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Elisha Camp Estate Collection. 1756-[1784-1860 and n.d.].

Although fragmentary in many respects, this collection throws much light on the early history of Jefferson County, particularly on that of the Township of Hounsfield, on the transfer of the land from intermediate investors to actual settlers, on the attempts to make Sackets Harbor a great commercial center, and on accompanying economic, political and social developments. It largely concerns the activities of Elisha Camp (1786-1866) who acted as a land agent for his brother-in-law, Augustus Sacket, and for a number of other absentee landowners including David A. Ogden, Thomas L. Ogden, and their associates who purchased Sacket's estate at Sackets Harbor (1808); Peter Kemble and Ezra Hounsfield; Lemuel Storrs and Henry Champion; Herman LeRoy, William Bayard, James M. Ellis, and their associates; Cornelius Ray, William Bayard, and Michael Hogan; James Le Ray de Chaumont; the executors of the Nicholas Olive estate; the executors of Nicholas Gouverneur; and others. Camp arrived in Sackets Harbor in 1804 and became a postmaster, a militia officer, a lawyer, a deputy New York State District Attorney, a politician, a newspaper owner and editor, a banker, and a substantial landowner with interests in local mills, Lake Ontario shipping, and any land or water transportation development which might benefit Sackets Harbor.

The early papers (19 items) of the collection include accounts and 13 letters (1784-1786) to George Hale, a member of Mrs. Camp's family and a merchant of Providence, R. I., and Glastenburg, Conn., relating to the sale of livestock, rum, pork, sugar and other goods, giving advice to a young merchant, and giving instructions as to the printing and playing with geographical cards.

Materials relating to Camp's activities as a land agent and owner, and settlement promoter are few prior to 1808, but after that date include Powers of Attorney; surveys; lists of land contracts and lands unsold; lists of purchasers and tenants; leases, contracts, bonds and deeds; receipts for payments in cash, kind or services; agreements as to timber, water and mill rights, and other privileges and improvements; letters from and letters concerning particular settlers; ejectment suit costs and other legal items; town plans and information on the military reservation; accounts for potash and other produce, for farm implements and animals, for saw, grist, plaster and flour mills, a stone quarry, a blacksmith shop, a furnace, a general store, a paper mill and other businesses; detailed statements for investors, the same over long periods for the Ogden Land Company (1810-1841) and the Hounsfield interests (1807-1845); scattered accounts, agreements and other items for the Sacket family interests (1802-1849); and many letters including a long series (1810-1843) from Thomas L. Ogden which give directives for all phases of the business. Included in this category are the accounts (1810-1814) of L. Seymour, Augustus Sacket's agent, for 2124 acres in Victor, Ontario County; Camp's accounts (1814-1815) for the same with lists of contracts and bonds; and a few papers relating to smaller holdings in Conn., New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and other states.

Closely related to the land papers are the materials reflecting Camp's interests in lake shipping and the promotion of roads, a canal and railroads. The papers on shipping include an agreement (1816) by the heirs of R.L. and E.P. Livingston and Robert Fulton with Charles Symth, Joseph C. Yates, James C. Duane and David Boyd giving steamboat privileges on Lake Ontario; items (1816-1822) relating to the Lake Ontario Steamboat Company; Articles of Association (1818) between Camp, Butterfield and Kendall for the Sackets Harbor Steam and Ferry Boat Company; accounts (1819-1823) for the construction, machinery, maintenance and labor costs for the Steamboat Sophia, and lists of passengers and freight for her first four trips; agreements, accounts, letters or other items for the Steamboats Ontario (1821-1825), Sir William Wallace (1836), and Telegraph (1837), for the Schooners George N. Walker (1838-1842), William S. Maloon (1840-1842), and Baltic (Great Lakes, 1849), and for a brig, the Col. E. Camp (Great Lakes, 1844-1855).

From 1819 Camp led the agitation for a canal to connect the Black River with Lake Ontario at Sackets Harbor. The papers relating to this unsuccessful project "for diverting the surplus waters of the Black River into Pleasant or Mill Creek and thence to Sackets Harbor" and to Camp's role as one of the Surplus Water Commissioners include petitions to the legislature; advice from interested persons; subscription lists and receipts (1829-1831) for payments with some in kind; construction contracts (1827-1832); accounts (1829-1832) for labor, excavations, supplies, board, etc.; complaints (1831-1837) by settlers, farmers and rival interests over the flooding of roads and lands, over other mishaps, and over the surplus water taxes and threatened monopoly; contracts and leases for water rights along the canal; and drafts of political speeches by Camp emphasizing local transportation needs in terms of Whig promises.

Scattered through the collection is political material including broadsides and pamphlets, many rough drafts by Camp for editorials, handbills and speeches, and some letters from state and local politicians and local settlers with the bulk between 1826 when Camp ran as a Clintonian for Congress and the early 1840's when he violently opposed Tyler following Harrison's death. His views as a Clintonian, a National Republican (he was an active Mason in the 1820's), and a Whig are frequently expressed in terms of his interests in internal improvements and agricultural developments while a number of letters from Oswego and Watertown throw light on the economic and political rivalries between those towns and Sackets Harbor. Included are two Anti-Masonic letters; one letter (1835) on Negro colonization; and one (1842) from Gerrit Smith on the Temperance movement.

Included in the collection are many papers relating to (Colonel) Camp's activities in the militia; papers relating to Union Academy, Sackets Harbor, with letters (1828-1831) discussing its organization, a letter (1830) from Gerrit Smith refusing to endow it with land, a petition (1831) for an "act to authorize the Supervisors of Jefferson County to raise money for the purchase of land, mechanics shops & tools for Union Academy," and other materials; other papers on the Sackets Harbor Bank, the Jefferson County Bank, the Sackets Harbor and Ellisburgh Rail Road, the Watertown and Rome Rail Road, a proposed railroad between Sackets Harbor

con't.

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#696

and Pierrepont Manor, the Sackets Harbor and Saratoga Rail Road, the Jefferson County Agricultural Society, and churches and local government; a letter (1822) from De Witt Clinton concerning his refusal to pardon a prisoner; a letter n.d., to an unknown person (Smith ?), from James Buchanan after his election expressing his worry over the formation of a cabinet and inquiring about the availability of Jesse C. Smith (?) for the position of attorney-general; and other papers of a miscellaneous character. From 1845 the bulk of the collection consists of family letters largely between Camp and his children, ^{including} ~~and~~ Elisha E. Camp, who was in Mexico (1847), Green Bay, Wisconsin (1849), Washington Territory (1850), and Oregon (1851), and a series of Civil War letters. (696)

Elisha Camp Estate Collection, 1756-1879.

Documents, letters, accounts, broadsides, pamphlets of Elisha Camp, early settler in Sackets Harbor, N.Y.; attorney, land agent, owner of saw, paper, plaster, grist mills (etc.), steamers and schooners; active in building of canal from the Black River to Sackets Harbor, railroads in upper New York State.

