Schuyler and others.

Quit claim deed, 1753.

Folder 1.

Schuyler, Philip John, 1733-1804

Legal documents concerning lands involving Bleecker family. Financial accounts in connection with Cosby's Manor. Document binding six yeomen to Philip Schuyler, Rutger Bleecker, and John Morin Scott "in the penal of sum five hundred pounds current money of the Province of New York," 1772.

Folders 1-4, 8.

Scott, John Morin, 1730-1784

Legal documents, involving Schuylers, Bleeckers and others. Folders 1, 2.

Seymour, Henry, 1780-1837

Father of Horatio, John F. Seymour and Mrs. Roscoe Conkling. Owner of lands, mostly timber, throughout New York. Legal documents, inventory of property at time of death, some letters.

Folders 5-14, 37.

Seymour, Horatio, 1810-1866

Governor of New York, son-in-law of John R. Bleecker.

Most of the papers are on business matters, which were carried out for the most part by agents or by his brother, John F. Seymour. Many references to Erie Canal.

Very few letters on politics: From R.H. Tyler, Fulton, on business matters which include paragraphs on general political comments, 1847. Folder 23.

Letter to William C. Bouck, 1848, in regard to Silas Wright. Folder 23.

Two letters from Daniel Bryan, New York City, to John F. Seymour about Horatio's campaign, 1859. Folders 35-36.

Horatio's wife was Mary Bleecker and many of the business and legal papers have to do with Bleecker lands which were divided at the death of John R. Bleecker among his daughters. Benjamin Tibbits was another son-in-law of Bleecker.

Folders 13-37; letter book; account book, 1853. Law register, Seymour and Root, 1833-1838.

Seymour, John F

Lawyer, financier, Utica. Brother of Horatio, son of Henry.

John acted as agent for Horatio in some business matters. John was deeply involved in the Saint Mary's Ship Canal Company and Saint Mary's Mineral Company. Lumber interests in New York State, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Folders 15-36. Letter book; account book, 1845-1861.

Spraker, Frazier

Business agent for Horatio Seymour.

Letters on business to Horatio from Canajoharie.

Folders 32, 33, 37.

Steuben County (lands)

Ellice lands.

Folder 25.

Ten Broeck, Abraham, 1734-1810

Soldier, banker, State Senator, jurist.

(

Judge, Court Common Pleas, Albany, 1786; Mayor of Albany, 1797.

Legal document, indenture, deeding "water lot" to Abraham G. Lansing, 1797,

signed by Ten Broeck for city of Albany.

Folder 3.

Ten Eyck family

The following names of members of the Ten Eyck family appear on various legal documents: Conrad, Henry, Jacob and Jacob H. Folders 1, 2, 9, 14.

# Tibbits, Benjamin

Married to Elizabeth Bleecker, daughter of John Bleecker. Agent for Ellice lands which had been administered by John R. Bleecker. Involved in St. Mary's Ship Canal and other projects. Father-in-law of Erastus Corning. Folders 7, 11-40, 48 (undated); account book, 1849.

# Tibbits, Clarkson

Son of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Bleecker) Tibbits. Business matters for mother.

Folders 33, 34, 37-39.

# Trast, George S

Land agent, Michigan.

Letter to John F. Seymour.

Folder 23.

### Tyler, Ransom Hubert, 1815-1881

Lawyer, Fulton.

Letters to Horatio Seymour on business and politics.

Folder 23.

### Utica, Oneida County

Many legal documents and financial records having to do with Bleecker family holdings, and Seymour family; canal matters; Farmers Loan and Trust Company; Utica Insurance Company. Law register of Seymour & Root, 1833-1838; record of cases, Utica, 1855-1859.

Folders 7-29, 39-41; letter book, law register, case record book.

Utica Insurance Company

Formed by Seymours, Alexander B. Johnson. Henry Green also important.

Folders 27-29.

Letter book (very good), 1816-26, containing letters of Johnson and Green.

Utica Iron Manufacturing Company

See Iron Manufacturing, Utica.

Folders 25, 28, 29.

Utica and Schenectady Railroad

Release of R.R. Co. from all damages to encourage location in Water St.

Utice, 1834. Other encouragement to building.

Lease, 1836, of land for piling wood, signed Horatio Seymour for John R.

Bleecker.

Folders 12-14.

Utica Steam Cotton Mills

Circular in regard to stockholders' meeting, 1859.

Folder 36.

Van Rensselaer family

Stephen and Jeremiah. Letters of patent, 1741; articles of agreement

between Jeremiah and John R. Bleecker, 1796.

Folders 1, 3.

Virgil, Cortland County

John F. Seymour lands leased from Edward Ellice.

Folders 15, 25.

Weaver, George M

Lawyer, partner in Seymour & Weaver, law firm, Utica.

Business correspondence.

Folders 40, 41.

Western Lands (speculation)

Very interesting agreement drawn up by businessmen of Utica, 1835, to send Junius H. Hatch as agent and explorer to Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, to explore and purchase lands.

See also: Fox and Wisconsin Improvement Company, St. Mary's Canal Mineral Company, Charles T. Harvey.

Folders 13, 23, 27, 31-33.

Wisconsin (lands)

Speculation. Also policy on mill with Utica Insurance Co.

See also Fox and Wisconsin Improvement Co.

Folders 27, 28, 34-36.

Wright, Silas, 1795-1847

U.S. Senator, Governor, New York.

See Bouck, William C.

Folder 23.