

Letters

Letters of Nathaniel Dudley Goodell

**Goodell/Goodale Family Papers,
Special Collections, Jones Library, Amherst, MA
PVHN-09-13**

Biographical Information:

The Goodell/Goodales were an important family in the histories of both Amherst and Belchertown. Moses Goodell (1777-1854) and his wife Susanna (1778-1848) had eleven children, several of whom had fascinating careers outside of this area. Ira Chafee Goodell (1800-1877) moved to New York City where he became a well-known artist in oils. Nathaniel Dudley Goodell (1814-1890) and his brother Noble Thomas Goodell (1806-1862) ventured through the Isthmus of Panama to seek their fortunes in the California gold fields. The remainder of the children lived and worked in Belchertown and Amherst for many years. The variant spelling of the name is not unusual for the period. Both forms are commonly used by all members of the family, sometimes in the same document.

Nathaniel Dudley Goodell was born in Belchertown in 1814, but went to Amherst as a young apprentice to an important builder and architect, Warran Howland. He moved to Ware about 1838 and built, under contract to the Otis Manufacturing Co., three large factories and several hundred factory houses. In 1849, at the age of 35, he formed a company to go to California by way of Panama. They sailed out of New York aboard the *Leveret*. They reached Chagres in an amazing 17 days! Crossing the country to Panama City, they found themselves stranded for two months, awaiting passage to California. Half of the company turned back home. It took him another three months to sail from Panama to San Francisco.

N. D. Goodell went on to become one of the premier architects in the early decades of Sacramento, perhaps the man most responsible for its look and style. Returning from the gold fields, he began working as a carpenter and soon as an architect and he designed some of the city's most elegant buildings, including the renowned Governor's Mansion. In all, he designed and/or built several hundred buildings, including business blocks, in the Sacramento area.

Description:

The Goodell/Goodale Family Papers consist of some 630 items, including account books, deeds, letters and other papers. Of particular interest to this project are the letters of Nathaniel Dudley Goodell to his brothers, Ira and Asahel, and his father Moses, which describe his journeys through the jungles of Panama and life in California during and after the gold rush of 1849.

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Letters of Nathaniel Dudley Goodell**

Location: **Special Collections, Jones Library, Amherst, Hampshire County, MA**
Collection: **Goodell/Goodale Family Papers**

Category: Document Object Image Collection

Catalog #: **Ira Chafee Goodell – Correspondence, 1822-1875**
Moses Goodell – Correspondence, 1813-1875
Goodell Family – Correspondence, 1836-1905

Source: **Gift of L. W. Goodell**

Received date: **1928 and 1934-35**

Catalog Date:

Cataloged by:

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-13**

PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-04-06 & 04-18**

Inventoried by: **Cliff McCarthy, Cheryl Harned, Kayla Haveles, & Anthony Martin**

Description: **The Goodell/Goodale Family Papers consist of some 630 items, including account books, deeds, letters and other papers. Of particular interest to this project are the letters of Nathaniel Dudley Goodell to his brothers Ira and Asahel and his father Moses, which describe his journeys through the jungles of Panama and life in California during and after the gold rush of 1849.**

Date of Creation:

Year Range: **1849-1854**

Height:

Width:

Depth:

Weight:

Material:

Creator: **Nathaniel Dudley Goodell**

Condition Notes: **generally, very good condition**

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):

The Goodell/Goodale Family Papers were a gift of L. W. Goodell in 1928 and 1934-35.

Related Items: **PVHN-09-14**

See “Sacramento and the Gold Rush”, an unpublished manuscript by Keith P. Pattengill, Amherst College, May 19, 1937, at Special Collections, Jones Library, Amherst, Mass.

Notes: **see attached summaries**

Summaries of Letters of Nathaniel Dudley Goodell:

Goodell, Ira Chafee -- Correspondence , 1822-1875	Letter	N. D. Goodell to his brother Ira. Tells of his preparations for heading to California -- securing passage, size and makeup of company, financial notes. Mentions that H. M. Walker is being sent ahead to New York to secure passage.	1849-03-18
Goodell, Ira Chafee -- Correspondence , 1822-1875	Letter	N. D. Goodell to his brother Ira. First letter after arriving in Panama (City). Left 26 March & anchored near Chagres on 12 April, 17 days from NY. Describes voyage, calls Chagres "a village of some 200 huts and about 800 inhabitants." Describes women washing clothes in the river and the old fort above Chagres. He tells of trouble on the way to Gorgona: natives refused to go farther without more money. The company had to draw and cock their weapons as encouragement. About one hundred Americans in Gorgona, which is about 3/4 the size of Chagres. Company walked from Gorgona to Panama (City) in one day, 26 miles. Roads are terrible, passage impossible during wet season. About 3000 Americans in Panama (City); no vessels have left since the Oregon left March 1. A second sheet inserted into the letter describes how well vegetation grows, including corn & cucumbers. Good opportunity. Temp is 80-90 degrees. Notes the large number of dead mules and the stench they create.	1849-04-21
Goodell, Ira Chafee -- Correspondence , 1822-1875	Letter	N. D. Goodell from Panama (City) to brother Ira. After thanking Ira for sending a chest of his to California and expressing hope that he will get lucky and be able to repay the extra cost, he begins to write about Panama. He tells of the sickness brought on by the rainy season, his plans to set sail on the Copiaco on the morrow with S. C. Smith, other ships coming and going, and reports of gold found. He also writes of 20 men hanged for murder at the mines -- 15 Americans. Cost \$12 from Chagres to Panama (City) -- whole trip has cost more than the company expected. He notes the discrepancy in what a dollar is worth down there. He says it's too hot for Americans to work, but notes the large amount of lumber the natives harvest, without sawmills or wagon carts. All company in good health.	1849-05-07
Goodell, Ira Chafee -- Correspondence , 1822-1875	Letter	N. D. Goodell from the brig Copiapo en route to San Francisco to brother Ira. Writes about ship troubles, crowds leaving Panama (City) in overburdened ships. Mentions food situation and life in Panama, describing geography, weather, etc. He joined a committee aboard ship; chairman threatened captain if he didn't stop for provisions after being put on rations, cooking. Describes Monterey. Mentions Independence Day celebration. Speaks of his "prospects for obtaining gold," rumors of where gold is, the cost of labor and various jobs. \$8/day typical; \$1/hour. Arrival in San Francisco. Cost of goods in S.F. Requests Ira send his chest.	1849-08-12
Goodell, Ira	Letter	N. D. Goodell from Pleasant [sic] Valley, Cal., (60 mi. NE of	1849-12-08

Chafee --
Correspondence
, 1822-1875

Sac.) to brother Ira. Apologizes for not writing sooner, but it was not convenient. Previously described San Francisco as a "dirty, rusty place, but a great business place." Since then, "there has been great improvements made there." Took the Mary Taylor to Sacramento City, most beautiful scenery. Grown from 3000 to 6000 since he's been there. Writes about the cost of building materials. Back injury has kept him from doing any hard work, but he cooks for the company. Company has split -- 6 have left, what remains went to Mormon Island about the 20th of last month. 6 worked 7 hrs./day for 21 days, made \$800 at \$16/oz. Some make more; lots less. Moved to Weaverville and did not do so well. Most there don't make enough to pay their board. Considers his condition, "Better off than most" -- 5 months provisions, good house, good stove and beds to sleep on. Will make do til rains pass. Cost of shipping provisions rises as rains wash out trails. Indians are rather troublesome -- steal everything, particularly the mules. "A cowardly race." Realizes he probably is not going to get rich, but he "shall have two or three years here, at least." If back continues to be a problem, will "keep a public house on some road leading from the city." Mentions Henry Mellen from Belchertown, Dexter Brown of "Pallmer" and "Bitly" from Ware.

Goodell, Ira
Chafee --
Correspondence
, 1822-1875

Letter

N. D. Goodell from Sacramento to brother Ira. Received Ira's last letter, dated Oct. 17, in February. Comments on politics and the "religious revival" in Belchertown -- mentions several names and expresses surprise and chagrin at the developments. He describes the bustling city of Sacramento, with its many businesses, constant imports & their costs, and what is lacking. Notes that wages are starting to drop from \$12-16/day to \$8-12/day. His tool chest never arrived and asks Ira to look into it, and meanwhile to buy a list of architecture supplies and send them to him. He promises to pay Ira back in gold dust. Mentions his back problems in his P.S. and says he's sending this letter home by Mr. Cunningham.

1850-06-20

Goodell, Ira
Chafee --
Correspondence
, 1822-1875

Letter

N. D. Goodell from Sacramento to brother Ira. Asks his brother if he sent the papers he requested, sending money to brother via Mr. Burnett, who is the bearer of the letter. 30-40 sheets, drawing paper, crayons hard/soft, 100 sheets drafting paper, water colors, etc. Speaks of squatters, ability to live; won't return without money to live off. Price of goods, gold gossip. 30 lb. nugget found, gold found in Sierra Nevada Mts., immigration. His "slight sketch of the rainy season" goes for 1.5 pages. Sends Ira 6 oz. gold dust, which Mr. Burnett will exchange for him, to pay for paper and his troubles, the remainder to be given to his wife.

1850-07

Goodell, Ira
Chafee --
Correspondence
, 1822-1875

Letter

N. D. Goodell from Sacramento to brother Ira. Wonders whether letters have gotten delivered since he has only recieved one since he arrived in Cal. Sent "a letter by Mr. Burnett with his promise to call & see you without fail, but I have just heard he did not call on you." Carpenter's

1851-04-18

wage dropped from \$12 to \$8/day. Spring crop of onions, turnips, carrots, cucumbers. Warm, dry winter. Still snow on the Sierra Nevada, 75 miles away, 10-12 feet deep. There are a great many machines getting into operation for crushing quartz rock. Quite a number of veins found already very rich. Thinks this kind of mining will carry on extensively in another year or two. Real estate has fallen...hardly any sales in six months. Whigs vs. Democrats in city election. A great many women and children are coming to Cal. Last steamer brought 100, the one before 75 women -- most have husbands in Cal. Wishes family safely with him. Plans to visit Mass. in about one year. Envisions California as one of the wealthiest states in the union. Millions still in the earth, which will take hundreds of years to dig out. Talks about immigration, "the Chinese, Cillian [Chilean], the Mexican, & the Islanders are here and plenty of them. There is hardly a language spoken in the world, but what is spoken here." Asks to settle financial accounts -- will send a check on some house in NY.