Card Entries:

Accounts (agricultural; land, sale; mill, grist, saw; misc.)
 Agriculture (societies)
 Banks and banking
 Elisha Camp Estate Collection
 Canals (New York State)
 Flour and feed trade
 Industry
 Land (sale)
 Legal
 Manners and morals
 Merchandising and merchandise (general store)

Military
 Railroads
 Religion (Mormon)
 Ships and shipping
 Social Life
 Temperance
 Westward Expansion
 Grant, Capt. U. S.

in det file
 1-69

Ack. sent
 Card entries

Tracer
 Donor card

NOTE: Following add. cards made, when papers searched for Prof. Merk, 4/61:

U.S. Marine Corps
 Wisconsin (Sheboygan)
 Agriculture (status of)
 Mexican War (3 cards) (and cross reference: Stephen Strong)

Also, Smith, Gerrit, 1797-1874, 1/69

NOTE: There is one ALS from James Buchanan to "Dear Sir", undated, in jute folder under # 696 in Mss. file. Do not know when or why it was placed there.
 kj, 11/6/62. Box ~~17, K-107~~

17, K-107

Camp Family Papers (1756-1879)

- 1756 June 28 Survey of two lots of land, one next to land belonging to Garlick and Clark, the second next to land belonging to T. Camp. Labeled "Iron Work Mill Land Survey". Hephia foot(?), surveyor.
- 1784 Sept. 10 Letter, Jabez Deck to George Hale, Providence, concerning directions for playing a card game.
- Sept. 13 Letter, Elisha Hale, Glastenburg⁴, to his brother George Hale, Providence, concerning shoes and rum sent to George by Capt. Chase's vessel, also produce, building, live-stock, scarcity of money.
- Sept. 23 Letter, John Hirwell, Boston, to George Hale, Providence, concerning receipt of playing cards, possible purchase of a spinet.
- Oct. 12 Receipt, George Hale to James Calder, for cutting ninety packs of geographical cards.
- Oct. 19 Letter, Roswell Welles, Weathersfield, to George Hale, Providence, dealing with social life, chit chat about a lady (Lucy).
- Oct. 28 Receipt, George Hale to Edward Thurber for rum, partially cancelling debt of Jabez Peck to Hale's brother Samuel.
- Nov. 12 Receipt, George Hale to M. Wheeler, for printing cards.
- Nov. 22. Elisha Hale, Glastenburg⁴, to George Hale, Providence, letter concerning sale of livestock, produce, West India goods, family affairs.
- Nov. 29 Letter, Elisha, Glastenburg⁴, to brother George Hale, Providence, concerning shipping pork via Capt. Miller, giving advice for being a successful merchant.
- Dec. 9 Letter, Elisha Hale, Glastenburg⁴, to George Hale, Providence, concerning shipping pork, purchasing sugar, tea, new partner in the trading house of Brown and Benson.
- 1785 Jan 11 Letter, Asher Robbins, Providence, to George Hale, concerning the death of Joanna.
- Feb 12 Letter, Jack Taylor, New London, to George Hale, "Lovely Lucy is married", also William Moskay. Daily doings, chit chat.
- Feb 25 Letter, Elisha Hale, Glastenburg⁴, to George Hale, Providence, concerning merchant trading—cloth, fish, salt.
- Feb 28 Letter of introduction, George and Ashbel Welles, Glastenburg⁴, to Mr. George Hale, recommending Mr. Sam Welles, about to enter the mercantile business.

- 1785 May 3 Mr. George Hale in account with Brown and Benson. Clothing--beaver hat, cloth, buttons, etc.
- Aug 3 Abner Moseley, New Haven, to George Hale, Glastenburg. Chit chat about friendship and love--quote from Shenston.
- 1786 Jan 20 Mr. George Hale in Account with Brown and Benson. Broadcloth, gloves, flour.
- Mar 19 Abner Moseley, New Haven, to George Hale, Glastenburg. Wants to know why William Welles has left in such a hurry--also comments that Glastenburg is not the climate for a scholastic constitution.
- 1788 Oct 1 Contemporary copy: Regimental orders, Annual Review Inspection Concerning procedure, dress, etc. New York.
- 1791 Oct 19 New Milford, "Copy of Father's Will" dated May 30, 1789, and (signed) Enos Camp, in New Milford, Smithfield County, Connecticut, leaving his money and lands to his wife, and sons Enos, Elisha, Nathan, and Daniel.
- June 20 Document in which Paul Hutchins, heir of Ebenezer Hutchins of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, sells to Elisha Camp the title to Gratuity or Bounty lands given by New York State and the U. S. as a premium for his services as a surgeons' mate. Lot. no. 54, Hannibal; Lot no. 56, Brutus; Lot no. 1, Romulus. Also gives Camp power of atty.
- 1793 Oct 29 Boundaries of land left Elisha Camp by his father's will. Bounded by land belonging to Amos Northrop, Anabel Stone, Israel Baldwin, Epemetus Gunn, David Northrop, widow Poyer. New Milford, Conn. Probate Office.
- 1796 June 17 Heshiah Camp in account with Wm. Tracy For boarding her sons Elisha and Martin and for Elisha's schooling.
- 1801 Mar 21 Court of Common Pleas, Jefferson County. Henry Leavenworth's estate to be divided because he is an "absent debtor". By order of Egbert Ten Eyck, Esq, First Judge.
- 1802 August. "A copy of the field notes taken by Wm. Shepard on the 3rd Survey of Saml Franklins tract of land in Township No 11 in the 4th range."
- 1802 Dec 1 John Mitchell's Survey of Mill Seat (saw mill) 90 Acres.
- 1803 Dec 3 Agreement between Augustus Sacket, and Peter Kembel and Ezra Hounsfield, the former to pay the latter two \$2998 by 1806.
- 1804 Oct 12 "List of outstanding debts"; names of debtors and reasons given for their not paying.

- 1805 Aug 30 "A. S. to Wm. Waning", "Description of Mill House Lot (?) of Waning". (Elisha Camp's handwriting--unfinished)
- 1806 Dec 31 "Dr...The Post Office at Sackets Harbor in Account with the General Post-Office, from October 5th to Dec. 31, 1806"
Signed by E. Camp, postmaster.

1 Bill of Costs, 1806, E. Camp, Atty
- 1807 Apr 10 Receipt for wheat; Brownville.
- Apr 21 Power of Atty from Peter Kemble and Ezra Hounsfield of New York City to Elisha Camp, authorising him to sell their lands in the south side of Hounsfield.
- July 1 Dr...the Post Office at Sackets Harbor in Account Current with the General Post Office from 31st March to the 1st July, 1807.
E. Camp, Postmaster.
- July 22 Receipt from the General Post-Office, Washington City to Elisha Camp, Postmaster at Sackets Harbour.

4 Bills of Costs, 1807; E. Camp, Atty
- 1808 Jan 1 Dr...the Post Office at Sacket's Harbor in Account Current with the General Post Office, from Sept. 30th, 1807 to Janylst, 1808.
E. Camp, Postmaster
- Mar 31 Dr...the Post Office at Sacket's Harbor in Account Current with the General Post Office, from Dec 31, 1807 to March 31, 1808.
- Apr.-June Account current with general US Post Office.
- July 4 Expenditures for July 4th celebration.
- Aug 2 Receipt for Pot Ash to be delivered to Elisha Camp
- Aug 2 Promissory note to Elisha Camp for \$22.69.
- Aug 5 Receipt from General Post*office, Washington City, to Elisha Camp, postmaster.
- Aug 6 Three dollar "bill" from Mohawk Bank.
- Aug 15 Nathan Sanford, District Attorney of New York State, certificate appointing Elisha Camp his deputy to prosecute for the U.S. in county courts in or adjoining Sacket's Harbor; letter to Camp from Sanford, New York City.
- Aug 31 Draft of committee report on the subject of Lieutenant Cross's "unwarrented behavior", infringing "on our rights as Citizens by a Public Officer." Cross backtracks and committee recommends suspension of hitherto proposed measures.
- Sept 10 Survey of lot in Hounsfield belonging to Benjamin West, a part of great lot No. 34.
- Sept 20 Letter, Egbert Ten Eyck, Watertown, to Augustus Sacket, Sacket's

