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#1655

SELDEN FAMILY. PAPERS, 1785-
1947.

GUIDE

Author/Creator: Selden family.
Title: Selden family papers, 1785-1920.
Description: .3 cubic ft.
Summary: Personal correspondence of Charles, Abigail, and Eliza Selden of Lansingburgh, Rensselaer County, and Harriet Gale, daughter of George Washington Gale, founder of the Oneida Institute at Whitesboro, New York, and Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois. Additional letters and other papers of members of the related Gale, Hitchcock, and Selden families includcorrespondence of George Washington Gale, chiefly personal, but also mentioning his pastoral duties at a Presbyterian Church in Adams, Jefferson County, and affairs at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois; one letters describing slavery and other aspects of life in St. Croix, Danish West Indies (now Virgin Islands), 1839; photostat copies of the genealogy of Colonel Samuel Selden, a Revolutionary War officer; miscellaneous printed items, including publication about Knox College (1860) and booklet about the Campus School in Ithaca (1920). Locations include Adams, Jefferson County, N.Y.; Whiteboro, Oneida County, N.Y.; and Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Correspondents include George Bowen, Harriet Selden Gale, Harriet Yvonnet Gale, William S. Gale, Margaret Gale Hitchcock, Amasa Kellogg, Mary Osborn, Abigail Jones Selden, Charles Selden, Mary Selden, Samuel Selden, and William Jones Selden.

Cite As: Selden Family Papers, #1655. Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library.

Subject(s): Selden, Eliza.
Selden, Abigail Jones
Selden, Charles.
Gale, Harriet Selden
Gale, George Washington.
Gale family.
Hitchcock family.
Selden family.
Knox College.
Presbyterian Church (Adams, N.Y.)
Slavery--Virgin Islands.
St. Croix (V.I.)--Social life and customs.
Jefferson County (N.Y.)--Religious life and customs.

Notes: Some letters and genealogical data are photostatic copies.
Microfilm.

Finding Aids/Indexes:
Guide available.

Location: Kroch Library Rare & Manuscripts (Request in advance)

Call Number: 1655
Status: c.1 Charged - Due: 06-07-10 (click BORROW DIRECT, or click REQUESTS to recall)

Danish West Indies (St. Croix)

1655

Selden Family Papers (1785-1857), 1914, 1920.

In a letter to George W. Gale, William J. Selden describes the island of St. Croix, commenting on the excellent highway system, the abundance of meats, fruits, and other foodstuffs, the weather, churches, slavery, and the living conditions, education, and customs of the Negro population, Dec. 30, 1839. Photostat.

Selden Family Papers (1785-1857), 1914, 1920

1 MS box* (o.s.)

Letters and other papers of members of the Selden, Gale, and Hitchcock families, including correspondence, chiefly personal, of George Washington Gale, one of the founders of Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, 1820-1857, and other members of the three families; also includes genealogical data, a pamphlet on Knox College, announcement of the opening of the Campus School, Ithaca, New York, 1920, by Miss Martha Hitchcock, and other items; the genealogical data and most of the letters are photostatic copies.

Card entries:

Gale, George Washington (1789-1861)
 Gale, Harriet Selden
 Gale, Harriet Yvonne; Gale, William S.
 Hitchcock, Margaret Gale
 Selden, Abigail Jones
 Selden, Charles
 Selden, Eliza (b. c. 1790-d.1815)
 Selden, Mary (b. c. 1792-d.1812)
 Selden, Samuel (1723-1776)
 Selden, William Jones
 Danish West Indies (St. Croix)
 Jefferson County (Adams)
 Oneida County (Whitesboro)
 Saratoga County (Saratoga Springs)
 Virgin Islands
 Knox College (Galesburg, Illinois)
 Presbyterian Church (Jefferson County, 1820)
 Agriculture (social status of)
 Cures and remedies
 Slavery (Danish West Indies, 1839)
 World War I (Belgian relief)

Box in stacks. *contains 10 pcs., original MSS.; 57 photostats; 2 pamphlets.

The following is a listing of the original MSS. donated by Miss Hitchcock; the other items in the accompanying description are photostats, the originals of which were returned to Miss Hitchcock.

ALS, Amasa Kellogg, Hartford, Mr 23, 1785, to aunt, Abigail Jones, New City

ALS, George Bowen, New York; April 1, 1812, to cousin, Mary Selden, Troy

ALS, Mary Osborn, Montville, Ja 28, 1814, to friend, Eliza Vail, Troy

ALS, Harriet Yvonnet Gale, ^{Albany} Je 20, 1836, to brother, William S. Gale, Whitesboro

Fragment of letter [Sept. 1855 - Miss Hitchcock] from Margaret Gale Hitchcock, from Clifton Springs Watercure, to unknown person; contains directions for making boiled flour as a baby food for babies with weak digestions.