Goodell, Ira Chafee -- Correspondence , 1822-1875	Letter	N. D. Goodell from Sacramento to brother Ira. Begins by discussing politics, religion, and a land deal that fell through concerning his father. He writes about the intense politics of California and how he cannot tell whether Whigs or Democrats will win. Three men were hung for robbery; one of them was given a reprieve by governor, but crowd didn't heed it and tried to hang him. The authorities attempted to take prisoner to a prison brig, but crowd intervened and hung him. Goodell praises the actions, saying there is now "one less villain," and that Sacramento is becoming "one of the most quiet and moral places in the Union." Says his business is tolerable, but not as good as last year, and that he has "made up my mind not to be worth more than 50,000 dollars." Says he plans to go home next spring, so he can live among friends. Notes how many of the capitalists who were worth 2-3 hundred thousand dollars a year ago are only worth a couple of hundred, now. He laughs at people who try to start carpentry businesses out there who have never done it before and fail. He takes mostly small jobs and hires only a little. he digs still a little on the side. He makes about \$10/day, some jobs \$16-20. he notes the excellent fruits and vegetables they have there, and claims you can live just as nice in Sacramento as in NY (if you pay a little more). Also encloses a draft for \$75 for goods Ira sent.	1851-08-24
Goodell, Ira Chafee -- Correspondence , 1822-1875	Letter	N. D. Goodell to brother Ira. Sent Ira draft by last mail for \$75. Enclosed 2nd copy here. Election results: state proves to be Democratic. "She has redeemed herself from monarchy and Whigery." John Bigler elected governor. Samuel Perdy, Lt. Gov. Mail going out, so finished short.	1851-09-19
Goodell, Moses - - Correspondence , 1813-1854	Letter	N. D. Goodell from Sacramento to his father Moses. Begins by paying respects to his father and lamenting "the sad changes that have been going on (in our once unbroken family)." He mentions the deaths of three	1852-06-06

sisters and a brother and his mother, all in quick succession, and most recently, a brother-in-law. He suggests remaining cheerful because they will all be with the Lord. Says it will probably be years before he visits the home of his birth, but hopes they will meet again on earth. Sends "warm affection and sympathy for your welfare [sic] and happiness in your declining years." Refers to "contention and strife between certain parties." Wishes his father to enjoy his life. Talks about the plentiful crops and the high cost of some items. -- June 12 -- Mining business continues to be good. Predicts more gold taken out in next 4 or 5 months than in any one year. Describes improvements to mining techniques, rivers being turned, canals being dug, building flumes, and in some cases, whole surfaces of mountains are being washed. Thousands of acres never been touched; waiting for water in sufficient quantities to wash it. Writes about the delightful weather and the abundant harvests. City is fast improving, brick buildings, brick kilns, lime manufacturing, sawmills, shingle mills, etc. Immigration pouring in from all parts of the world. Family in first rate health. Mentions brother Noble "has made the most of his time; health is pretty good."

<p>Goodell, Ira Chafee -- Correspondence , 1822-1875</p>	<p>Letter</p>	<p>N. D. Goodell to brother Ira. Notes letter received from Ira. Comments on Ira's predictions: he writes "Yes, I believe with you that the day is not far distant when Rail Roads and telegraph wires will be running in every direction over this habitable globe from one end of this earth to the other and the air will be navigated with as much ease and safety as the ocean is now. This is a time in the history of man which probably never was surpassed. In these latter days it is safe to believe almost anything in regard to the ingenuity and strange devices of man." Speculates on ability to catch water on fire and perpetual motion. Ira never cashed draft. Writes of politics, bribery, "the rascals in office" who look on and do nothing while bad things happen & men are shot in the street. For the love of gold, mankind will do all kinds of horrible things. Keeps self armed with powder & guns. Additional note: Feb. 29th "Happiest meeting I have ever attended in my life on last Tuesday about 11 o'clock on board the steamer Independence. My family are now here in Sacramento all safe and well."</p>	<p>1852-12-15</p>
<p>Goodell, Moses - - Correspondence , 1813-1854</p>	<p>Letter</p>	<p>N. D. Goodell from Sacramento to father Moses. Writes after receiving letter from brother Asahel claiming that Moses is very unwell. He asks to be forgiven for not writing more often and says he hopes to visit in 3 or 4 years. States his family is in good health and Noble has started to recover from a 3 month illness. He then gives a short history of his adopted city, including its tent beginnings, the flood and the cholera epidemic of 1850, the fire of 1852, and 3 floods since. He expresses pride in being a citizen of such a persevering and beautiful city. He also notes the telegraphic connections to San Francisco, San Jose, Stockton, Marysville, Nevada, Coloma, and Placerville. He also lists some of the strange</p>	<p>1854-01-28</p>

names given to the local landscape and towns. He includes a daguerreotype with the letter, since he won't see his father in person and as a sign of respect.

Goodell Family - - Correspondence , 1836-1905	Letter	N. D. Goodell from Sacramento to brother Asahel. Begins with a somewhat oblique reference to some trouble that Asahel was having that has been resolved, and he is now being "reinstated on the old farm." Tells him to make sure he takes good care of their father. Notes that he hears that the Logtown Railroad [in Belchertown] is progressing slowly. Says Sacramento also improves slowly, although many houses have been built in the 6 months since the fire. Writes about the inexhaustible amount of gold in the earth and all of the variety of methods for extracting it: building canals, tunneling, digging shafts, require large outlays of capital, preventing newcomers. "To see the tunnels sunk in the sides of mountains...like ground swallow holes only on a larger scale." Says they have "but commenced to develop the mineral resources of our state." Describes the tunnels and the companies and "the immense fortune" they cost, but "most of the big gold stories you read about originate in these tunnels." Talks about farming and the large size of the produce: beans, onions, turnips, cucumbers, potatoes, watermelons, etc. Mentions seeing Mrs. C. N. Cinclair [sic] (she that was Mrs. Edwin Forest [sic]) in the play "Lady of Lyons" -- tolerable good. "The celebrated Lola Montes [sic] is playing at San Francisco to crowded houses. She is spoken of very highly as an actress and a dancer and will probably be up here next week to be caressed by the theatre going folks." Pays respects to father and all enquiring friends. Will write his father before long.	1853-06-05
Goodell Family - - Correspondence , 1836-1905	Letter	N. D. Goodell from Sacramento to brother Asahel. Discusses the rise and fall of prices for various items in Sacramento: food, building materials, land, and rent. Provides a detailed list of the costs of fruits, vegetables, meat, coffee, and other food products. Notes rising land prices as Sacramento grows. He purchased his lot for \$200 two years earlier; lots near his were now being sold for \$2500. He noted that rents were falling in the city's business district. He describes the steamer Yankee Blade crashing onto the rocks the day after it departed San Francisco and losing 150 of its 1000 passengers. He ends with observations on the enormous taxes by the state, county, city, and schools and his giving money for the construction of a new church.	1854-10-08

Letters of Noble Thomas Goodell

**Goodell/Goodale Family Papers,
Special Collections, Jones Library, Amherst, MA
PVHN-09-14**

Biographical Information:

The Goodell/Goodales were an important family in the history of both Amherst and Belchertown. Moses Goodell (1777-1854) and his wife Susanna (1778-1848) had eleven children, several of whom had fascinating careers outside of this area. Ira Chafee Goodell (1800-1877) moved to New York City where he became a well-known artist in oils. Nathaniel Dudley Goodell (1814-1890) and his brother Noble Thomas Goodell (1806-1862) ventured through the Isthmus of Panama to seek their fortunes in the California gold fields. N. D. Goodell went on to become one of the premier architects in the early decades of Sacramento. The remainder of the children lived and worked in Belchertown and Amherst for many years. The variant spelling of the name is not unusual for the period. Both forms are commonly used by all members of the family, sometimes in the same document.

When Noble Goodell went to California in 1852, bringing Dudley's wife and children, he came by way of Nicaragua. Here, travelers encountered some of the same adventures – sea voyage through the Caribbean, river travel, overland mule trains, and sailing up the Pacific coast, etc. as his brother had encountered three years earlier on the Panama route.

Noble Goodell eventually returned to Amherst, where he lies buried in West Cemetery.

Description:

The Goodell/Goodale Family Papers consist of some 630 items, including account books, deeds, letters and other papers. Noble Thomas Goodell, brother of Nathaniel Dudley Goodell, also went to California in 1852 and his experiences are recorded in letters to his brother Ira and his nephew Angelo.

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Letters of Noble Thomas Goodell**

Location: **Special Collections, Jones Library, Amherst, Hampshire County, MA**
Collection: **Goodell/Goodale Family Papers**

Category: Document Object Image Collection

Catalog #: **Ira Chafee Goodell – Correspondence, 1822-1875**
Angelo Goodell – Correspondence, 1849-1871
Goodell Family – Correspondence, 1836-1905

Source: **Gift of L. W. Goodell**

Received date: **1928 and 1934-35**

Catalog Date:

Cataloged by:

Condition:

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-14**
2009-04-18

PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-04-06 &**

Inventoried by: **Cliff McCarthy, Cheryl Harned, Kayla Haveles, and Anthony Martin**

Description: **The Goodell/Goodale Family Papers consist of some 630 items, including account books, deeds, letters and other papers. Noble Thomas Goodell, brother of Nathaniel Dudley Goodell, also went to California in 1852 and his experiences are recorded in three letters to his brother Ira and his nephew Angelo.**

Date of Creation:

Year Range: **1851-1852**

Height:

Width:

Depth:

Weight:

Material:

Creator: **Noble Thomas Goodell**

Condition Notes: **generally, very good condition**

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):

The Goodell/Goodale Family Papers were a gift of L. W. Goodell in 1928 and 1934-35.