- Harbor; survey of three peices of land in Sacket's Harbor.
- 1808 Oct 1 Dr. The Post Office at Sacket's Harbor in Account with the
(cont'd.) General Post-Office from 30th June to 1st Oct, 1808
- Oct 31 Promissory note to Elisha Camp for \$11.25.
- Dec 5 Promissory note to Elisha Camp for \$4.25.
- Dec 11 Survey of E. Tell's land. Farrell: surveyor.
11 Bills of Costs, 1808; E. Camp, Atty.
- 1809 Jan 1 Dr. The Post-Office at Sacket's Harbor in Account with the
General Post-Office, from the 30th Sept., 1808 to 1st Jan, 1809
- Mar 29 Letter, D. A. Ogden, New York, to Elisha Camp, Sacket's Harbor,
Instructions to Camp, agent for Ogden and others, concerning
the sale of Sacket's estate which they have just purchased.
- Apr 26 Survey by J. Hammond of Mr. Sherwin's lot, and map.
- Jun 18 Order for \$90 to be paid Camp by Messers Bellows and Gates,
Montreal.
- June 23 Statement protesting that the bill of June 8 was not paid
by Bellaws and Gates.
- Aug 28 Document giving Camp Power of Attorney for Herman LeRoy,
William Bayard, James M. Ellis(?), John Wilkes, Louis de Quen (?),
Mallet Prevost Eykes(?).
- Nov 13 Receipt, \$8.06 by E. Camp.
- Nov 20 Promissory note to Camp for 600ft. of oak planking(?).
- Dec 11 Document giving Elisha Camp power of attorney for James De
Le Ray de Chaumont, with lots and conditions for their sale
listed.
- Dec 17 Promissory note to Camp for 1000ft. of Sawed Clear Pine.
12 Bills of Costs, 1809: E. Camp, Atty
- 1810 Mar 11 Letter, Nathan Camp, Owego, to Elisha Camp, Sacket's Harbor,
concerning Camp's (E.) Pennsylvania lands for which he has given
Nathan Power of Attorney--poverty stricken tenants and Camp's
claim to a saw mill there.
- Mar 26 Letter, David A. Ogden, New York, to Camp, writing in behalf
of the committee setting forth directions for renting their
land, laying out a street, cutting fuel.

- 1810 Mar 30 Document giving Power of Attorney to Elisha Camp from
(cont.) Cornelius Ray, William Bayard, Michael Hogan to act in
regard to land purchased from Augustus Sacket (1809) by
the Associates in New York.
- Apr 29 Letter, W. Brown to Camp, directing him how to dispose of
money Brown has won in a bet.
- May 25 Letter, Le Ray de Chaumont, LeRaysville, to Camp agreeing
to a commission for Camp of \$1000 for sale of 41 lots if
before Oct. 1, 1811.
- Jun 2 Promissory note to Camp; 1376 ft. timber.
- Aug 2 Promissory note to Camp; \$20 worth of lime.
- Aug 23 Promissory note for \$10
- Sept. 9 Note for \$88.50
- Sept 10 Letter, Peter Kemble and Ezra Hounsfield (n.p.) to Camp,
giving instructions for the supervising of the lands in
Hounsfield for which he is agent.
- Sept 29 To the Commissioners of Highways of the Town of Hounsfield,
signed by twelve free landholders residing in Hounsfield who
consider a road necessary to Watertown.
- Dec 27 Letter, T. L. Ogden, New York, to Camp concerning the lands
in Hounsfield for which Camp is agent.
- 20 Bills of Cost, 1810; E. Camp, Atty
- 1811 Jan 4 Survey of Simon Reed's lot by Aaron Blodget.
- Jan 7 Promissory note, Nashell to Wm. Ashby. \$9
- Feb 25 Power of Atty to E. Camp from Enos Camp, Martha Camp,
Augustus Sacket and wife Minerva, Gerardes Camp.
- Mar 5 Survey by Aaron Blodget of lots of J. F. Mevain and
Mr. Powers.
- Apr 27 Letter, T. L. Ogden (n.p.) to Camp. Copy of instructions
from the committee regarding sale of lots.
- May 1 Accounting from the estate of George Hale, signed over to
Elisha Camp by Thomas Hale.
- Apr 8 Promissory note for \$2 to Camp from Simon Read.
- Jun 29 Warrant for the appearance of 16 men equipped for
Military Duty on July 4. E. Camp, Capt. to Corp. Thos. D. Spicer.
- Isaac Beardsley to E. Camp, Dr. for pine trees cut and interest
on lot.

1811(cont.) 24 Bills of Costs; E. Camp, Atty.

- 1812 Feb 18 Articles of Agreement between Augustus Sacket, Jamaica County, Queens, Long Island, and Alexandre Biggam, Ontario County, selling land in Ontario County to Biggam.
- May 1 Indenture, leasing land to Nathan Miller and David Pierce By Samuel Hooker. Terms for paying rent.
- May 25 Warrant for 15 men to appear equipped for military service by June 1. Camp to Cpl. Pease.
- June 12 Agreement between Thomas L. Ogden and Camp selling land in Sacket's Harbor.
- Warrant for 9 men to appear equipped for military service by June 1. Camp to Sergeant Oliver Robbins.
- July 14 Warrant for men for military service, Camp to Cpl. Camp, for July 15.
- Roll of Officers, non-comms. and band of 21st Artillery, Elisha Camp, Commdt.
- Sept 20 List of men in military company (21st Artillery) and amounts paid for their services.
- Sept 24 Letter, T. L. Ogden, New York, to Camp, concerning sale and supervision of land.
- Sept 29 Letter, Lemuel Stores, Middletown, to E. Camp, his land agent, regarding cutting of lumber and selling of land and hay.
- Oct 19 Agreement between Cornelius Bay, William Bayard and Michael Hogan (by their atty Camp) and Samuel Hober, leasing land in town of Hounsfield to the latter.
- Oct 31 Letter, T. L. Ogden, New York, to Camp giving final instructions concerning sale of land at the Point (in Sacket's Harbor)
- List of names of laborers and number of days worked.
- 12 Bills of Costs, 1812, E. Camp Atty.
- 3 Promissory notes
- 2 Notes for amounts due.
- 1813 Apr. 21 Letter, T. L. Ogden, New York, to Camp. Instructions for Mill Seat, Store House, Mansion House.

- 1813 Apr 30 List of six subscribers who bet \$500 on Stephen Van Rensselaer's election as governor.
- May 4 Peter Kemble and Ezra Hounsfield to Elisha Camp, Dr. Accounting Sept 28, 1806--May 4, 1813.
- May 6 Bill for clothing (handkerchiefs, shirts, etc.)
- May 7 A. Sacket and Camp, accounts.
- May 13 Bill; Camp to Saml. F. Hooker, Dr., for hardware, material, etc.
- Jun 10 Thomas Knox and Hester Gouverneur to Camp, Power of Atty.
- Jun 12 Kemble and Hounsfield, account with Camp, Settled.
- Jun 12 William Bayard and Michael Hogan, account with Camp, 1810-1813.
- July 9 Memorandum of rental agreement. (In Sacket's Harbor)
- July 15 Survey of land in Hounsfield belonging to Samuel Wilder,
- July 24 John Coffin vs Enoch Ely and Keziah, his wife, Elisha Camp and Terence Donally: Complainant's bill.
- July 28 "Account of Privateers as published in the Utica Patriot!"
- Aug 1 Note certifying that John Mahony, a volunteer on board the Privateer Neptune is entitled to one share of all prizes taken during recent cruise. Sacket's Harbor.
- Aug 21 Henry Champion and Lemuel Stores to Elisha Camp: Power of Atty.
- Dec 20 Indenture between Cornelius Bay, William Bayard, Michael Hogan (by their atty, Camp) and Squire Read. Lease of land in Hogsfield.
- 4 Bills of Costs, 1813; E. Camp, Atty
5 Promissory notes.
1 Receipt.

