

Adams Collection (1734-1879)

Collection Summary

Creator: Adams Family

Dates: 1734-1879

Collection Number: ZZ711.001

Quantity: 2 boxes, 2 oversized boxes.

Repository: George T. Henry College Archives, Stewart Memorial Library, Coe College

Copyright:

Restrictions on Access: Unrestricted

Abstract: This is a collection of a branch of the Adams family hailing from New York. The collection contains documents and artifacts from the estate of A. L. Adams, son of Benjamin K. Adams who was buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Items range from 1700s-1879 belonging to A. L. Adams, Benjamin. K. Adams, Asahel Gridley, Elisha Adams, Benjamin B. Adams, Abraham Adams, and a few others. Most of the collection consists of land deeds and newspapers that span the time period. The collection also contains a small amount of correspondence, receipts, and artifacts. Artifacts include a wallet, a shaving kit, a bible, assessment books, and ledger books.

Language: English

Administrative Information

Location: George T. Henry College Archives

Preferred Citation: Adams Collection, George T. Henry College Archives, Stewart Memorial Library, Coe College

Acquisition: Salem G. Pattison (ex-Professor of History at Coe College purchased at estate sale of A. L. Adams)

Processing Information: Steven Heinen; January-February, 2012.

Collection Sketch

Box one of the collection contains deeds, legal documents, a photograph, correspondence, and miscellaneous receipts and ephemera of the Adams family. The family found it important to keep land deeds from their property in Dutchess County and Madison County, New York. There are also a small number of deeds from Hartford County, Connecticut and Hampshire County, Massachusetts. These deeds make up a large part of the collection and began with the eldest Adams, Abraham Adams, and ended with property owned by Benjamin K. Adams. In regards to Benjamin K. Adams, there are military commission certificates, a membership certificate to the Women's New-York State Temperance Society, and general receipts that were kept in an envelope and wallet. In addition to this, there are also a few pieces of correspondence involving Benjamin K. Adams and his wife, a condolence letter to Mrs. Adams following Benjamin K. Adams death, a photograph of A. L. Adams and his wife that is undated, and the Will of Asahel Gridley. Lastly, there are two essays with unknown authors; the first being about the John Brown Pikes, and the second about painting in water color.

Box two of the collection contains newspapers covering major historical events in the 1800s that the family had kept. Among the events covered is the assassination of President Lincoln, articles on slavery, the death of Henry Clay, the constitution of New York of 1846, Andrew Jackson's address on Indian removal, and Andrew Johnson's veto of the Civil Rights Bill in 1866. A few of the papers in this collection are the Cedar Rapids Daily Republican that contains Benjamin K. Adams obituary, New York Tribune papers from the mid-1800s, and a Working Man's Advocate from 1835. Lastly, there is also an African American newspaper titled, "The Mute and the Blind" that was published for and by colored blind, deaf and mute students at a Niagara Falls school.

Box three of the collection contains the oversized deeds to property in both Dutchess County, New York and Madison County, New York.

Box four of the collection contains artifacts of the Adams family. These artifacts include a wallet that held receipts, a heavily constructed envelope, a Brightmore shaving kit, a bible, assessment books of Benjamin K. Adams, and ledger books presumed to belong to Benjamin K. Adams. In addition to these items, there is a small black coin purse, a light tan leather pouch, and a cloth bookmark with Hebrew writing on it.

Subject Headings

Adams, A. L.
Adams, Abraham
Adams, Benjamin B.
Adams, Benjamin K.
Adams, Elisha
African American newspapers--New York (State)
Anthony, Susan B. (Susan Brownell), 1820-1906.
Boston Telegraph
Broom County Courier
Buffalo Commercial Advertiser
Cazenovia (New York)
Cedar Rapids Daily Republican
Cedar Rapids (Iowa)
Civil Rights--legislation & jurisprudence--United States.
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852
Crum Elbow precinct, N.Y.—History
Deeds
Dutchess County (New York)
Fisk, Wilbur, 1792-1839
Freedmen's Bureau
Gridley, Asahel
Gridley, Timothy
Hampshire County (Massachusetts)
Hartford County (Connecticut)
Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845
Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Assassination.
Madison County (New York)
Madison County Whig
Marshall County Times
Mute and the Blind
New York Observer
New York Tribune--1860-1870.
Newspapers--United States--History--19th century
Nine Partners Precinct, Dutchess County (New York)
Seward, William Henry, 1801-1872.
Slavery
Ulster County Gazette
Washington, George, 1732-1799
Washington, George, 1732-1799--Death and burial.
Wills
Women's New-York State Temperance Society.
Working Man's Advocate

Series 1: Papers

Abstract: This series of the collection contains correspondence, legal documents, and miscellaneous receipts and ephemera of the Adams family. The correspondence includes letters by Benjamin K. Adams and his wife, and a condolence letter to Mrs. Adams following Benjamin K. Adams death. In regards to Benjamin K. Adams, there are military commission certificates, a member certificate to the Women's New-York State Temperance Society, and general receipts that were kept in an envelope and wallet. Lastly there is the Will of Asahel Gridley and an undated photograph of A. L. Adams and his wife.