Notes: **see attached summaries**

Related Items: **PVHN-09-13**

Summaries of Letters of Noble T. Goodell:

Goodell, Ira Chafee -- Correspondence , 1822-1875	Letter	Noble T. Goodell from Amherst, MA to brother Ira in New York. "This is to inform you that I expect to be in New York on Tuesday morning of next week on my way to California and shall be happy to spend three or four days with you before I leave. Shall probably leave on Friday, if I can secure passage -- Brother Dudley's wife and children go with me. They will come to your city on Wednesday and leave with me for the Gold Country. Dudley has been writing for them to come of late and Sarah has made up her mind to go and I thought I would go along with her as I have a desire to see some of the world and make a little money into the bargain thinking that I should not have a better opportunity than the present for such an excursion [sic]. All of our friends are well in this region. I will tell you all the news when I see you and that will save the trouble of writing it at this time as I am in greate haste -- Love to all, Yours truly, Noble T. Goodell."	1851-12-31
Goodell Family - - Correspondence , 1836-1905	Letter	Noble T. Goodell from Sacramento to brother Ira. Tells of his arrival, with [Nathaniel] Dudley's wife and children, in San Francisco on 24 February and at Sacramento on 26 February. Mentions that the house that Dudley rented flooded the first night they moved in. Describes building techniques and how Dudley had purchased a lot and moved another house onto it, which took four days. Describes the countryside surrounding the city. Notes that if he were a young man he would settle in California, but has no plans to move his wife and family there. He notes that during the flood he did not receive much work, but normally received \$8/day with rent costing \$8/week. He notes that he had not written about his voyage, but would do so in the next letter.	1852-03-31
Goodell, Angelo -- Correspondence , 1849-1871	Letter	Noble T. Goodell from Sacramento to nephew Angelo. Writes of his voyage to California. They were supposed to leave on the 20th of January after they left Angelo's house, but due to weather did not leave until 11 o'clock the following day. Tells of conditions when they finally set sail, the sea sickness of "Aunt Sarah and your cousins Libbe & Julia." Writes about weather conditions and a mountain island he expects is uninhabited, called Inaguay [?]. He then writes by day -- January 26th -- passed Cuba & Hayti [sic] & describes them. -- 27 January -- passed St. Domingo & another island. He describes what they eat on board for each meal. -- 28 January -- Describes weather in the Carribbean Sea -- 30 January -- Arrival at San Juan Harbor [Nicaragua], take river boats up to Castilla Rappido [sp?]. He describes the scenery and especially shocked by the large alligators. They had trouble going up the river and almost overturned. They continued up the river to Lake Nicaragua and into Virgin Bay on February 3rd. They started to the Pacific Ocean on	1852-04-11

horses and mentions helping Aunt Sarah get on her horse. He took Libbe on the horse with him, while "Mr. Lincoln from Belchertown" took Julia. The group arrived at 2 o'clock and went aboard the steamer Independence bound for San Francisco. The ship sailed about 10 p.m. Next they put into the bay at Realejo [Nicaragua] for coal, staying 30 hours and trading with the natives. Mentions meeting the British consul when he went to speak with the ship's captain. February 7th they were at sea again; mentions passing a volcano at San Salvador. -- February 8 -- passed Guatemala, with Aunt Sarah and the children being seasick. The steamer made it to Acapulco on February 10th. They passed the Gulf of California on the 16th. He notes watching a school of 50 to 100 whales. Arrived in San Francisco Harbor on the 24th of February at met Uncle Dudley. Tells Angelo to give his best wishes to everyone.

Letter of Fenelon Warren Howe

Howe Family Papers (MS #19), Special Collections & University Archives,
W.E.B. DuBois Library, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
PVHN-09-15

Biographical Information:

Fenelon Warren Howe, born 2 June 1829 in Enfield, Mass., was the son of John Howe and Rhoda Bridges Babbitt Howe and the brother of Henry Clay Milton Howe (b. 1823). He was at the Middle Fork of the American River in El Dorado Co., Cal. by 1850 where he was enumerated with his partners Alfred and Monroe Richardson. They were listed as miners. The letter refers to the Richardsons (Henry, Alfred & Monroe) and his desperate need for funds from home. F. W. Howe was not financially successful in California. (The later letter in this folder is an angry diatribe blaming his brother for his "financial ruin.") He died in San Francisco on 25 April 1885.

Description:

This folder contains two letters to Brother Henry from F. W. Howe at Clover Valley, Placer Co., CA. This is the earlier of the two, dated 1856, and is a four-sided letter on one folded sheet of blue writing paper. The second letter was deemed too late to be included in this inventory. The letters indicate that Howe was concerned with ranching and land speculation, rather than mining.

Excerpts:

"I would like to hear from you immediately & know whether there is a prospect of my obtaining the money there or not, & if it can be procured the sooner it is sent on the better. I wish to hear how matters stand & make my calculations accordingly. We shall not be able to stock the Ranch much this year of course. The season is considerably advanced already – some have about finished their Haying here, but ours is scarcely begun and if I cannot manage to do so next year I shall try very hard to sell out my interest in it. I could make the business pay tolerably well I think if I had funds to go on with it, but it will not pay to spend my time here unless I do."

"We have been buying out Henry & Munroe's interest in the Hogs that were on the place, at least we have bought Munroe's share and I have written to Henry concerning his. I have not received an answer from him as yet but expect he will let us have them. If so, we have arranged that I should pay him while Alfred is to pay Munroe. He and Mun were equal owners in the old stock, but Munroe had another lot which he put on here after Henry went home in company with another man & for which we of course pay them here. I pay Munroe & Alf pays Greenough his partner in the last lot."

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Letter of Fenelon Warren Howe**

Location: **Special Collections & University Archives, W.E.B. DuBois Library, University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

Collection: **Howe Family Papers (MS #19)**

Category: Document Object Image

Catalog #: **Series #1, Box #1, Folder #3** Accession #:

Source: **Acquired from Donald W. Howe of Ware, Mass.**

Received date: **1960**

Received as:

Catalog Date: **1985**

Cataloged by: **Ruth Owen Jones**

Condition:

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-15**

PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-01-12**

Inventoried by: **Cliff McCarthy**

Description: **Folder contains two letters to Brother Henry from F. W. Howe at Clover Valley, Placer Co., CA. This is the earlier of the two, dated 1856, and is a four-sided letter on one folded sheet of blue writing paper.**

Date of Creation: **1856-05-21**

Year Range:

Height: **9 3/4"**

Width: **15 1/4"**

Depth:

Weight:

Material: **blue paper**

Creator: **Fenelon Warren Howe**

Condition Notes: **generally good, some discoloration of paper**

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):

Acquired from Donald W. Howe of Ware, Mass., 1960. Donald Howe was a descendent of the John and Solomon Howe, the best known printers in the Quabbin region during the nineteenth century. Based in the relatively remote towns of Greenwich and Enfield, the Howes built a vibrant practice, printing almanacs, songs and occasional poems, pamphlets and small books for a popular audience.

A graduate of the Cushing Academy and one-time student at Bates College, Donald Howe was treasurer of Ware Coupling Co., and owner of the Quabbin Book House and Radio Station WARE. In 1951, he wrote *Quabbin, The Lost Valley*, one of the first personal accounts of the evacuation and inundation of the towns Greenwich, Enfield, Dana, and Prescott, as the Swift River Valley was dammed up to create the Quabbin Reservoir to provide Boston with water. (from the Biographical Notes with document)

Letter from Henry D. Mellen to "Sophy"

Doolittle-Phelps Scrapbook, Stone House Museum, Belchertown, MA
PVHN-09-16

Biographical Information:

Henry D. Mellen (1814 - ?) was a Belchertown native, the son of Dexter Mellen (1793-1830) and Hannah (Gates) Mellen. In 1837, he was married to Mary Dwight, daughter of Nathaniel Dwight (1772-1860) and Elizabeth (Dunbar) Dwight. Mary died in 1847, leaving an infant daughter, Elizabeth Dwight Mellen. Shortly after, Henry left for the California gold fields, leaving Elizabeth to be raised by an aunt. Henry was in Sacramento for the 1850 census. Nothing further is known of him.

The letter is addressed to "Sophy". Only recently, as a result of this project, has it been established that "Sophy" was Sophie M. Brown (1837-1924), daughter of Asa Brown (1793-1866) and Hannah (Cook) Brown of Hadley. Sophie's mother died in 1839 and Sophie lived with Henry and Mary Mellen, until Mary passed away in 1847 and Henry left for California. Sophie then lived with Mary's sister, Delia (Dwight) Sanford and Estes Howe Sanford (1815-1901). It was while living with them in Worcester, in 1850, that Sophie would have received this letter. Sophie later married Dr. George Thomson who was the donor of the letter.

Description:

One-page letter, front and back, on blue writing paper, from Henry Mellen at Placerville, Cal. to "Sophy." The document had been pasted into a scrapbook, making it difficult to see the reverse, and raising conservation issues. It has been removed from scrapbook and has been enclosed in a Mylar sleeve.

Excerpt:

"I am about 200 miles from San Francisco near Sutters Mill where gold was first discovered in this country. This is the most eastern diggings in Cal about 50 miles from the Sierra Nevada mountains directly on the road from the States to the mines in Cal. I live in a log house in company with two young men one from N. Hampton the other from Ware we live very comfortably do our own cooking washing & mending and have enough to eat.

We have had a celebration here this day an oration by a New Yorker and have a ball this eve. There are a good many ladies in the mines. one young woman formerly from New Haven, Ct. who made \$1000 last winter making pies and others who have done better than a great many miners some selling[?] at \$6 per dozen. We have people here from all the states in the Union and from all parts of the world black white and yellow"

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Letter from Henry D. Mellen to "Sophy"**

Location: **Stone House Museum, Belchertown, Hampshire Co., MA**

Collection: **Doolittle-Phelps Scrapbook**

Category: Document Object Image

Catalog #: **Box #096**

Accession #: **old #156**

Source: **Dr. George F. Thomson**

Received date: **1904-1905**

Received as: **gift**

Catalog Date:

Cataloged by:

Condition:

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-16**

PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-01-03**

Inventoried by: **Cliff McCarthy**

Description: **One-page letter, front and back, from Henry Mellen at Placerville, Cal. to Sophy**

Date of Creation: **1850-07-04**

Year Range:

Height: **9 3/4"**

Width: **7 3/4"**

Depth:

Weight:

Material: **blue paper and ink**

Creator: **Henry D. Mellen (1814 - ?)**

Condition Notes: **This document had been pasted into a scrapbook, making it difficult to see the reverse, and raising conservation issues. It has been removed from scrapbook and has been enclosed in a Mylar sleeve.**

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):

The document was part of the "Doolittle-Phelps Scrapbook", (Box #096, p. 108). The original accession book says of old #156: "Old papers from the Doolittle, Phelps & other families. Given by Dr. G. F. Thomson".

Letters of Elijah Spencer Fuller

Fuller Family Papers, Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Deerfield, MA
PVHN-09-17

Biographical Information:

Elijah Spencer Fuller (1827-1859) was one of twelve children born to Aaron Fuller of Deerfield and his two wives. He went to California in August 1849 by way of Panama and returned to Deerfield in March 1851. The letters make reference to "Augustus" and "Geo.", his brothers. George was his older brother, born 1822. The references to "Hatty", or Harriet, "Ann" and "Eliza" were to his sisters, and "Lydia" was the wife of his brother, Joseph N. Fuller.