1814-1820 STEAMBOAT

From 1816 through 1820 Camp is interested in building a steamboat to ferry on ✓
Lake Ontario:

August 22, 1816, Certificate of 5 shares of stock in the Lake Ontario Steam- ✓
boat Company.

✓ January 2, 1816, Copy of Articles of Agreement between Harriet Fulton, widow
of Robert, and Robert and Edward Livingston (all of New York City) giving the ✓
latter the right of steamboat navigation on Lake Ontario.

March 6, 1818 Articles of Association of the Sackets Harbor Steam and Ferry
Boat Company: Camp, S. Butterfield and William Kendall.

April 9, 1818, Letter, Butterfield and Kendall to Camp, concerning
steamboat.

September, 1818, List of machinery purchased for the Steamboat Sophia ✓

November 1818 " " furnishings " " " " " " ✓

December 3-9, 1818, List of passengers and freight for the first 4 trips. ✓

1819-20, numerous bills and receipts for Steamboat Sophia, rigging, labor, etc. ✓

1814-20 LAW

February 5, 1820, Bill of complainant filed in case of James P. Allaine,
Wm. Lang, Joseph Denison vs, E. Camp; the former claim that according to
agreement of March 1818 for a steamboat to be constructed by Allaine Camp
should have been sharing profits with them and hasn't. Case settled by
compromise in which Camp has to pay complainants in money and land (Apr. 8, 1820
(Camp's answer is undated and filed at the end of 1820)

Frequent bills of cost from 1814 through 1815, none from 1816 on would seem
to indicate that Camp dropped out of active law practice to concentrate on
land and steamboats.

1814-20 MILLS

Only mention of a mill so far is a saw mill, April 19, 1817 (Account of
Stuff at Mill and Brought to the Harbor"), probably owned by Camp. Also
mentioned is the "Black River Cotton and Woollen Manufacturing Co. of
Watertown, of which Egbert Ten Eyck is President (he represents the company
in a land agreement with Gordon Cornell

1814-20 CANAL

December 18, 1819, Petition to the Legislature of the State of New York
requesting permission to dig a canal to Pleasant Creek from the Black River
in order to divert the surplus waters of the Black River through Sackets Harbor
(where Pleasant Creek empties into the lake)

1814-20 MILITARY

Only record of Camp's military activities during this period is one inspection
return form, September 16, 1819, inventory of men and supplies in company led
by Capt. Elisha Camp.

1814-20 GOVERNMENT (local)

In civic affairs during the period, there is a tally of the votes for representatives to the New York Assembly in 1815 in which Egbert Ten Eyck wins. (Annual Election)

June 20, 1816, Smiths Mills, Adamstownship, is to be the location of the Jefferson County Bank, just being established.

May 2, 1817, Watertown--Articles of Agreement between the Bank and Camp and others, who pledge themselves to promote the welfare of the bank, by becoming stockholders.

Camp was evidently one of the overseers of the poor, as evidenced by order, February 28, 1817, for a "poor person" to get \$23.25 (?) a week.

Elections: letter December 2, 1820 asking if soldiers were imported in recent elections to vote the military into the state.

The last post office form is in 1814, which perhaps means that he was no longer postmaster at Sackets Harbor.

1814-20 FINANCE

Also included during the whole period are numerous Indentures--i.e., promissory notes with terms of repayment and interest stated--no mention of land (bonds, probably, except for small notes)

1814-20 FAMILY

Only mention of Hales during this period is a bill received by Camp from the late firm of George and Thomas Hale, merchants, dated December 11, 1820. Only personal family correspondence is a letter from Augustus Sacket (Camp's sister's husband) who writes to Camp from N.Y.C. completely broke--is coming to S.H. Doesn't know what to do about wife and children.

1814-20 LAND ACTIVITIES

Camp as agent for Henry Champion and Lemuel Stores:

Power of Attorney, August 12, 1814, and account sheets in 1814-17 (for land in Hounsfield)

In 1819 (August 16) Document in which Champion approves (ratifies?) contracts made in Victor County, Ontario by Camp

Camp as agent for the so-called Sackets Harbor Estate--David and Thomas L. Ogden and others in New York City. Letters of instruction to Camp as to the sale and upkeep of the land from T. L. Ogden; account sheets of Camp's expenses for the Association and receipts; January 1, 1818: list of all land contracts for the Sackets Harbor Estate and contract numbers.

Sacket-- (L. Seymour, his agent) list of lands sold in Twp. no. 11, 1812) In 1815, July 11, Sacket transfers all his land and interests in Hounsfield to Camp for the sum of \$8000, but before that time Camp seems to have been acting as agent for him to some degree. Letter, October 8, 1814, Meadville,

Pa.-- to Camp about lands in Hounsfield; also--financial statement, 1815.

Kemble and Hounsfield--Abstract of deed, August 31, 1816, Peter Kemble Ogden and others, B. Hounsfield (land). Also--accounts, B. Hounsfield and Camp, 1817, August 7, financial statements.

Kemble and Hounsfield--Camp as agent--financial statements during these years--1816; list of people with contracts for land in Hounsfield from Kemble and Hounsfield.

Countless articles of agreement--Camp selling land to someone else--and numerous surveys.

1821-28 STEAMBOAT

During 1821-23 a relatively greater proportion of the papers deal with the maintenance of the Steamboat Sophia. Bills for equipment, labor, rigging, caulking, wood for firing. ✓

June 29, 1821: Wm. Waring sells his share of the Steam Boat Ontario to Camp for \$300, with agreement that if he pays two notes of Camp's for \$1000 each he gets back both his and Camp's share. (as he does--agreement, August 12, 1822). Waring plans to build a new boat, also under the Lake Ontario Steamboat Co., meanwhile Camp's share of the Steamboat is valued at \$4528.85.

Accounts of the Steamboat Sophia with T. Clark--Nov. 28, 1821
Tisdale Devereux and Co.--1823, L. and S. Denison--1825.

Lawsuit with S. and L. Denison March 3, 1825, concerning Steamboat Ontario from which they were to have a share of the profits, which they contested and did not get. ✓

Wm Waring in account of Steam Boat Ontario 1825-6, finally settled in 1826.

In 1822 an act was drafted for possible passage in congress which would allow Camp and his associates to have a steam ferry boat which would go for ten years between Sackets Harbor and Kingston. (evidently passed)

1821-28 LAW

Camp was evidently ceased to act as a lawyer except as attorney representing land owners and in suits in which he personally is involved. (no other statements of Bills of Costs)

January 22, 1821--letter concerning suit, Miles vs. Camp, concerning payment for work.

December 2, 1822--letter of De Witt Clinton, Albany, to Camp, concerning his refusal to pardon a prisoner.

March 18, 1825--list of judgments against Camp.

1821-28 MILLS

Saw mill--accounts of sawed timber, 1821, and receipts. Also in 1826, where he appears to be selling timber, and in 1828.

Grist mill (flour, mostly wheat) --- receipts for wheat during these years, especially 1824 and sale of flour, 1826-7.

1821-1828 MILITARY

Camp seems to be especially active in the army (artillery) during 1821-24. Abstracts of inspection returns---1821-2---21st Regiment. He is a major in 1821, and promoted to a colonel in September, 1822. In 1823 there are letters of resignation from various officers, and instructions from higher-in-commands. The last mention is in 1826--instructions for Rendezvous of the Regiment.

1821-24 LOCAL POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Bill, 1821, for printing political handbills.