Box	Folder	
1		Papers—Adams Family
	1	Adams, A. L.—correspondence 1856
	2	Adams, Benjamin B.—subpoena 1841
	3	Adams, Benjamin K. 1834-1879
		Correspondence 1855-1879
		Ephemera 1837-1876
		Military Commission Certificate 1834
	11	Papers from Benjamin K. Adams Book July 1838
		Woman's New York State Temperance Society—Member Certificate 1852
	4	Adams, Elisha— <i>In Chancery Lorentz Smith vs. Elisha Adams</i> Mid-1800s
	9	Gridley, Asahel—will 1814
	10	Miscellaneous (1700s-1800s)
		Advertisements 1874
		Correspondence 1856
		Essays

		Pamphlets 1844
		Promissory Notes 1750-1782
		Receipts
	12	From Envelope 1835-1845
	13	From Wallet 1772-1828
		Loose Receipts (see miscellaneous)
	14	Photographs —A.L. Adams

Series 2: Deeds

Abstract: This series contains land deeds from property in Dutchess County and Madison County, New York, Hartford County, Connecticut, and Hampshire County, Massachusetts. These deeds begin with the property of Abraham Adams, and ended with property owned by Benjamin K. Adams. Also included are deeds belonging to people outside of the direct family.

Series Notes:

- Oversized deeds contained in Box 3; zz711.001.

Box	Folder	
1		Deeds
	5	Duchess County, New York 1755-1792 (See Also: Oversized zz711.001; Box 3)
	6	Hampshire County, Massachusetts 1738
	7	Hartford County, Connecticut 1734-1737
	8	Madison County, New York 1836-1846 (See Also: Oversized zz711.001; Box 3)

Series 3: Newspapers

Abstract: This series of the collection contains newspapers covering major historical events in the 1800s. Certain items of note include the assassination of President Lincoln, articles on slavery, the death of Henry Clay, the constitution of New York, Andrew Jackson's address on Indian removal, and Andrew Johnson's veto of the Civil Rights Bill in 1866. Also included is an African American newspaper titled, "The Mute and the Blind" that was published for and by colored blind, deaf, and mute students at a Niagara Falls school.

Series Notes: Box 2 located in oversized; zz711.001.

Box	Folder	
2		Newspapers
	15	Newspapers, 1800-1850
		Ulster County Gazette January 4, 1800 (reprint)
		Unknown 1814 (Poughkeepsie, NY ?)
		Boston Telegraph February 13, 1833
		New England Telegraph October 2, 1833
		Working Man's Advocate December 12, 1835
		Broome County Courier January 10, 1839
		Syracuse Daily Star July 11, 1846
		Madison County Whig October 21, 1846
	16	Newspapers, 1851-1900
		New York Observer July 1, (1851)
		New York Daily Tribune March 27, 1861
		The Mute and the Blind August 20, 1859
		Buffalo Commercial Advertiser April 17, 1865

		Unknown 1866
		New York Tribune March 31, 1866
		Marshall County Times December 28, 1867
		Cedar Rapids Daily Republican February 25, 1879

Series 4: Artifacts

Abstract: This series of the collection contains artifacts of the Adams family that include a wallet that held receipts, a heavily constructed envelope which also held receipts, a Brightmore shaving kit, a personal bible, assessment books of Benjamin K. Adams, and ledger books presumed to belong to Benjamin K. Adams. Also included are a small black coin purse, a light tan leather pouch, and a cloth bookmark with Hebrew writing on it.

Box	Folder	
4		Artifacts
		Hebrew Language Cloth Bookmark (purple with black lettering)
		Envelope (heavily constructed)
		Leather Pouch (light colored)
		The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments; Published By: Silas Andrus, Hartford. 1826.
		Leather Wallet (medium brown leather)
		Ledger Book, Cazenovia, New York (brown hard cover) 1835-1855
		Ledger Book (brown paperback)
		Cazenovia, New York Assessment Role, 1840. (dark colored design, paperback)
		Town Assessment for 1841. (light colored design, paperback)
		Benjamin K. Adams' Book July 1838. 1838-1845.
		Coin Purse (black with red outline and metal surrounding and latching)
		Brightmore Straight Razor. (wood handle, wood casing, and brown leather sheath.)