The reference to "cousin Ben" is to Joel Benjamin Howe (1819-1892) of Petersham, who also went to California. Ben's mother, Arathusa (Negus) Howe, was the sister of Elijah's mother, Fanny (Negus) Fuller. Arathusa and Fanny were born in Petersham to Joel and Basmath "Betsey" Negus.

The reference to "Bartlett" is apparently to Dares [Darius] Bartlett, son of Luther, of Conway, Massachusetts who sailed to Panama from New York aboard the *Empire City* on 17 September 1849. He died 29 December 1849 in Benicia, California.

Description:

The Aaron Fuller Letters contain, among other items, 6 whole letters and one partial letter from Elijah S. Fuller to his family back east. The George Fuller Letters contain three Gold Rush-related letters from Elijah to his brother George. The letters commence with Elijah preparing to sail from New York aboard the *Empire City*, his landing at Chagres, the crossing of the isthmus of Panama, and his voyage to San Francisco. From there and at Coloma, he writes of life in California. His increasing frustration begins to come through in the final letters.

Excerpts:

"I am very much engaged in making preparations for sailing on Thursday next. I hope father will have no difficulty in forwarding me the money as it would be a very great disappointment to me, should I fail to receive it by Tuesday next or Monday. The accounts by Steamer *Falcon* are favorable and I think to delay for a month to see what Ben writes is all nonsense, for I shall be in possession of the same particulars through the friends of theirs in California and when have been there much longer I have been the rounds to see when I can get what I need and it will not take me more than a day to collect and ship them on board steamer."

Excerpts (continued):

“We left the steamer *Empire City* Tuesday, Aug. 28th and landed from the Steam Boat *Orus* about 4 p.m. left Chagres at 6 o'clock for Panama. Our journey was performed in canoes and upon horses: from Chagres to Cruces is fifty-three miles which we travel in canoes at the rate of a little less than one mile an hour. From Cruces to Panama is 2.2 miles which took us from 8 a.m. until 7½ p.m. I will not undertake to describe the road for it is impossible to picture anything bad enough. I believe if I had one of these So. American horses at home, I could lean a plank against a barn and ride him on to the roof and turn on the weather boards and back to the ground with the same safety that I have [pu ?] over many parts of the road. We arrived at Panama Sat eve Sept 1 Sunday we rested.”

“You see by this commencement of my letter it is a month since I intended to send home I have been sick with the diareah and inflamation in the bowels some two weeks and as I was obliged to stop on the road at an expensive of 50 pr week besides Doctors bill of coars it put me out of humor for sending what I had written or writing more. Now I am quite well and think I shall be able to make something The rainy season commenced the last week in Nov. and soon the roads will be almost impassable yet we hope to make our regular trips. I have come about forty miles to day to see Ben, but learn he left this place about two weeks ago and as I have business to attend to shall be obliged to return with out seeing him at present.”

“...now I would say a few words in regard to Speculation in California. I do not call for Money and never will while in this Country but one thing is pretty sure if Isaac or Yea or Ashell would like to make a California speck I believe I can see a way to do it let them (as married men) advance a complete asst. of Groceries for Sac City I believe I could locate myself on the Sacramento river on the Emigration point [or part] from Oregon and take up land and make a fortune -- of course I ask nothing, but this I consider a sure thing and one which would yeald 50 percent at least; sound them and find out if they are ripe; there could be no loss except by fraud. I am inclined to make a claim of land this winter.”

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Letters of Elijah Spencer Fuller**

Location: **Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Deerfield, Franklin Co., MA**
Collection: **Fuller Family Papers**

Category: Document Object Image Collection

Catalog #: **Aaron Fuller Papers – Letters, 1845-1850 – Folder 1**
George Fuller Papers – Letters, 1844-1858, Folder 7

Source: **probably Elizabeth Fuller**

Received date: **probably 1970**

Catalog Date:

Cataloged by:

Condition:

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-17**

PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-02-23**

Inventoried by: **Cliff McCarthy, Anthony Martin, Cheryl Harned & Kayla Haveles**

Description: **The Aaron Fuller Letters contain, among other items, six whole letters and one partial letter from Elijah S. Fuller to his family back east. The George Fuller Letters contain three Gold Rush-related letters from Elijah to his brother George. The letters commence with Elijah preparing to sail from New York aboard the *Empire City*, his landing at Chagres, the crossing of the isthmus of Panama, and his voyage to San Francisco. From there and at Coloma, he writes of life in California. His increasing frustration begins to come through in the final letters.**

Date of Creation:

Year Range: **1849-1850**

Height:

Width:

Depth:

Weight:

Material: **blue line paper & ink**

Creator: **Elijah S. Fuller (1827-1859)**

Condition Notes: **generally good condition**

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):
Likely given to PVMA by Elizabeth Fuller in 1970.

Notes: **see attached summaries**

Related Items: **PVHN-09-08, PVHN-09-18, PVHN-09-35**

Summaries of Letters of Elijah S. Fuller:

George Fuller Papers	Letter	Letter from Elijah Fuller to his brother George Fuller asking for funds for his trip to California. He is anxious to leave and won't delay any longer. He asks George his opinion about life insurance.	1849-08-10
Aaron Fuller Papers	Letter	Letter from Elijah Fuller to his father & siblings while en route to California. This is the first letter Fuller wrote home after sailing from New York aboard the Empire City. Elijah apologizes for not writing, but he says he's been very busy in preparation. He has not purchased a ticket from Panama to San Francisco, but will wait to do so in Panama. He makes reference to brothers Augustus and George and some family errands.	1849-08-25
Aaron Fuller Papers	Letter	Letter from Elijah Fuller to his father, Aaron Fuller, from Panama. he describes landing at Chagres, the journey across the isthmus, the road conditions, and the horses. He intends to take the sailing ship to San Francisco, instead of the steamer, which is more expensive. He states that 12 passengers on the previous trip of the Empire City died in Panama. He refers to "Bartlett".	1849-09-03
Aaron Fuller Papers	Letter	Letter from Elijah Fuller to his father, brothers and sisters from San Francisco. Voyage took 100 days from Panama; he anticipated 45 days. He describes San Francisco. Has not seen Bartlett or Ben. He describes the disgustingness of life aboard ship. Recommends people stay home. Asks for news from home. Is anxious to get to the mines.	1849-12-19
George Fuller Papers	Letter	Elijah writes his brother thanking him for the recent correspondence and mentions not receiving word from home for three months. He wished the family well and reminisces about life back in New England. He mentioned running into cousin Ben after wondering if he had died or returned home. He also mentioned Bartlett and A. Sanderson and his brother from Boston. In the last portion of the letter, Elijah discussed not being "downhearted or discouraged" but feared returning home "penniless." He explained to his brother that the good mines are snowed in from December to July and that the best time to get into those mines was July and August. He said this to George to explain why he was just making ends meet. He also mentioned the high costs of transportation and supplies. He said the prices were starting to recede, but predicted there would be a "great rush from California" by next fall.	1850-05-12
Aaron Fuller Papers	Letter	This is only a partial letter from Elijah to his family, nearly impossible to read, but he invited his cousin Ben, with whom he has connected, to write a letter to the Fuller girls. Ben responds with a somewhat tongue-in-check sounding letter to the "beloved sisters of Elijah and cousins of mine". Ben refers to the "holy alliance of wedlock" when addressing his married cousins, but has "less restraint of manner" for Harriet.	1850-06-08
Aaron Fuller Papers	Letter	Four-page letter from Elijah Fuller at "Coloma, Upper Cal." to his father Aaron at Deerfield, Mass. Elijah states he's in good health, though his financial situation is bleak. Elijah mentions	1850-07-21

reports of a "Gold Lake" - a dry lake bed in which gold was exposed on the surface. This caused excitement, proved to be "humbug." Still hopes for better fortune. Laments the death of Bartlett. Refers to the diversity of the population and mentions the frequent crime, gambling, and intemperence.

George Fuller Papers	Letter	Letter details how Elijah hasn't had news from home for 6½ months. How he's been sick and his disappointment with "prospecting" and says "we have failed to find 'good diggins'." Elijah has made a "trifull more than three hund. dollars" and he wants to make 600\$ before returning home. Talks of conditions in California and hundreds dying of "actual starvation" on journey to California. Mining conditions also not good, "driving some men to get drunk, draining all thoughts of the morrow" while others work hard, determined to get out of this "cursed country," while others work on the levee in Sacramento for 75\$ a month. Concludes by speaking of the farming life at home & thoughts of returning home.	1850-09-18 & 19
Aaron Fuller Papers	Letter	Elijah says he has not been well, but is better now. Rainy season is starting. He traveled to see Ben, but he had left that place. He writes of politics and the recent election and makes statements in favor of the Fugitive Slave Act and driving Negroes from the area. While not asking for money, Elijah writes of his ideas for speculation. He could buy some land and set up a grocery operation on the trail to Oregon.	1850-12-02

Other Letters Related to Elijah Spencer Fuller

Fuller Family Papers, Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Deerfield, MA
PVHN-09-18

Biographical Information:

Elijah Spencer Fuller (1827-1859) was one of twelve children born to Aaron Fuller of Deerfield and his two wives. He went to California in August 1849 by way of Panama and returned to Deerfield in March 1851. The letters of introduction contain the names of possible local individuals working in California:

“Elihu Ely, Jr., Delaware,” is listed as a passenger on the *Samoset* which sailed 22 March 1849 from New York. There is another “E. Ely” among the passengers on the *Falcon* which sailed from New York on 2 February 1849; that ship also carried “Cooke, G.L.” Ely is listed as a bookkeeper at the Customs House in a San Francisco city directory for 1850.

George Lewis Cooke was a Rhode Island-born, New York merchant who, with his brother Joseph Jesse Cooke went to California in 1849 and established the firm of Cooke, Baker & Co., later Cooke Brothers & Co., which operated until 1854. After that, George L. Cooke returned to Rhode Island where he was elected to serve in the state legislature and then resigned to accept a commission as Quartermaster General in the Union Army.

Bicknell, H.A. and Braxton, J.E. are listed among the passengers on the *LooChoo*, which sailed from New York on 8 March 1849.