Bill to Office of the Jefferson Republic, 1821, which he apparently has an interest in, since he sells one-half of the press in 1823.

He is a member of the Pension Board, since a letter of September, 1821, concerning the inclusion of a soldier on the list for a gunshot wound is addressed to him.

Active in establishment of the Episcopal Church in Sackets Harbor---letter concerning its founding and erection in 1823-3 with list of subscribers.

Camp gives \$300, second highest amount on the list.

In 1826, "Congressional elections are approaching" and Camp is nominated for something (possibly New York State legislature, as senator)

Letters, October--December, concerning the coming election and Camp's chances and policy of electioneering. Rivalry between Sackets Harbor and Oswego should be explained away that he may have support from the Oswego territory. He appears to be opposed to the Bucktail party and Bunner. It doesn't look as if he got elected.

In 1827 --- Copy of Tariff resolutions to protect staple produce in the north (as it was in the south) drawn up by committee of which Egbert Ten Eyck was chairman.

In 1828 -- report of a meeting of delegates for towns in Jefferson County, the purpose of which is to choose delegates to attend nominating conventions for elections of Governor and Lieutenant-Governor of New York State

--Hounsfield Library--6 shares purchased June, 1827, and a bill for one dollar, quarterly dues for five shares, 1828.

1821-24 FAMILY

Only family correspondence during this period is a letter, 1828, from a nephew, E. E. Camp, who is in New York working--probably for a firm.

1828-24 CANAL

Surplus Waters of the Black River---In December, 1819, a petition was drawn up to be presented to the legislature of New York State asking for permission to dig a canal from the river to Mill Stream, thence to Pleasant Creek and so into the lake. Nothing more until 1826 when there is a receipt of thirty-five

dollars from Camp for expenses as delegate to Albany to agitate for permission to dig the canal, February 20, 1826. Similarly in March, Lyman Ackerman visits Albany for the same purpose. In 1827, work was started on the canal, Camp being one of the Canal Commissioners, and arrangements are made for blasting the canal, and a Contract drawn up between Camp (for the Canal Commissioners) and Clark and Loveland. Especially from September to December there are numerous receipts and orders for the canal, many receipts being for supplies (wood, etc.) in partial fulfillment of Canal Subscriptions. A letter, H. Leavenworth, Lowville, December 10, 1828, to Camp, concerning the canal.

1821-24 AGRICULTURE

Address to the Jefferson County Agricultural Society, by Camp, September 29, 1826.

1821-24 ACCOUNTS

Scattered accounts of wheat, flour, wood; General store accounts: Bushnell and Jenks--May 31, 1827.

1821-28 LAND

Camp still evidently very active in land transactions--both acting as agent for others and on his own.

1821--Promissory note for wheat--payment toward land contract, January, 1828 (flour), (wheat), February 7, 1827.

List of contracts, October 24, 1822.

Ogden: Letters of instruction, financial statement (Camp to Ogden) and articles of agreement by Ogden, Camp as agent, 1821-1826. Very little in 1826 and 1827. Letter, March 30, 1828, from Ogden in N.Y.C. to Commissioners for the Surplus Water of the Black River, giving them permission to dig the canal through his lands.

Hounsfield: 1821 especially; statements, land contracts right up through 1828. August 7, 1826: Letter, Hounsfield to Camp complaining about the unsatisfactory reports of his property in Camp's vicinity. Payments in arrears. Comments on general business slump--asks for statement.

1827--Hounsfield, through Camp, sells "Olive Tract."

Lemuel Storrs: Contracts from 1821-23--but not after 1823 (July 5, 1822) (?)

Peter Kemble: Not much business for Kemble--financial statements, 1823, 1825.

James P. Allaire: Financial statement, 1821--nothing further

Augustus Sacket: Had moved away from Sackets Harbor to New York, then to Meadville, Pennsylvania, and finally in 1823 came back to Sackets Harbor. Evidently had extreme financial difficulties--sold off more and more land--and in 1825 becomes insane. In this period, nothing until March 25, 1823. Conditions set forth for Camp's continuing to act as agent. Numerous notes to Camp requesting him to pay from Sacket's account.

May-June, 1823, notes for services of surveyors on Grindstone Island. Sacket sells all his islands in the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario to Camp for \$5750, and on April 24, 1824, sells his property on Grindstone Island. In 1824, Camp

pays Argustus and Minerva one-hundred dollars to be completely released from all bills, possible suits, claims, etc.

LeRay de Chaumont: Almost nothing. Evidently sold powder to the canal commission, bill, May 26, 1828, but no land transactions.

Camp himself appears to have had William Bushnell acting as agent for him in certain transactions in 1827.

February 16, 1828, letter, Robert T. , T. L. Ogden, B. W. Rogers to A. C. Flagg, Secretary of New York State, confirming the purchase of lands from the Seneca Indians by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1826.

1829-1835 STEAMBOAT

Almost nothing, 1829-35. Letter to Denison, 1835, concerning the buying of an engine from Canada for a boat. Also, bill for rigging supplies, Steamboat America owes Camp. Camp evidently no longer owns any steamboat on the lake.

1829-35 LAW

Camp has ceased to practice entirely during this period, except to use his power of attorney in business and land transactions.

1829-35 MILLS

Evidence of a saw mill belonging to Camp--1830 ff. In 1833--saw mill accounts and transactions. In 1834 he leases his saw mill on Pleasant Creek out in January. (Receipt for rent). In 1835, contract for supervisor of sawmill.

Occasional receipts for lumber sold in 1835, but few.

Grist Mill: Letter, February 26, 1831, George Hounsfield, Sheffield, England, to Camp concerning the erection of a grist mill. Receipts in 1833-- Camp buys a millstone, receipt for digging runway at Upper Grist Mill. In 1835-- lost of receipts and orders for flour, common, and superfine. Camp also seems to have been buying flour from Canada and selling it at his mill.

Plaster: First mention of plaster mill seems to be in 1833. Then little till 1835, where there are shipping bills for plaster and water lime bought by Camp and for which he must pay schooner shipping charges. (comes from Canada, Oswego?)

Furnace: No papers till 1834, though Camp evidently owned it before or at this time since he now sold it, but the conditions of the contract were broken and he got it back through legal process. (Legal statement, 1834).

In 1835, agreement with Alvin Hart and Alonzo Perry to take charge of the furnace machine, and blacksmith shops, taken over later in the year by Leonard Denison and Ambrose Foster. He seems to manufacture ploughs for there is an agreement with E. Belcher and E. G. Clark for coals for which he pays in plows and amounts deducted from land contracts.

Also, a shipping order for plows to Chicago by the Schooner Byron with instructions from Camp for selling the plows in Chicago.

Stone quarry: No mention till 1835, when Camp makes a contract with the U. S. artillery to supply them with 3000 T limestone from his quarry at Chaumont. Also a couple of other receipts for stone.

1829-35 MILITARY

Very little during these years.

1829, June 30, letter from A. Ward, Mount Pleasant, to A. C. Flagg, Secretary of State (N. Y.), Albany, concerning military bounty.

Letter, January 5, 1830, asking that a fine for missing drill be cancelled.

Also, 1830, regimental orders, 21st artillery; names of delegates to military convention, of which Camp was one.

1831: Copy of statement putting a private on pension list.

1832: Names of band and instruments played, 21st Artillery Regiment.

1833: Inspection returns, signed by Col. Camp, 21st Regiment

1834-35: Nothing

1829-35 LOCAL POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

July 4th address, given by Camp, 1828 ("Give us death or give us liberty"), also one 1834.

1829, July 16, list of subscribers for bell to be placed in Presbyterian Church, Sackets Harbor; August 11, 1830, bill for labor for Presbyterian Church then being built.

