



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 158

Miscellaneous Documents Relating to Massachusetts and Virginia, 1835-1884: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 158

Extent: 1 box (1 linear foot)

Preferred Citation Style: *Folder Title*. Miscellaneous Documents Relating to Massachusetts and Virginia. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

Provenance: Received as a gift in January, 2012.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Jennifer Hornsby, April 2, 2012; updated by Amanda Morse, March 6, 2014.

Abstract: This collection consists of mostly legal documents relating to humanitarian issues in Massachusetts and Augusta County, Virginia from 1835 to 1884. In the collection are letters, a trial transcript, accounts, trial notebooks, a Statement by the Court of Common Pleas, an application for the Home of Aged Men, and calculation papers.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains miscellaneous documents dating from 1835-1884 relating to humanitarian issues and legal trials in Massachusetts and Virginia. These documents include three business letters including a letter written by 1855 Massachusetts Governor Henry J. Gardner (1819-1892) to Sheriff John S. Keyes (1821-1910) of Middlesex County concerning a recent legislative act

about the transfer of incarcerated persons deemed insane to the Hospital at Rainsford Island; seven accounts of the Overseers of the Poor prepared by Jacob Van Lear, the President of the Overseers in Augusta County, Virginia; and a Statement by the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas from the County of Grafton [New Hampshire] about the money spent on paupers. Also in the collection are two trial testimony notebooks belonging to Samuel Daniels Davenport (1801-1863) acting as Trial Justice for Middlesex County [Massachusetts]. Samuel Daniels Davenport was a Massachusetts legal and business figure in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and served as a member of the Massachusetts Senate in 1853. The documents also include an application for the Home of Aged Men in Massachusetts for George P. Sparrell of Scituate, Massachusetts; a transcript of oaths from the Court of General Sessions of the Peace in Genesee, New York about the trial of Elihu Ansden of Gainesville, New York and Joseph Wilson of Batavia, New York for the poisoning of Betsy Simmons; and undated loose leaf papers with calculations.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

The items are arranged chronologically.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The collection is entirely in English.

Container List

Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	Memo for Livy? and Calculations	[undated]
2	[untitled] contains loose paper with calculations	[undated]
3	Court of General Sessions of the Peace, Batavia, Genesee, New York. Joseph Wilson and Elihu Ansden vs. the people	1835 February 7

4	Letter to Amos Lawrence, Esquire, from Daniel McLord regarding Boston Seamen's Friend Society	1843 September 28
5	Accounting of the Overseers of Augusta [Virginia], prepared by Jacob Van Lear, President to Overseers of the Poor	1843 June -1845 June
6	Accounting of the Overseers of Augusta [Virginia], prepared by Jacob Van Lear, President to Overseers of the Poor	1847 March
7	Accounting of the Overseers of Augusta [Virginia], prepared by Jacob Virginian Lear, President to Overseers of the Poor	1847 December
8	Accounting of the Overseers of Augusta [Virginia], prepared by Jacob Van Lear, President to Overseers of the Poor	1847 June -1848 April
9	Accounting of the Overseers of Augusta [Virginia], prepared by Jacob Van Lear, President to Overseers of the Poor	1847 June -1848 June
10	Accounting of the Overseers of Augusta [Virginia], prepared by Jacob Van Lear, President to Overseers of the Poor	1848 December -1850 June
11	Accounting of the Overseers of Augusta [Virginia], prepared by Jacob Van Lear, President to Overseers of the Poor	1848 December- 1850 December
12	Statement showing amount of money spent on Paupers in Grafton County [New Hampshire] for years 1841-1850 inclusive	1851 January 22
13	Letter to County Superintendent (Augusta County, Virginia) from John Churchman pertaining to the number of indigent children entitled to the benefit of the Literary Fund	1851 November 21
14	Letter from Massachusetts Governor Henry J. Gardner to John S. Keyes, Sheriff of Middlesex County; Re: "Lunatic Paupers"	1855 February 21

15	Samuel Daniels Davenport, Trial Justice for Middlesex County [Massachusetts], Testimony Notebook, Volume 1	1858 July - 1859 June
16	Samuel Daniels Davenport, Trial Justice for Middlesex County [Massachusetts], Testimony Notebook, Volume 2	1859 June-1860 March
17	Application for Home for Aged Men, George P. Sparrell of Roxbury (born June 1812, Scituate, Massachusetts.)	1884 August 8