Description:

The Elijah S. Fuller papers contain eight Letters of Introduction for Elijah Fuller for his California trip in 1849. This collection also contains about twenty other letters in preparation for Elijah’s 1854 trip to New Mexico, but those were not inventoried for this project. Also, the George Fuller Papers contain a letter from their brother Joseph N. Fuller and his wife Lydia about Elijah and cousin Ben in California.

Transcription:

“Friend Harding,

San Francisco Dec 17/49

I introduce to you Mr. Fuller the bearer of this with the request that you will give him such information and attention as will enable him to get rich fast and in doing so you much obliged

From Your Friend,
E. Williams

To: Jas. Harding
Merced River”

Transcriptions (continued):

"My Dear Sir

New York Aug 15, 1849

Allow me to acquaint you with my friend Mr. E. S. Fuller, the bearer of this, who goes to California, like myself, to seek his fortune. He has been in my employ for the last season, and I know him to be industrious, honest and worthy. In fact he is just a good fellow as was brother [Greg] [Geo ?], and as such I claim for him, in case of need, your kind attention. You never will regret knowing him, for he is one of our own kind. Any favors you may show him will be duly appreciated by him, and should opportunity offer, gladly reciprocated by

Your friend,
George Congdon

To Mr. T. W. Wilcox or

Henry Snow

Elihu Ely, Jr.

Jeremiah Rogus [Rogers ?]

miners

Mr. Bicknell

Mr. Braxton [Broxton ?]

George Lewis Cook"

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Other Letters Related to Elijah Spencer Fuller**

Location: **Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Deerfield, Franklin Co., MA**
Collection: **Fuller Family Papers**

Category: Document Object Image Collection

Catalog #: **Elijah Spencer Fuller Papers, Folder 1**
George Fuller Papers – Letters, 1844-1858, Folder 7

Source: **probably Elizabeth Fuller**

Received date: **probably 1970**

Catalog Date:

Cataloged by:

Condition:

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-18**

PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-02-23**

Inventoried by: **Cheryl Harned & Kayla Haveles**

Description: **The Elijah S. Fuller papers contain eight similar Letters of Introduction for Elijah Fuller for his California trip in 1849. This collection also contains about twenty other letters in preparation for Elijah's 1854 trip to New Mexico, but those were not inventoried for this project. Also, the George Fuller Papers contain a letter from their brother Joseph N. Fuller and his wife Lydia about Elijah and cousin Ben in California.**

Date of Creation: **1849**

Year Range:

Height: Width:

Depth:

Weight:

Material: **blue paper & ink**

Creator: **various**

Condition Notes: **generally good condition**

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):

Likely given to PVMA by Elizabeth Fuller in 1970.

Related Items: **PVHN-09-08, PVHN-09-17, PVHN-09-35**

Letters of Lyman Bartlett to his brother Dares Bartlett

**Dares Bartlett Papers, Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Deerfield, MA
PVHN-09-19**

Biographical Information:

Dares Bartlett, son of Luther Bartlett, of Conway, Massachusetts, sailed to California via Panama from New York aboard the *Empire City* on 17 September 1849. He died 29 December 1849 in Benicia, California.

Description:

The Dares Bartlett Papers include six letters from his brother, Lyman, in preparation for Dares' journey to California. Lyman was in the carriage-making business and apparently shipped goods to San Francisco. The letters are addressed to Dares at St. Louis and Illinois, but he apparently returned to Massachusetts before sailing for San Francisco. Other items in this collection include his papers from Harvard, a small account book from 1843-1844, and a large number of calling cards from his acquaintances.

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Letters of Lyman Bartlett to his brother Dares Bartlett**

Location: **Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Deerfield, Franklin Co., MA**
Collection: **Dares Bartlett Papers**

Category: Document Object Image Collection

Catalog #: **Dares Bartlett Papers, 1828-1849, Folder 1**

Source: **probably Elizabeth Fuller**

Received date: **probably 1970**

Catalog Date:

Cataloged by:

Condition:

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-19**

PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-03-25**

Inventoried by: **Cliff McCarthy**

Description: **The Dares Bartlett Papers include 6 letters from his brother, Lyman, in preparation for Dares' journey to California. Lyman is in the carriage-making business and apparently ships goods to San Francisco. The letters are addressed to Dares at St. Louis and Illinois, but he apparently returns to Mass. before sailing for San Francisco. Other items in this collection include his papers from Harvard, a small account book from 1843-1844, and a large number of calling cards from his acquaintances.**

Date of Creation: **1849**

Year Range:

Height: Width:

Depth:

Weight:

Material: **paper & ink**

Creator: **Lyman Bartlett**

Condition Notes: **generally good condition**

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):

Likely given to PVMA by Elizabeth Fuller in 1970.

Letters of Charles Graves Starkweather

**Charles Graves Starkweather Collection,
Historic Northampton, Northampton, MA
PVHN-09-20**

Biographical Information:

Charles Graves Starkweather was born in Northampton on 20 March 1819. He left that city in 1849 to join the California gold rush, but was unsuccessful in his search for gold. His brother Alfred Starkweather (1826-1917) joined him in California in 1851. The two brothers owned and ran a ranch near Stockton, California. Later, another brother, Haynes Kingsley Starkweather, Jr. (1822-1895), went to California with his wife, Martha Starkweather, and their son, William Starkweather (c.1849-c.1872). After twelve years in California, Charles Starkweather returned to Northampton, married Sophronia Merrick, of Wilbraham, and continued to farm the family homestead. He died on 26 June 1906.

Description:

Containing 43 letters in all, this collection primarily contains correspondence from Charles G. Starkweather on his journey to California and in California to his family in Northampton, Massachusetts. It includes also a few letters from family members in Northampton and letters from Alfred Starkweather and Martha Starkweather in California. The letters concentrate on the period from 1849-1851 and are concerned mostly with Charles G. Starkweather's early experiences in California.

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Letters of Charles Graves Starkweather**

Location: **Historic Northampton, Northampton, Hampshire Co., MA**

Collection: **Charles Graves Starkweather Collection**

Category: Document Object Image Collection

Catalog #: **A.L.18.327 thru A.L.18.369** Accession #:

Source: **Estate of Agnes Wright Howland**

Received date:

Catalog Date: **1999-11-03**

Cataloged by:

Condition:

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-20**

PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-03-20**

Inventoried by: **Cliff McCarthy, Anthony Martin & Cheryl Harned**

Description: **Containing 43 letters in all, this collection primarily contains correspondence from Charles G. Starkweather on his journey to California and in California to his family in Northampton, Massachusetts. It includes also a few letters from family members in Northampton and letters from Alfred Starkweather and Martha Starkweather in California. The letters concentrate on the period from 1849-1851 and are concerned mostly with Charles G. Starkweather's early experiences in California.**

Date of Creation: Year Range: **1849-1851, 1853, 1855, 1857**

Height: Width: Depth:

Weight:

Material:

Creator: **Charles Graves Starkweather**

Condition Notes: **generally, excellent condition**

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):

Estate of Agnes Wright Howland

Related Items:

There is a related collection, the Starkweather Family Collection, at the Huntington Library, San Marino, California. See the article, "Rendezvous in Stockton" in the *Pacific Historian* magazine.

Notes: **see attached summaries**

Summaries of Letters of Charles Graves Starkweather (provided by Historic Northampton):

A.L.18.327	Letter	to "Friends," from Charles G. Starkweather on board S.S. Crowell, Atlantic Ocean. Writes of some experiences while on the ship such as seasickness, a bad storm and a fight between the first cook and the captain where weapons were drawn	1849-02-15
A.L.18.328	Letter	to "Friends," from Charles G. Starkweather on board S.S. Crowell. Docked at St. Thomas Bay	1849-02-24
A.L.18.329	Letter	to "Haynes" Kingsley Starkweather, Jr. from Charles G. Starkweather on board S.S. Crowell. Writes of the experiences of those travelling with him while on land and briefly describes St. Thomas Bay. Writes of a possible insurrection among the former slaves of the area, most likely against the wealthy sugar plantation owners.	1849-02-24
A.L.18.330.1-2	Letter	to "Friends" from Charles G. Starkweather on board S.S. Crowell Caribbean Sea. Writes of expectation to land again at Chagres. Says that travel has been difficult because they lost the wind and are only making about 10 miles per day.	1849-03-01
A.L.18.331	Letter	to "Friends" from Charles G. Starkweather on board S.S. Crowell, Chagres, describes his trip to Chagres. An old town devastated by fire. Few roads or horses or carriages	1849-03-08
A.L.18.332	Letter	to "Myra, Lizy and Martha" Starkweather from Charles G. Starkweather in Panama, describes the city of Panama and how different it is from where they are. Writes a lot about the condition of the poor.	1849-03-20
A.L.18.333.1-2	Letter	to "Haynes" Kingsley Starkweather, Jr. from Charles G. Starkweather in Panama, writes of his trip from Chagres to Panama. Writes of the foliage of the area and the wildlife.	1849-03-24
A.L.18.334	Letter	to "Sisters" from Charles G. Starkweather in Panama, New Grenada, South America, tells them of the feast on Palm Sunday	1849-04-04
A.L.18.335	Letter	to "Brother M", Frederick Merrick Starkweather, from Charles G. Starkweather in Panama, a short note with reference to the Trial of Christ a farce put on by the church to gull the people. Possibly sent some pressed flowers with the letter.	1849-04-05
A.L.18.337	Letter	to "Friends" from Charles G. Starkweather in Panama New Grenada South America. A response to the letter received from his parents and sister. Writes that all is well with his stay in Panama.	1849-05-09
A.L.18.339	Letter	to "Friends" from Charles G. Starkweather in California, description of the land and how they have been trying to find gold, the actual process of straining through sand and rock. It seems he is worried about their money supply but that part of the letter is difficult to make out.	1849-09-23
A.L.18.340	Letter	to "Brother H", Haynes Kingsley Starkweather, Jr. from Charles G. Starkweather writing to let him know all is well in California. They have not had much luck yet, but decided to stick with the	1849-10-15