1830: Camp probably a trustee of Union Academy. Payment for bill from printer made by Camp; bill addressed to "Trustees of Union Academy". 1831: Oration delivered at Union Academy by George Camp, aged 13, entitled "Prospects of the American Youth." (March 24)

1833: Member of Jefferson County Agricultural Society

1834: G. A. Sacket, bankruptcy, list of debts, property signed over to R. Stow and Camp

Anti-Masonic: Letter from committee requesting statement from Camp expressing his opinion of Masonry, 1832, September 24. (Camp and commissioners both anti-masonic)

ca^x Mormons: 1834, August 16, letter concerning origin of Mormonites, Jesse Townsend, Palmyra, N. Y., to Camp, describing evil character of Joseph Smith.

Elections: 1829, August 2, letter, William D. Ford, Watertown, to Camp, concerning name of Hiram Steel appearing on election circular.

1832: National Republican Convention, Utica, held July 25; copy of resolutions.

1839: letter, G. W. Rathbone, damning Camp's political opinions--calling him a "damned old Tory."

1835: letter to Camp, calling convention in Albany County, evidently pro-Harrison, anti-Van Buren. In December.

Negroes: Letter, November 24, 1835, from the Colonial Office, Philadelphia (from Elliot Cresson) concerning colonization of Negroes and the horror of southern slavery.

1829-35 BUSINESS VENTURES OTHER THAN MILLS

1833: Certificate of stock in the 6 Day Packet Boat Co. evidently owned by Camp

1835: Camp buys (Sunday School?) books from Rochester, has agents sell them on commission (September 21, 1835).

1829-35 FAMILY

1830: January 3, letter, Martin Camp, Victor, to Elisha, his brother, asking for financial aid. J.

January 24, letter, George to Elisha, expenses, life in Utica.

February 11, letter, E. E. Camp (nephew of Elisha) who is actively campaigning against Free Masonry by putting on traveling exhibitions.

November 18, E. E. to Elisha.

1833: October 26, letter, George, Clinton, N. Y., to Elisha about school, also furniture and carriage he is constructing.

1835: June 8, school bill for Elisha, Jr., Edgar, Erskine, Harriet, for schooling from Elisha Morgan.

November 23, from George in Utica, accounting for twenty-five dollars sent to him by Elisha, studying law--account of daily activities, needs new pair of boots.

November ? "Elisha's (Jr.) first letter to George, farm news, steamship America bursts a steampipe.

1829-35 AGRICULTURE

1829: February 18, Agreement to construct a barn

April 29, agreement to rent two cows for one year.
receipts for wheat and oats

1830: receipts for livestock, etc.

1831: receipts and bills for farm equipment, livestock

1832-35: occasional receipts for pigs, cows, horses, etc., sale of flour from mill.

1833: September 21, letter, from Egbert Ten Eyck, Watertown to Camp, asking that he attend cattle show as presiding officer of Sackets Harbor Agricultural Society

1835: letter: sale of ploughs for Camp in Chicago, from Denison to agents in Chicago.

1829-35 ACCOUNTS

1829: numerous accounts indicating barter, e. g., cow in payment for having stone hauled.

1830: bill for printing (political?) circulars.

1832: Blacksmith accounts, February 28.

General store accounts, June, 1832.

Canal accounts, October 5

1833: Printing accounts (bill) mentioning Water Privileges, the Courier, elections, Union Academy.

--also, blacksmith, general store, tailor accounts, occasionally during these years.

1835: Account of stock at furnace, August 1.

1829-35 CANAL

1829: Digging contracts for canal, beginning in December, many receipts for canal subscriptions, through 1831, then few.

- 1830: March 11, letter, J. Hawkins, Washington, D. C., advising Camp to apply to congress for a canal bill -- by 1830, receipts labeled "Surplus water tax" seem to have been on land. Papers giving consent for canal to go through farm land.
- 1831: petition to New York State legislature for additional surplus water tax; expense account for commission while at Albany
- 1832: order for food of workers, equipment, excavation
- 1833: few canal papers, canal evidently completed

1829-35 LAND

T. L. Ogden: occasional agreements by Camp for Ogden, 1829-35. More in 1831, 1832, fewer in 1829-30, and 34-35. Financial statements for Ogden and letters of instruction to Camp from him authorizing sale of certain lands.

B. Hounsfield: agreements for Hounsfield during whole period, especially 1830-33, fewer in 1834-35. No other correspondence with Hounsfield.

Le Ray de Chaumont: Nothing till 1832: financial statement to Chaumont. Nothing after that.

Storrs: Not much during the whole period, agreements in 1833, 1835

William Bushnell: appears to have acted as agent for Camp during three years. Agreements in his name for Camp and financial statements.

During these years Camp was apparently not as actively engaged in the real estate business, and much of the land that he did sell he sold in his own name and not as an agent. Receipts show payment often to have been in produce or livestock. Receipt for shoemaking, October 9, 1832, to apply to lease of lot. Few surveys.

1836-1839 STEAMBOAT

Camp evidently owns none outright but appears to have an interest in the proposed schooner Columbus (1836), and buys Whitford Gill's interest in the schooner Sir William Wallace (1836). In 1837 he is recipient of a bill for equipment of the Steamboat Telegraph, and in 1838 there is an agreement between Theophylus Stevens and Camp for the latter to sail the schooner George N. Walker. (Nothing in 1839)

1836-39 CANAL

Letter, July 20, 1837 (June?) to Camp from farmers complaining that their swamp lands are being flooded by the Black River Canal.

1836-1839 LAW

George appears to be acting as Camp's attorney. Camp not active as a lawyer

1836-39 BUSINESS VENTURES

Mills: Camp's two saw mills very active during this period. Early in 1836, agreement between Camp and George Sturtevant, Camp to build and supply a paper mill, Sturtevant evidently to manage it. Mill burned down in

1838. Grist mill during this time also active. Also plaster mill. Receipts for payment at all of these mills frequent during this period. Lime bought for plaster mill. Equipment and pig iron for furnace and machine shop, which made, among other products, ploughs and kettles. Camp also buys rotary reaction wheel for his plaster mill, and has a brick making patent transferred from Clift James to himself. Camp appears to lease all these mills and his blacksmith shop by the year for a share in the profits.

Quarry: he supplies limestone from his quarry to the Army, via Lt. Smead of the artillery.

General store: In about 1836 he appears to have bought quantities of dry goods and general store articles, but there are no further accounts to indicate that he himself owned or operated a general store.

Books: In 1837-1839 he appears to have bought books and had others sell them for him on commission.

Farm: Occasionally during these years he rents out pairs of oxen, cows or sheep for periods of a year in return for grain or other produce or part of the wool from the sheep.

1836-1839 LOCAL POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

In election of 1836, Camp is pro-Harrison, concerned with appointment of delegates to state convention.

Letter, September 2, 1837, from J. A. Smith to Camp estimating the strength of the "Whig" party.

January 30, 1839, letter and copy in Camp's hand of letter, G. W. Rathbone, to "Old Camp, You damned old Tory," protesting his political opinions.

February 12, 1839, letter from John Roy, Kingston, to Camp in answer to his letter, de M. McFarlane, a member of the court martial of a trial of pirates, who was evidently refused protection in the United States.

1836-1839 FAMILY:

January 9, 1836, letter from Margaret Camp (sister in law) to William Bushnell asking that he write immediately to Camp ("I am so full of trouble I don't know what to do.")

1837: EE resigns commission as captain of Frontier guard, proceeding to Oregon in regular army

1838: Death of Elisha's sister, letter from Martin de.