Described in the 1954-1958 Report of the Curator and Archivist, p. 76, and in NUCMC, # MS 64-923.

SELDEN FAMILY. Papers, 1785-1857; 4 in. (originals and photostats). Additional letters and other papers of members of the related Gale, Hitchcock, and Selden families [see 1942-1945 *Report*]; include correspondence of George Washington Gale, chiefly personal but also mentioning his pastoral duties at a Presbyterian church in Adams, Jefferson County, and affairs at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, of which he was a founder; one letter describing Negro slavery and other aspects of life in the Danish West Indies (1839); genealogy of Colonel Samuel Selden, a Revolutionary War officer; miscellaneous printed items. Correspondents include George Bowen, Harriet Selden Gale, Harriet Yvonnet Gale, William S. Gale, Margaret Gale Hitchcock, Amasa Kellogg, Mary Osborn, Abigail Jones Selden, Charles Selden, Mary Selden, Samuel Selden, William Jones Selden. (1655)

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Comment on status of agricultural pursuits in William J. Selden's letter (photostat) of Sept. 9, 1839:

"...upon the subject of his going into the mercantile business. if he is determined upon it. I think a country store where a general assortment is kept, in some villiage [sic], would be a much better school, than a retail Dry Goods store in a city. there is very little exercise to be got in the latter place, & the information very limited, if he wishes to do business in the country, all the information he could get of city business would be good for nothing, city merchants seldom succeed in the country, whereas most of the successful city merchants commenced in the country. Such a store as Knoxes in Knoxville would be a good place--if you & he still wish. I will try to get him in in Troy. It would be very difficult to get in where he would get any compensation for the 1st year, as there are 10 or 20 applications ~~is~~ for every vacancy. My advice would be that he should turn his attention to the cultivation of the earth....An educated farmer in my humble opinion, is the only true gentleman we have in this land of liberty, speculation, and cheating..."

Original at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois.

Description of St. Croix, Virgin Islands in William J. Selden's letter (photostat) of Dec. 30, 1839:

"...This is the pleasantest winter resort I have yet found...THE roads are very fine throughout the Island superior to our best Madam roads being composed of ground coral & shells. They are never wet nor dusty, riding is one of our principal amusements. We generally go out twice a day sometimes in carriages & sometimes on horseback....We have abundance of the finest fish, poultry, mutton, &c &c &c. Fruit is very cheap large oranges & bananas 18 for a sixpence...the thermometer seldom varies more than 2 degrees from 80...and the water being about the swe temperature makes it delightful sea bathing---There are two Catholic, two Moravian, two Lutheran & two Episcopal Churches on the Island. I think even you could not find much fault with the institution of slavery on the Island. The Blacks are not compelled to work hard & have each a piece of land to cultivate. Most of them have a pony, pigs, fowls, &c. The vegetable markets are supplied by the slaves & many of them are quite well off. We are now in the Holidays & they have it all in their own way. Most of the houses are thrown open to them & they march in with their rude instruments of music & set off such a drumming, dancing & singing as to almost deafen one. The government have ordered school houses to be erected throughout the Island & one day in the week is to be set apart for their education under the direction of the Moravians. The schoolhouses are handsome large & airy stone buildings....

2 pcs.

Location of original not known. Was returned to donor in 1955; she died in 1966.

Biographical notes on person concerned with Knox College, Galesburg, and revivalism of the period:

Beecher, Edward (1803-1895)

c. 1830-1844, President Illinois College (f. 1829)

1855-71, pastor of 1st Congregational Church in Galesburg

Blanchard, Jonathan (1811-1892)

Presbyterian

1845--President Knox College--1857

1860-1882, President Wheaton College (founded 1860)

Gale, George Washington (1789-1861)

Oneida Institute, 1827-34

Founded Knox College, 1837

First pastor of local church Presbyterian?

1843-1857, Professor of moral philosophy at Knox

Finney, Charles Grandison (1792-1875)

Associated with Oberlin College (1835--death)

President 1851-1866 (founded 1833)

Pastor, 1st Congregational Church (Oberlin) 1835-1872

1655mf. addl.

Rec'd. from Photoscience, August 9, 1973:

J.W. Bailey. "Know College by Whom Founded and Endowed: Also a Review of a Pamphlet Entitled Rights of Congregationalists in Knox College." Chicago: Press and Tribune Book and Job Printing Office, 1860 (1 reel negative microfilm of our 131 pp. pamphlet).