		spot that they chose. Our also trying to decide what to do for the winter. Writes a little about justice among the diggers, such as what happens when one man steals from another. It differs among camps: some just give lashes, at others he heard that men were just shot.	
A.L.18.341	Letter	to "Sisters, Roxana, Almira, and Elizabeth" Starkweather from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento City, California. Writes about the development of the city of Sacramento. He is very reminiscent of his time with his sisters, especially because Thanksgiving is coming up.	1849-11-25
A.L.18.342.ab	Letter	to "Friends" from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento, California, description of life in Sacramento. Writes mostly about the cost of living in the area. Everything is much more expensive.	1849-11-30
A.L.18.343	Letter	to "Brother Haynes" Kingsley Starkweather, Jr. from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento. Writes about some experiences and about the difficult time they have had finding gold. Also writes about people from back home that he has seen in the area or heard about being in the area.	1849-11-30
A.L.18.344	Letter	to "Friends" from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento California description of recent conditions. It had been very rainy and he writes that the streets have become mud and that to go from one place to another you must walk through filth. He also writes about the death of his friend Pliny who was buried up by the river and given a proper service.	1849-12-21
A.L.18.345.1-2	Letter	to "Sisters and Friends" from Charles G. Starkweather on the Yuba River in California at site where they were prospecting. Writes of the activities of some of his friends and of the large amounts of rain. The rain caused the river levels to rise 15ft to 20ft wiping out their tools in the river. He left the camp to return to Sacramento and on his way visited with one Capt. Suter [sic].	1850-01-01 & 1850-0
A.L.18.346.1-2	Letter	to "Friends" from Charles G. Starkweather in California, writes that he received many letters that family had written to him and was glad to finally hear from them. He writes of the increase of business coming into Sacramento. Also writes of many events over the past month since he left camp.	1850-02-17
A.L.18.347.ab	Letter	to "H", Haynes Kingsley Starkweather, Jr. from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento, staying at the Globe Hotel run by his friends Chenery and Hubbard. He describes the hotel, writes of the cost of food, the sickness suffered by many of his friends, and the ever increasing numbers of people coming to look for gold.	1850-02-29
A.L.18.348	Letter	to "Sisters and Friends" from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento City, California. Does not write much, just a letter to let everyone know that he is well. Writes of the blooming flowers and all the rain they have been having still.	1850-03-20 & 1850-0
A.L.18.349.ab	Letter	to "Brother Haynes" Kingsley Starkweather, Jr. from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento. Writes of a gold cleaning machine that Haynes had mentioned in a previous letter. Also writes of the incredible pace at which the towns are growing noting the difference between Dec. 1849 and March 1850.	1850-03-25

A.L.18.350	Letter	to "Brother Alfred" Starkweather from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento City. Writes to Alfred to apologize for not sending any letters directly to him. Tells him of all the people from neighboring areas that have come to California and writes of all the gambling that takes place.	1850-03-25
A.L.18.351	Letter	to "Brother Haynes" Kingsley Starkweather, Jr. from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento. Writes of a new business venture for him, driving cattle herds to ranches, thinks he will do it again as it is good money. Is expecting his brother Alfred, got a letter saying he was planning on going but wants to know if he left yet.	1850-03-29
A.L.18.352	Letter	to Haynes Kingsley Starkweather, Jr. from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento. Writes that Sacramento has now elected a mayor and a city council and many improvements have been made, such as new roads and improved ports. Also gives updates of all of his friends that have come and gone.	1850
A.L.18.353	Letter	to "Sisters" from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento, California, account of a friends engagement and marriage in California and mentions how nice it would be to have some more women in California, that it might make the "troubles and toils of California much easier to bear."	1850-05-02
A.L.18.354.1-2	Letter	to "Friends" from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento, California, writes of his plans to return to the mines on the Yuba River, the same place he was last summer, however trip got delayed slightly b/c his horse escaped. Sends news of others in the area and writes of a fire in the business district of Sacramento	1850-06-23
A.L.18.355	Letter	to "Lissie", Elizabeth Breck, from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento, California, writes a simple note to thank them for their letter. He thinks of home often and hopes to one day return and make his home there. Also writes to Alfred, his brother, of his intentions to return to the mines and of other from back home that are starting up businesses in the area.	1850-06-23 & 1850-0
A.L.18.356	Letter	to "Brother Haynes" Kingsley Starkweather Jr. from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento. Writes an account of the difficulties encountered by many prospecting for gold. It is sad to see them he writes, believe their claim to land guarantees their success at finding gold and becoming rich. Also writes of his plans to possibly herd cattle again.	1850-08-28
A.L.18.357.ab	Letter	to "Brother Alfred" Starkweather, "Brother Merrick", Frederick Merrick Starkweather, and "Sisters" from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento. Tells brother Alfred that he cannot advise him to come to California for it is a risky venture and he does not want to be held responsible should Alfred fail. Writes to Merrick that he is sad to hear of his poor health and hopes he returns to health in Northampton. Writes to his sisters little notes to each asking small favors of each.	1850-08-29
A.L.18.358	Letter	to "Father" Haynes Kingsley Starkweather and "Mother" Almira L. Starkweather from Charles in Sacramento, California. He writes to his father that he is not faring as well as he had the previous year and he is thinking of going into business with two other men	1850-08-29

		selling cattle. To his mother he writes that he is thankful for her letters and her continued care for his well being.	
A.L.18.359.ab	Letter	to "Friends" from Charles G. Starkweather in Nevada City, California, writes about his experiences over the past two and a half months. Took up with two other men whom he had a falling out with and took his money originally invested in their business and left with another group of men for Nevada City. He took ill right before he left and the illness is still lingering. He also writes about the different technique of mining that he has learned.	1850-10-24
A.L.18.360	Letter	to "Brother Merrick", Frederick Merrick Starkweather, from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento, California. Writes about his illness that he has had difficulty shaking. He returned to the Globe Hotel to be in a comfortable place and spend his days resting instead of working in the mines.	1850-11-27
A.L.18.361	Letter	to "Brother H", Haynes Kingsley Starkweather, Jr., from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento, California. Writes reminiscing about Thanksgiving in New England and says that he and a group of his friends are planning a large Thanksgiving Feast. Writes mostly about other people from the area of Northampton and what they have or have not accomplished.	1850-11-29
A.L.18.362.ab	Letter	to "Brother", Haynes Kingsley Starkweather, Jr., from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento, California. Writes of a trip to San Francisco and on his way back stopping at the ranch of Charles and Fred Phelps. Sends information about Charles back to his wife in Northampton. Writes about the dry winter and the difficulty many farmers have had growing for the spring.	1851-03-04
A.L.18.363.ab	Letter	to "Friends" from Charles G. Starkweather in Stockton, California, general news about the last month or so. It seems that Alfred Starkweather has joined him in California, leaving the house in Northampton without many males to tend to building and farming. All else is well and he is staying with the Phelps in Stockton.	1851-04-27
A.L.18.364.ab	Letter	to "Friends" from Alfred and Charles G. Starkweather in Stockton, California. Have heard the news of the death of their brother Merrick and ask for any news concerning his death. Alfred writes a little about selling hay and about how his sisters would get a good laugh out of seeing him cook for himself. Charles writes mostly of the sadness he has felt since hearing of the news of his brother's death and the difficult time that the family must be having.	1851-05-12
A.L.18.365.ab	Letter	to "Brother H", Haynes Kingsley Starkweather, and "Sisters" from Charles G. Starkweather in Sacramento, California. Writes to Haynes mainly for information about Merrick's death for they have had a difficult time receiving letters. Writes to his sisters that he is sad to hear of Lizzie's worsening eyesight and writes a little about some of the crime in the area.	1851-06-27
A.L.18.366	Letter	to "Sister Lizzie" Starkweather from Alfred Starkweather and to "Friends" from Charles G. Starkweather, basically a letter of general news. Writes about everyday chores and living on the Ranch.	1853-02-27
A.L.18.367.ab	Letter	to "Friends" from Charles G. Starkweather on the way to	1855-05-30

Aspinwall, account of journey in the Carribbean. Not sure of where is final destination is. Could be on way back to Northampton or returning to California after a stay in Northampton.

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------|---|------------|
| A.L.18.368.1-2 | Letter | to "Brother Alfred" Starkweather from Charles G. Starkweather, still possibly on a voyage returning to California. Writes a little describing the area in which he is staying with Fred Phelps. Also writes a little about what is going on at the farm in Northampton. | 1855-07-12 |
| A.L.18.369 | Letter | to "Sisters" from Charles G. Starkweather in Stockton, California, description Charles' and Alfred's cabin on the ranch in Stockton. Asks of the condition of Roxana, who he has heard is in poor health, as well as his cousin Flora's failing health. Writes that things are well with him, Alfred has been slightly ill with a slight case of fever, but all else is fine. | 1857-10-12 |

Letter of Recommendation for Thomas L. Chapman from Rev. Samuel Wolcott

**Springfield Manuscripts Vertical File (SMVF),
Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, Springfield, MA
PVHN-09-21**

Biographical Information:

See PVHN-09-03

Description:

This is a letter of recommendation for Thomas L. Chapman, M.D. written by Rev. Samuel Wolcott of Longmeadow, Mass. Attached to letter in upper left corner is a note: "sailed from New York City Dec. 21st; arrived in Port au Prince the 5th of January 1844." It is not clear to what this note refers – perhaps an earlier voyage?

Transcription:

"This may certify that the bearer, Thomas L. Chapman, M.D., has been from the time of my settlement in the ministry here, five years ago, a regular medical practitioner in this place. I have employed him exclusively in my family. I have had favorable opportunities of observing his general practice. I am happy to bear an unqualified testimony to his professional knowledge & skill, his careful attention to his patients, & his uncommon success as a physician; & in that capacity I can with confidence recommend him.

Doct. Chapman is moreover a gentleman of unobtrusive worth, well-informed, of excellent moral principles, & will be a valuable acquisition to any community of which he may become a member.

Saml. Wolcott

Longmeadow, Mass., Jan. 18, 1849"

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Letter of Recommendation for Thomas L. Chapman from Rev. Samuel Wolcott**

Location: **Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, Springfield, Hampden Co., MA**
Collection: **Springfield Manuscripts Vertical File (SMVF)**

Category: Document Object Image

Catalog #: **SMVF-E-ChapmanTL** Accession #:

Source:

Received date: Received as:

Catalog Date: Cataloged by:

Condition:

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-21**
Inventoried by: **Anthony Martin**

PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-02-20**

Description: **Letter of Recommendation for Thomas L. Chapman, M.D. written by Rev. Samuel Wolcott of Longmeadow. Attached to letter in upper left corner is a note: "sailed from New York City Dc. 21st; arrived in Port au Prince the 5th of January 1844."**

Date of Creation: **1849-01-18** Year Range:

Height: **16"** Width: **20"** Depth:

Weight:

Material: **blue paper and ink**

Creator: **Rev. Samuel Wolcott**

Condition Notes: **good; paper is folded in half vertically.**

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):

Related Items: **PVHN-09-03, PVHN-09-22, PVHN-09-23, PVHN-09-30, PVHN-09-36, PVHN-09-37**

Letter of Invitation to Thomas L. Chapman to Attend Sacramento City Council

**Springfield Manuscripts Vertical File (SMVF),
Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, Springfield, MA
PVHN-09-22**

Biographical Information:

See PVHN-09-03

Description:

This letter requests that Thomas L. Chapman, M.D., having been duly elected, attend the meeting of Sacramento City Council on 8 August 1849. Sacramento, the oldest incorporated city in California, has been governed by a council since the city's charter was approved by its citizens in 1849. The charter was recognized by the state legislature in 1850 and provided for the election of a "Common Council" made up of a Mayor and nine council members.