1838: Camp pays \$50 to have portraits painted of him and his wife. (by James Kimberly)

1839: letter, Camp to EE (his nephew?) in Watertown, advising him not to give up singing lessons, asking about Adgar and Erskine, now in school at Watertown.

1836-1839 ACCOUNTS

1836: some general store accounts (bills rendered to Camp), blacksmith accounts.

February 14, 1839: tailor accounts. In general not much except for receipts from the mills and for payments for land.

1836-1839 LAND

Not much during these years. Mostly receipts for rent payments or payments

on contracts.

A few land agreements for Lemuel Storrs, 1836, 1838, and several letters from T. L. Ogden with instructions about land in Sackets Harbor. Most of the infrequent land agreements for Camp himself and not as attorney for anyone else.

1840-1879 STEAMBOAT AND SCHOONER

By 1840 Camp appears to own an interest in two schooners, the William S. Malcom and the G. H. Walker, and in one steamboat, the Steamer Columbus. He appears to sell his interest in these by 1842. His next venture along these lines was in 1849 when he bought the Schooner Baltic, which ship shipped on the Great Lakes. In 1844-55 his Bark (or brig) Col. E. Camp shipped between Chicago and Buffalo. This appears to be his last activity in this direction.

By this time interest in canals has almost completely died and energies are being directed towards building railroads. Camp was a stockholder in the Sackets Harbor and Ellisburg Railroad, begun in 1849, and was concerned with the Watertown and Rome Railroad, 1849, a proposed Railroad from Sackets Harbor to Pierrepont Manor, 1850. A Railroad between Sackets Harbor and Saratoga, 1848, and a proposed Railroad between Watertown and Pottsdam (1852). He becomes embroiled in a lawsuit against the Sackets Harbor and Ellisburgh Railroad in 1852, claiming that they trespassed on his wharf. In 1858, the Sackets Harbor and Ellisburgh Railroad is forced to sell out at a loss. His other business activities included two gristmills, two saw mills, his furnace and machine and the renting of a number of houses and lots, as shown by his tax assessments for 1846. He gradually became less and less active in these enterprises. There are occasional contracts for wood for Madison barracks in 1840-50, and one for the managing of the machine shop as late as 1850. He orders a new steam engine for his saw mill in 1847, finally gets it in 1849. Much of his business is handled by his sons, Elisha E. and George, until the former goes to Mexico with the infantry in 1847 and the latter to California in 1854.

Land agreements during this period are very infrequent, though there are receipts for payments on earlier contracts. From 1840-46 he still occasionally rents out livestock and receives grain as payment on contracts. Mention of interest on the Sackets Harbor State Bank is found as late as 1856, when his son Edgar sells out his interest to Camp.

1840-1879 POLITICS AND LOCAL AFFAIRS

Camp is a trustee of Union Academy, active in the Temperance movement -- attends meeting of Young Men's Total Abstinence Society in New York City in 1841 and receives a letter from Gerrit Smith, December 26, 1842, supporting the movement, and is called upon to speak at public occasions, e. g., Jefferson County Agricultural Society Address, 1842.

1840-1879 LAND

In 1841 he evidently brought his long business relationship with T. L. Ogden

to a close, and from 1842-1845 he is embroiled in a lawsuit with the administrators of the estate of Bartholemew Hounsfield, whose land agent he had been.

From 1845 on a greater proportion of the letters are personal family letters, especially from Camp and his children ^{to} Elisha E. and from him as he moves from Mexico (1847) to Green Bay, Wisconsin (1849), Washington Territory (1850) and Oregon (1851), San Francisco (1852). During the Civil War Elisha E., Erskine, and George are all in the army.

Elisha Camp died in 1866; the remaining papers are few and chiefly accounts rendered. George appears to return to Sackets Harbor in 1872 and there is an agreement of partnership for the purpose of selling drugs between Mary Camp and Sarah Day, 1873.

Mormonism

#696

Elisha Camp Estate Collection, 1756-1879.

Letter, August 16, 1834, Jesse Townsend, Palmyra,
N.Y. to Camp, Sackets Harbor, N.Y., concerning the
origin of Mormonism and describing the evil character
of Joseph Smith.

kj, 5/81

Religion (Mormon)

#696

See Mormonism

Camp, Elisha, 1786-1866. Papers, c. 1822; 38 items.

Politician, land agent and owner, newspaper editor, banker. These additional papers [See 1948-1950 Report] consist mainly of Mss. drafts of handbills, editorials, and speeches concerning National Republican Party politics on the state and local levels and contain uncomplimentary references to the Bucktail faction; the remainder pertain to the militia system, U. S. Navy, restrictive fees on Lake Ontario commerce, water rights at Brownville, and other issues. Jefferson County. For complete listing, please see attached checklist.

Card entry:

Camp, Elisha, 1786-1866. Papers, c.
1822; 38 items.

Cross references:

Bucktails
National Republican Party
~~New York~~ Militia (New York State)
U.S. Navy
Brownville (Jefferson County)
Jefferson County (politics)
Lake Ontario (commerce)
Politics (New York State)

Elisha Camp Papers Drafts for contributions made to newspapers or possibly broadsides to be printed:

42 pcs.

- 1 "Republicanism" - outline of history of the party and judgement of the Bucktail Sect which developed; signed - A Republican
- 2 To Mr. Robbins - on Bucktail Resolutions; signed - Observer
- 3 "Dialogue Between a Republican Farmer and the Rogue Attorney" - on general politics and goals of the Bucktails; signed - A Citizen
- 4 "The Election" - general discussion on proper type of men to become candidates for office and how soon they should be chosen; signed (?) - Sandy Creek
- 5 "Justices of the Peace" - how they should be chosen
- 6 To Mr. Printer - on importance of coming local elections and why citizens should not be apathetic
- 7 "Plain Questions" - about nominations for county officers (timing of and influence of the "King"); signed - Jon Yankee
- 8 "Independent Republicans" - Sept. 16, 1822 - a call to the Republicans of Jefferson County to nominate county officers and members of Assembly; ended - By order of the Corresponding Committee of Jefferson Co., John Collins Sec.
- 9 "Caucus Nominations" - deploring the fact that so few people attend the caucuses and deploring the influence of Bucktails; signed - A Republican
- 10 To Mr. Printer - objects of the Watertown Bucktail Junta in connection with public office and elections; ended - Long Live the Republic
- 11 To Mr. Printer - Oct. 22, 1822 - "Dialogue" - between a Republican and a Bucktail on general politics and local offices; signed - A Spectator
- 12 "Political Persecutions" - concerning local offices and citizens; ended - Liberty
- 13 "Republican Meeting" - meeting of Independent Republicans of Jefferson County to recommend candidates for Members of Assembly; ended - Edward Arnold, Chairman and Stephen Johnson, Sec.
- 14 "Dialogue" between Squire and Slave - personages in local politics
- 15 "New Patent Medicine" - comparison made between old Indian cure and contemporary politics (Bucktails); signed Jim Chirtail
- 16 Blasting a County Clerk for being proprietor and editor of a newspaper (corrupt politics)
- 17 "Who's the Aristocrat?" - question of whether Justices of the Peace should be elected or not; signed - Observer

Elisha Camp Papers (con't)

