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Summary: Correspondence of Lewis Selye of Rochester, on Penn Yan business matters, especially purchase of a fire engine, 1838-43; and of Stafford C. Cleveland, 1864-70, on local, state, and national politics. Other items include letters to D.C. Ayres from William H. Samson of Rochester about the will and signature of Jemima Wilkinson (the Publick Universal Friend); letters from Edwin C. Dinturff on local connections of Marcus Whitman and Joseph Smith; 1808 diary of travels of James Parker (1744-1829), early settler of Penn Yan; survey maps of townships in Yates County by Augustus Porter, Peter Loop, Jabez French, and others, 1789-1815; later lot surveys; assessment record, town of Benton, 1817; letters of Bert S. Elliot on Penn Yan in the 1890's and on his career as a printer with U.S. Government Printing Office and other agencies. There are also miscellaneous genealogical data, early deeds, and legal documents, photographs, broadsides, engravings, historical notes and clippings, and letters.


Cite as: Sidney Ayres, Collector, Papers, #1605, Department of Manuscripts and University Archives, Cornell University Libraries.
Correspondence (1838-1919) of Lewis Selye, Rochester on business matters of Penn Yan (1838-1843), especially purchase of fire engine; of Stafford C. Cleveland, former publisher of the Penn Yan Chronicle, mostly on local, state and national politics (1864-1870); of D. C. Ayres, another publisher of the Chronicle, mostly about Jemima Wilkinson's will and signature (letters from W. H. Samson, then editor of the Rochester Post Express) (1908 and 1911); and others. Included are letters from Chauncey M. Depew (Oct. 31, 1864), Reuben E. Fenton (March 1, 1865) and Horace Greeley (Nov. 23, 1866). Diary (1808) of James Parker, pioneer settler of Penn Yan and first Justice of the Peace; 4 broadsides (1826-1872); and numerous legal and other papers, including copy of eulogy of Universal Friend Jemima Wilkinson, dated Sept. 18, 1783, East Greenwich, Rhode Island; survey maps and figures (1789-1869) of Penn Yan and surrounding areas; genealogical data; engraved and other photos; newspaper clippings.

Card entries:

Ayres, D[ ] C[ ]
Clark, Myron Holley (1806-1892)
Cleveland, Stafford C. (2 cards)
Depew, Chauncey M. (1834-1928)
Fenton, Reuben E. (1839-1885)
Greeley, Horace (1811-1872)
Lincoln, Abraham (1809-1865)
Loomis, O[ ] C[ ] (Yates County)
Milliken, N[ ] J[ ] (Ontario County)
Morris, D[ ]
Noyes, D[ ] W[ ] (Livingston County)
Parker, James (1744-1829) (2 cards)
Pulteney, Sir William
Samson, W[ ] R[ ]
Selye, Lewis
Van Buren, Thomas B.
Wilkinson, Jemima (1752-1819)

Exhibit cards:

Keuka Lake
Monroe County
Yates County (Penn Yan)
Yates County (Supt. of the Poor)

Two boxes in stacks: one containing correspondence and other papers, the other containing survey maps and data, genealogical data, engraved and other photographs, and newspaper clippings.

Broadsides: 3363, 3364, 3365 (one in collection)

DFA 1/7/58.

Newspaper editor. This addition includes two letters to Ayres from Edwin C. Dinturff of Syracuse concerning the location of Marcus Whitman's birthplace (January 1931) and the alleged influence of Rachel and Margaret Malin on Joseph Smith (April 1931), the latter enclosing a letter (1925) from Azariah S. Root, Oberlin College librarian, concerning the Solomon Spaulding MSS. Dinturff's paper (20 pp. MSS., undated) on the authorship of the Book of Mormon; three letters (1950's) to Ayres from Bert S. Elliott, who had been a Penn Yan resident and employee of the Yates County Chronicle in the 1890's, concerning persons and places in the village of his day and discussing his life work as a printer with the U.S. Government Printing Office, the War Food Administration, and the War Risk Insurance Bureau in Washington and later with the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs; a paper, author not stated, on the history of Lake Keuka outlet (12 pp. typescript carbon, undated); a Yates County Chronicle Extra, announcing the shooting of President McKinley, program and clipping on the 1892 Columbus Day celebration, and other printed items concerning the county. Checklist available on request. 12 items.

Main entry:

Ayres, Sidney, 1900-1960, Collector. Colorado (Colorado Springs)
Additional Yates County Area Papers, 1879-1955.

Cross references to main entry:

Dinturff, Edwin C
Elliott, Bert S
Hummer, Daniel
Malin, Rachel
Mormons
Penn Yan (Yates County)
Printing trade
Root, Azariah S
Spalding, Solomon, 1761-1815
U. S. Government Printing Office
U. S. War Risk Insurance Bureau
Whitman, Marcus, 1802-1847
World War I (U.S. Food Administration)

30 1/67; WJ 5/69.
Sidney Ayres, Collector. Additional Yates County Area Papers.

Mrs. Muriel H. Ayres of Penn Yan brought in the following items on Wednesday, October 31, 1962:


- Small broadside - EXTRA YATES COUNTY CHRONICLE [shooting of President McKinley, September 7, 1901]. Original and Xerox made here. The latter to be transferred to general Broadside Collection, # , for use of researchers. Original, in fragile condition, to be retained with papers.

- Letter to Sidney B. Ayres from Edwin C. Dinturff of Syracuse, concerning the location of Marcus Whitman's birthplace. 1 p. MS., January 25, 1931.

- Letter to Ayres from Dinturff, alleging influence of Rachel and Margaret Malin on Joseph Smith. 4 pp. MSS., April 30, 1931. Enclosed in April 30th letter is a letter to Mr. F. C. Davis of Syracuse from Azariah S. Root, Oberlin College Librarian, concerning the Solomon Spaulding MSS, alleged to be similar to the Book of Mormon. 1 p. typescript, May 5, 1925. Also enclosed, an unidentified newspaper clipping (Feb. 24, no year), "Hill Where Book of Mormon Originated Bought by Church."

- Report or paper by Dinturff, "Who Was the Author [sic] of the Book of Mormon?" 20 pp. MSS. Undated. Illustrated with dull finish photograph of portrait of Jemima Wilkinson, presumably the one in the possession of the Yates County Historical Society in Penn Yan, and three newspaper clippings.

- Three letters to Ayres from Bert S. Elliott of Rockville Centre, who had been a resident of Penn Yan in the 1890's and an employee of the Yates County Chronicle, concerning persons and places in the village of his day and his life work (as a compositor and proofreader) for the Government Printing Office in Washington and elsewhere in that city and in Colorado Springs. November 20, 1951, 10 pp. typescript. October 23, 1953, 2 pp. typescript. April 29, 1955, 1 p. MS. (in pencil).

(Cont., p. 2)
Received November 15, 1962:

One pictorial "Romance Map" of Finger Lakes Region; compiled by Sidney E. Ayres and Mrs. Walter A. Henricks, drawn by C. M. Plaisted, and copyrighted by Sidney E. Ayres, 1934; Penn Yan Printing Company, Inc., Penn Yan, N.Y.

c. 1937 (revision) Map coll. #104
19" x 24 3/4" Card entry: New York State (Finger Lakes Region)
Printed; in color.


Program for celebration at Penn Yan of the 400th Anniversary of the discovery of America. 4 pp. pamphlet, October 21, 1872.