Transcription:

"To Thomas L. Chapman, M.D.

Sacramento City 8th Aug. 1849

You are hereby notified, that according to the returns made by the judges of the election held in Sacramento City on the first day of August 1849, you have been duly elected a member of the City council for said City, and are respectfully requested, to meet the other members elect at the St. Louis Exchange this evening at 8 oclock, to receive the oath of office.

? ? Thomas, First Magistrate for Sacramento City and District, California"

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Letter of Invitation to Thomas L. Chapman to Attend Sacramento City Council**

Location: **Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, Springfield, Hampden Co., MA**
Collection: **Springfield Manuscripts Vertical File (SMVF)**

Category: Document Object Image

Catalog #: **SMVF-E-ChapmanTL** Accession #:

Source:

Received date: Received as:

Catalog Date: Cataloged by:

Condition:

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-22** PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-02-20**

Inventoried by: **Cliff McCarthy, Kayla Haveles & Anthony Martin**

Description: **Request to Thomas L. Chapman, M.D. to attend meeting of Sacramento City Council on 8 August 1849. Sacramento, the oldest incorporated city in California, has been governed by a council since the city's charter was approved by its citizens in 1849. The charter was recognized by the state legislature in 1850 and provided for the election of a "Common Council" made up of a Mayor and nine council members.**

Date of Creation: **1849-08-08** Year Range:

Height: **5"** Width: **8"** Depth:

Weight:

Material: **paper & ink**

Creator: **? ? Thomas, First Magistrate, Sacramento City & District, California**

Condition Notes: **generally readable, some tears at edges, possible adhesive material (tape?) on reverse**

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):

On reverse: addressed to "T.L. [obscured]", also "Note" and museum code "SMVF E Chapman"

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):

Related Items: **PVHN-09-03, PVHN-09-21, PVHN-09-23, PVHN-09-30, PVHN-09-36. PVHN-09-37**

**Letter Accepting Resignation of Thomas L. Chapman
from Sacramento Common Council**

**Springfield Manuscript Vertical File (SMVF),
Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, Springfield, MA
PVHN-09-23**

Biographical Information:

See PVHN-09-03

Description:

Acceptance letter of Dr. Thomas L. Chapman's resignation from the Common Council of Sacramento City. Sacramento, the oldest incorporated city in California, has been governed by a council since the city's charter was approved by its citizens in 1849. The charter was recognized by the state legislature in 1850 and provided for the election of a "Common Council" made up of a Mayor and nine council members.

Transcription:

"Pueblo de San Jose de Guadeloupe
California Jany. 14th 1850

Dear Sir,

Your letter of Jany. 5th inst. was received today by the politeness of the Hon. Mr. Williams.

In that letter you state you have tendered your resignation to the Common Council of Sacramento City as a member of that body and that such resignation has been accepted by them. You also ask my acceptance of your resignation as the Prefect of said District.

I have the honor to comply with your request. And do hereby accept your resignation as a member of the Common Council of Sacramento City agreeable to your request in your letter to date from and after the day of the date of such resignation accepted by the Common Council of Sacramento City.

Dr. Thomas L. Chapman
Sacramento City

I have the honor to be
Respectfully your
Obt. Servt.
Elisha O. Crosby
Prefect of Sac. Dist."

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Letter Accepting Resignation of Thomas L. Chapman from Sacramento Common Council**

Location: **Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, Springfield, Hampden Co., MA**
Collection: **Springfield Manuscript Vertical File (SMVF)**

Category: Document Object Image
Catalog #: **SMVF-E-ChapmanTL** Accession #:
Source:
Received date: Received as:
Catalog Date: Cataloged by:
Condition:

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-23** PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-02-20**
Inventoried by: **Kayla Haveles**

Description: **Acceptance letter of Dr. Thomas L. Chapman's resignation from the Common Council of Sacramento City. Sacramento, the oldest incorporated city in California, has been governed by a council since the city's charter was approved by its citizens in 1849. The charter was recognized by the state legislature in 1850 and provided for the election of a "Common Council" made up of a Mayor and nine council members.**

Date of Creation: **1850-01-14** Year Range:
Height: **8 $\frac{3}{4}$ "** Width: **7 $\frac{3}{4}$ "** Depth:
Weight:

Material: **blue paper & ink**
Creator: **Elisha O. Crosby, Prefect of Sacramento District**
Condition Notes: **generally good, some adhesive on reverse at top, some discoloration and small holes**

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):
On reverse: "SMVF-E-ChapmanTL" (museum code)

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):

Related Items: **PVHN-09-03, PVHN-09-21, PVHN-09-22, PVHN-09-30, PVHN-09-36, PVHN-09-37**

Transcripts of Three Letters from Enoch Hale Burt

Burt Family Letters, Westhampton Historical Society, Westhampton, MA
PVHN-09-24

Biographical Information:

Enoch Hale Burt was born about 1834 and went to California via Nicaragua aboard the *Star of the West* in 1853. He died returning from California aboard the ill-fated *Central America*, which sank off the Carolina coast in a hurricane in 1857. According to the Massachusetts state census, taken in August of 1855, the following people were living in the Burt home in Westhampton: Levi Burt, 64, the father, a "farmer"; Betsey H. Burt, 61, the mother; Francis Burt, 28, a son who is listed as a "farmer"; Joseph Day, 47, a "farmer"; William Carroll, 22, a "farmer"; Thomas Bolton, 16, a "farmer" and Augusta F. Shaw, 14, no occupation. Augusta is Frances Augusta Shaw, who, in 1859 would become the wife of Enoch's brother George. Augusta was born in 1841, and so was about fourteen years old at the time of these letters.

Description:

Three letters from Enoch Hale Burt in Diamond Spring, Cal. to his mother Betsey in Westhampton, MA.

Excerpts:

“But how are you getting along at home? Methinks I can see you all in your respective places. It is now half past nine o'clock. Augusta has just finished washing the dishes. Mother (if well) has taken her seat in the big rocking chair and is busily engaged in knitting someone of the family a pair of stockings. Father has not yet come in from work. All is silent. William sits in the corner pondering in his mind what shall be his future course of life, whether to be a minister, lawyer, mechanic, peddler, fiddler or whether to get married and settle down on a farm. Thomas, where is he? Out in the kitchen fixing a trap to catch that old offender of a rat that has so long brought mortification upon all his boastings.

Another half hour has elapsed. Father has come in from work. Mother raises herself in her chair, raises her glasses from over her eyes, and takes a glance around the room. The first object that catches her eye is Augusta asleep in her chair back in some corner of the room. With a voice of command she exclaims, ‘Augusta, go to bed.’ Augusta raises her head, opens her eyes, takes a look around the room, closes her eyes and drops to sleep again, while Mother sets herself busily at work getting Father some super.

Supper is over. Father and Mother are about to retire when they take a glance around the room to see if there is any cats in the room, when what do they discover but Augusta still asleep in her chair. Augusta soon finds her way to bed and the family retires for the night.”

Excerpts (continued):

“I suppose you have heard that George has gone to Yreka I had a letter from him about two weeks ago, he wrote nothing but that he had got there alive and well. I have just bought a claim and paid \$50 for it I think I shall stop here for the present unless George writes for me to come up there. I am stoping in a cabin by myself. Barton has gone away cutting logs for a few weeks I have not heard from Austin and Josiah for some time. They are down at Campo Seco they forwarded Georges letters up here and I forwarded them to Yreka. I received a letter from Francis the last mail I answered it yesterday. He wanted to know if I has seen any of the big trees that we used to hear of I forgot to tell him that some people in Calaveras Co. had a ball on the stump of a tree I wish you would tell him when (in some home) vacation I have not seen it but I understand it actually exists I believe it is 32 feet in diameter. Isn't it one of the wonders of the world. Barton and myself while we were up in the mountains cut down a pine tree that measured 8 feet across the stump We saw plenty of them that were larger but thought we would not cut them down. I have got to go and get my pick sharpened so here I must close for tonight.”

“Diamond Spring [California]

Dec. 14

Dear Mother,

I received a letter from you directed to George and as part of it was directed to me I suppose it belongs to me to answer it. I see by your letter that the California boys are returning home with a rush. I think they must have got frightened George as I suppose you know before this time is among the number”

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Transcripts of Three Letters from Enoch Hale Burt**

Location: **Westhampton Historical Society, Westhampton, Hampshire Co., MA**

Collection: **Burt Family Letters**

Category: Document Object Image Collection

Catalog #:

Accession #:

Source: **original letters are in the possession of Thomas Andrews of Gloucester, MA**

Received date:

Catalog Date:

Cataloged by:

Condition:

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-24**

PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-04-30**

Inventoried by: **Cliff McCarthy**

Description: **Three letters from Enoch Hale Burt in Diamond Spring, Cal. to his mother Betsey in Westhampton, MA.**

Date of Creation:

Year Range: **1855-1856**

Height:

Width:

Depth:

Weight:

Material:

Creator: **Enoch Hale Burt (c. 1834-1857)**

Condition Notes:

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):

**Original letters are in the possession of Thomas Andrews of Gloucester, MA.
Transcript made by Westhampton Historical Society.**

Related Items: **PVHN-09-25, PVHN-09-26**

Transcript of Letter from George Burt

**Burt Family Letters, Westhampton Historical Society, Westhampton, MA
PVHN-09-25**

Biographical Information:

George Burt was born in Westhampton in 1832, making him Enoch's older brother. He returned to Massachusetts and died in Westhampton in 1901.

Description:

Letter from Enoch H. Burt's older brother, George Burt, in Diamond Spring, California, to their mother, Betsey (Hale) Burt, in Westhampton, Massachusetts.