- 18 To the King's Editor at Watertown - independence of people versus guidance from the "Bank", etc.
- 19 Mr. Sterling hasn't written for this paper . . .
- 20 Mr. Andrus, Dr. Sherwood, and elections for county clerk
- 21 A writer named "Justice" in Mr. Abbey's paper. . .; signed - Fair Play
- 22 Need for a new nomination; signed-Candor
- 23 "Falsehood and Envy Exposed" not true that Mr. Sterling (called the "Bank Attorney) always meddling in county affairs; signed - Penet
- 24 "Sheriff - time for a change in personage occupying the office; signed - Candor
- 25 Blasting a person (or political group) for using falsehoods and ridicule to try and silence opposition
- 26 "Senators" - Bucktails and officers of the State Assembly
- 27 "Remarks" - condemning Congressman Key's lack of ability; signed - Warren
- 28 Criticism of those who complain that the new state constitution gives the Government too much power
(or S)
- 29 "Senatorial Nomination" - concerning state elections; signed - A Republican
- 30 "Answer to 'Look at This'" - Nov. 1, 1822 - county treasury, Dr. Sherwood, etc.; signed - Plain Truth
- 31 "Tax for Support of Rapism" - referring to rape of the county treasury; signed - One of the People
- 32 "Foreign Poor" - against expenditures of public money for the support of the foreign ppor; signed - A Citizen
- 33 "Militia" - necessary that the system be improved; signed - A Militia Man
- 34 To Mr. Printer - ships of the U.S. Navy; criticism of; signed A Citizen
- 35 "Lake Regulations" - commerce of Lake Ontario and restriction fees; signed - A Citizen
- 36 "Hello Shipmates!" - choosing new officers for; signed - BenBowen (2 separate pp.)
- 37 "Nickerson's Ghost" - the 'Lake Support', signed - "Ghost of Nickerson"; plus "Impromptu" to 'Land Agent'; signed - 'Jack the Rag'
- 38 "Brownville" - water rights, etc., of a town near Sacket's Harbour

Theodore Knowlton's research on Camp Canal. 1 manila folder of notes and correspondence to be accessioned under the Elisha Camp #, but filed separately in Ms. file. per EMF, 9/10/58. Rec'd from donor, 4/58.

Mss. Box 16 (as of 9/17/93)

Correspondence between Mr. Knowlton and Mrs. Fox or Annette Kar, October 6, 1949-September 12, 1950, concerning Knowlton's research on the Camp Canal and his use of the Elisha Camp papers in CRH. 8 pcs.

2 pp. typescript article, "Elisha Camp's Power Canal"

1 p. typescript notes on pertinent maps, including the following:

2 sheets of longhand notes with rough map

1 pencil tracing of map of Town of Hounsfield

Map of the City of Watertown, N.Y., 1949. Dupl. copy removed from acc. and added to Mss. file, 6/60.

Blueprint map of Sacket's Harbor, N.Y. Same as above, 6/60.

Negative photostat of unidentified town; presumably Watertown (State, Hamilton, and Rutland Sts.)

U.S. Geological Survey Map ^{of} ~~and~~ Watertown and area to the South; canal marked thereon in red pencil. Dupl. added to Mss. file, 6/60.

U.S. Geological Survey Map of Sackets Harbor area; canal marked in red pencil. Dupl. added, 6/60.

Newspaper clipping, "When Colonel Elisha Camp Built His 'Ditch'"

Card entries:

Camp, Elisha (1786-1866)
Jefferson County (canal)
Canals ("Camp's Ditch")

Map card:

Canals (Jefferson County)

Elisha CAMP'S POWER CANAL

The bulk of the Camp papers are on file in the Collection of Regional History in Boardman Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, of which Mrs. Edith M. Fox is curator.

Thanks to the courtesy of Mrs. Fox and her assistant, Miss Annette Kar, I was given access to the Camp papers on July 6, 7, 1950.

My purpose in examining these papers was to learn what I could of the Camp Canal. What I learned follows:

Petition to New York State Legislature (copy in file) was made on December 18, 1819, asking that a canal commission be authorized with power to construct a canal to take surplus water from the Black River at Huntingtonville just above Watertown and to discharge this water into Mill Creek (formerly Pleasant Creek) and also Stoney Creek and thence into Lake Ontario near Sackets Harbor.

Construction was begun in 1827 and completed in 1833 (see letter of February 20, 1833 from commission to Daniel Griffin asking him to comply with his contract for water dated for twelve months beginning April 1st, 1832).

Griffin's saw mill was located "on the bank between Ogden Street and the Bay Shore". This fixes the outlet of the canal on the lake.

On July 11, 1827, and September 2, 1829 and later contracts were let for construction of sections of the canal (copies in files). These contracts fix the cross-section of water in the canal at 64 sq. ft. In earth excavation the canal was to be 20 ft. wide at top, 12 ft. in the bottom, to have a depth of water of 4 ft. Surface of water to be 1 ft. below berm at least and berms to be 3 ft. wide. In rock the cross-section of the canal was to be 16 ft. wide top and bottom with 4 ft. of water in depth.

All contracts were to follow the line and profile as made by William Jones, Engineer.

On October 19, 1826, a contract was made by Elisha Camp for the Commission and Ambrose W. Huntington for the right to build dams to divert water from Black River into Mill Creek--Also Camp got right from others on December 27, 1826 to land a dam on the the north shore of the river.

In February, 1826, delegates were sent to Albany to favor canal before Legislature. In March, 1826, a messenger was sent to Albany to bring back a copy of the law, enacted April 20, 1825, authorizing the Canal Commission. (If the law was passed in 1825 why send a delegate in 1826 to favor it?)

Mr. Camp proposed some method of ^{paying} owners of land adjacent the canal to pay for some (in part).

A letter was sent to the Legislature in July, 1831, protesting a \$6,000 tax for the canal and calling for a meeting to consider ways and means of continuing the canal or abandoning it.

✓In a letter of March 7, 1831, to Silas Wright calls attention to a violation of Section 3 Page 364 of the laws of 1825, and mentions that water was set running in the canal "last fall"; and further states that adjacent land owners have been damaged (by flooding) and that bridges built by the Commission are in bad condition. This letter was signed by M. Sterling, P. Keyes, and A. S. Orser.

✓On March 25, 1831, a letter from J. M. Canfield and Leon L. Tisdale was sent to protesting Camp's canal tax and notes that the canal is for his benefit only.

In July, 1831, Watertown Highway Commission by letter to Camp ordered canal encroachment on highway to be remedied. This encroachment was on "both sides of the entrance to Cold Creek in the Black River".

On April 11, 1833, J. Kimball wrote to Camp relative to claim for damages to Judge Keyes.

A map of the town of Hounsfield has a line on it which may be that of the canal.

Thus we have located the upper and lower ends of the canal, its cross-section and possibly its route through the town of Hounsfield.

CAMP CANAL

Attached are the following maps on which appear the route of the canal from Watertown to Sackets Harbor. The purpose of the canal was to supply water power at Sackets Harbor.

1. Map of Watertown.
2. United States Geographic map.
3. Map of Sackets Harbor.

The route of the canal as marked is sufficiently exact for historical purposes.

This route has been marked through Watertown with the aid of two old maps on file in the County Clerk's office. The knowledge of its location at certain points by Wm. T. Field, Engineer, knowledge in the City Engineer's office, the memories of a few old inhabitants and at the hospital now building on Pratt Street the fact that the foundation excavation clearly cut the old canal bed.

On the Geographic maps, the land contours plus early explanation by Mr. Fields enabled a placing of the route between Watertown and Sackets.

On the map of the Harbor, which is an old one, the route is placed. The original of this map hangs in the office of the town clerk at the Harbor.

Physical surface evidence of the canal has virtually entirely disappeared.

At Camps Mills the canal used the natural bed of Mill Creek. The slope of this bed was steep enough to warrant a dam ten feet to twelve feet high. So power was developed here for a saw mill and a grist mill. This did not decrease the fall at the Harbor into the lake as will be seen by the contours.

All in all the canal was a failure. It could not have been otherwise. Modern engineering would have indicated that in the first place.

Canal was abandoned in 1836.