Transcription:

“Diamond Sunday [Morn]
April 29th [1860? is penciled on this letter, but that
date is incorrect. April 29, 1855 fell on a Sunday]

Dear Mother,

I received your letter dated March 15th last Thursday it was the first letter which I had got for ten weeks I had made up my mind that you was not going to write any more but I was deceived. I am living here alone now and have been for the three weeks am chief cook and bottle washer think that I shall stay here this summer shall if I do not go back to the camp which I don't mean to do if I can help it. Enoch has been up in the mountain for the last few weeks he was not very well when he went up but he came back a week ago today and staid one night, and then went back again his health is good now. I do not know what to write about coming home I have not seen E. since I got your letter and I don't know when he will take a notion to go but I think soon that I shall come in about a year from this time but can't tell for certain yet where is [Ot?] and all the rest of the boys that [race] [toward] to the citty if you know I wish you would write and let me no I can't think of anything more to write this time. Direct to Diamond Springs as before give my love to all the folks from your affectionate son,

G. Burt.”

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Letter from George Burt**

Location: **Westhampton Historical Society, Westhampton, Hampshire Co., MA**
Collection: **Burt Family Letters**

Category: Document Object Image Collection

Catalog #:

Accession #:

Source: **original letter is in the possession of Thomas Andrews of Gloucester, MA**

Received date:

Catalog Date:

Cataloged by:

Condition:

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-25**

PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-04-30**

Inventoried by: **Cliff McCarthy**

Description: **Letter from Enoch H. Burt's older brother, George Burt, in Diamond Spring, California, to their mother, Betsey (Hale) Burt, in Westhampton, MA.**

Date of Creation: **1855-04-29**

Year Range:

Height:

Width:

Depth:

Weight:

Material:

Creator: **George Burt (c. 1832-1901)**

Condition Notes:

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):

**Original letter is in the possession of Thomas Andrews of Gloucester, MA.
Transcript made by Westhampton Historical Society.**

Related Items: **PVHN-09-24, PVHN-09-26**

Letter from A. L. Clark to Francis Burt

Burt Family Letters, Westhampton Historical Society, Westhampton, MA
PVHN-09-26

Biographical Information:

A. L. Clark was a former Amherst College classmate of Enoch H. Burt's older brother, Francis Burt. A. L. Clark and classmate Crawford were mentioned by Francis in previous correspondence to his mother. While en route to a new teaching position in Savannah, GA in 1855, Francis stopped by the Union Theological Seminary to visit "old college friends" while in New York before boarding his steamer. Other classmates included: Clapp, Hagen, Faust, Carr, Bridgman, Caleb and Blodgett.

The steamship *S. S. Central America* sank in a hurricane in September 1857, along with 400 passengers and crew and 30,000 pounds of gold, contributing to the Panic of 1857. Several hundred people were saved by passing ships. Enoch Hale Burt was a passenger on the *Central America*. While in New York, Clark was asked to determine the fate of Enoch Hale Burt.

Description:

This is a letter from A. L. Clark in New York City to Francis Burt, Enoch's brother, giving information about the fate of Enoch Burt, who was a passenger on the steamer *Central America*.

Excerpt:

“Union *Theo[logical]*. Sem. [*Seminary*] NY
Oct. 28, 1857, Wed. Eve.

My dear friend Burt,

This forenoon I received your letter and was glad to fulfill your request for I sympathize with you in your suspense, in regard to your brother, and this afternoon I have done what I could in making inquiries, and hasten to let you know the result which is nothing encouraging, but rather to confirm your fears for the worst. I went directly to the office of the California Steamboat Co. and was treated very gentlemanly in making my inquiries. I could learn nothing direct as definite, but they suppose your brother was lost, they know nothing to make them think contrary. They showed me the list written in San Francisco, received about a month after the wreck by the Steamer *Northern Lights*, of all the passengers, their No. + fare against each name, I found your brother's name E. H. Burt No. 126 paid \$100 for passage, as a steerage passenger...”

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Letter from A. L. Clark to Francis Burt**

Location: **Westhampton Historical Society, Westhampton, Hampshire Co., MA**
Collection: **Burt Family Letters**

Category: Document Object Image Collection

Catalog #:

Accession #:

Source: **original letter is in the possession of Thomas Andrews of Gloucester, MA**

Received date:

Catalog Date:

Cataloged by:

Condition:

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-26**

PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-04-30**

Inventoried by: **Cliff McCarthy**

Description: **Letter from A. L. Clark in New York City to Francis Burt, Enoch's brother, giving information about the fate of Enoch Burt, who was a passenger on the steamer *Central America***

Date of Creation: **1857-08-28**

Year Range:

Height: Width:

Depth:

Weight:

Material:

Creator: **A. L. Clark**

Condition Notes:

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):

**Original letter is in the possession of Thomas Andrews of Gloucester, MA.
Transcript made by Westhampton Historical Society.**

Related Items: **PVHN-09-24, PVHN-09-25**

**Letter from Harriet Knapp Regarding the
Death of William W. Knapp from Cholera**

**Burr Family Material, Worthington Historical Society, MA
PVHN-09-27**

Biographical Information:

Worthington native William W. Knapp was already living in Ohio when he joined the Western Mining Company of Cincinnati for the overland trip to California. The transcription below mentions Messrs. Harris, Marbley and Sheppard, who were other members of that party. William Knapp was the husband of Harriet Knapp, the author of the letter, and brother of Persis (Knapp) Burr, its recipient.

Description:

Letter from Harriet Knapp, of Massillon, Ohio, to Cummington resident Persis Burr, describing the death of William W. Knapp of cholera on his way to California by wagon train.

Excerpt:

“...Mr S[hppard] says that he never saw so bad a case of colera the Doctor was caled immediately but his stomach would not bear any medicine This was always the trouble with him in sickness S. says that he was with him all night that they rubed [rubbed] him all the latter part of the night and that often his arms were cramped about his head and he would beg him to straighten them when his legs were in the same condition says that he tried hard to save him for he could not bear think that he must die so far from home in a tent and on so hard a bed of which he complained incessantly he said that he should not recover when he was first taken Mr H[arris] was sick in another tent he sent for him when he went in he gave him his hand but could not speak dear sister are these not dreadful facts for me to write he died Monday about ten o'clock the 5 of may and was buried in the village Church yard Tuesday the day they were to start for California”

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Letter from Harriet Knapp Regarding the Death of William W. Knapp from Cholera**

Location: **Worthington Historical Society, Hampshire Co., MA**

Collection: **Burr Family Material**

Category: Document Object Image Collection

Catalog #: _____ Accession #: _____

Source: **on loan to Worthington Historical Society from owner Franklin Andrus Burr of Williamsburgh, MA**

Received date: _____

Catalog Date: _____

Cataloged by: _____

Condition: _____

PVHN Inventory #: **PVHN-09-27**

PVHN Inventory Date: **2009-04-27**

Inventoried by: **Cliff McCarthy**

Description: **Letter from Harriet Knapp, of Massillon, Ohio, to Cummington resident Persis Burr, describing the death of William W. Knapp of cholera on his way to California by wagon train.**

Date of Creation: **1849-06-24**

Year Range: _____

Height: _____ Width: _____

Depth: _____

Weight: _____

Material: **blue paper and ink**

Creator: **Harriet Knapp**

Condition Notes: **generally good, some discoloration and foxing at the edges**

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.):

Addressed to: "WW Knapp, Cummington, PM Knapp, M Burr"

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.):

Original manuscript on loan to Worthington Historical Society from owner Franklin Andrus Burr of Williamsburgh, MA

Letter from Fordyce Benjamin to Franklin Burr

**Burr Family Material, Worthington Historical Society, Worthington, MA
PVHN-09-28**

Biographical Information:

Though born at Albany, New York in 1826, Fordyce Benjamin was the son of Chancy Benjamin, a native of Worthington, Mass., and had visited his family in Worthington. As related in his letter, Fordyce Benjamin found success and satisfaction in California, though not in the gold fields, but as a farmer. He married there in 1850 and remained in California.

Description:

Letter from Fordyce L. Benjamin in California describing his situation and prospects to Franklin Burr, an acquaintance in Worthington.

Excerpts:

“I don't think there will be any use in my describing the gold mines or telling you of the great fortunes that have been made here, so I shall confine my remarks to myself & my situation, my prospects, and to the great revolution which has taken place in this country during the last three years. In the first place, I am well. Am a clerk in a store at twelve hundred dollars a year, have purchased a tract of land consisting of two hundred and sixty-six acres, it cost me \$750.00. I have put \$1400.00 worth of improvements upon it and have fifty acres under a state of cultivation, forty acres sowed to barley which is now eight inches high, ten acres to potatoes. Cow beans, melons and all kinds of vegetables are doing well. I let the land to a couple of fellows upon shares for I have not time to attend to it myself and more than that, I object to hard work in Calafornia myself. For the above tract of land I have been offered seven thousand dollars independent of the crop which is on it...but I refused. This land is in the great Napa valley, on the creeke at the head of navigation and adjoining Napa City, the shire town of Napa County – one of the most beautiful places in the country.”

“San Francisco three years ago contained but twenty-five houses and about five hundred inhabitants – now it contains upwards of thirty thousand inhabitants and some of the most splendid buildings that ever was built...Three years ago seven vessels lay in the harbor of San Francisco, now over three hundred lie there, mostly deserted by their crews. Then steam was unknown, now the steam vessels find their way into every river, creek and inlet of the country. Then the long dreary dismal voyage around Cape Horn had to be taken from New Yorke here. Now thirty days is the passage, thanks to the immortal Fulton.”

Gold Rush Inventory Form

Document/Object Name: **Letter from Fordyce Benjamin to Franklin Burr**

Location: **Worthington Historical Society, Worthington, Hampshire Co., MA**
Collection: **Burr Family Material**

Category: Document Object Image Collection

Catalog #: _____ Accession #: _____

Source: **on loan to Worthington Historical Society from owner Martha Burr Sloper of Pittsfield, MA**

Received date: _____

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Inventoried by: **Cliff McCarthy**

Description: **Letter from Fordyce L. Benjamin in California describing his situation and prospects to Franklin Burr, an acquaintance in Worthington.**

Date of Creation: **1850-04-10**

Year Range: _____

Height: _____

Width: _____

Depth: _____

Weight: _____

Material: **blue paper and ink**

Creator: **Fordyce L. Benjamin**

Condition Notes: **generally good, some discoloration and foxing at the edges**

Inscription Information (type, technique, language, etc.): _____

Provenance Information (collector, collection date, site, place of origin, etc.): _____

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