

# Guide to the Samuel Francis Cleveland Papers

WA MSS S-4542



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March 2023

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-4542

**CREATOR:** Cleveland, Samuel Francis, 1815-1893

**TITLE:** Samuel Francis Cleveland papers

**DATES:** 1847-1923

**BULK DATES:** 1847-1893

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, diaries, and other papers kept by Samuel Francis Cleveland, 1847-1893. Material relates to his life and work in Bennington, Waconda, Delphos, and Galena, Kansas. Documented are Cleveland's relationships with wife Lucy Knight Cleveland, sons Mortimer Lindsay Cleveland and Arthur Artemas Cleveland, and father-in-law John Knight; his efforts farming and running a nursery; his travels throughout Kansas; and his political opinions and religious beliefs. Present throughout are indications of crop failures, prairie fires, locusts, buffalo and antelope hunting, debts, family dysfunction and disagreements over guardianship, and strained relationships between white settlers and indigenous peoples. Other material includes ephemera, legal documents, medicinal recipes, loose notes, and receipts, as well as a leather wallet. Material postdating the death of Samuel Cleveland, from 1893 to 1923, relates to his sons.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.sfcleveland>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.sfcleveland>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Michael Brown Rare Books, LLC on the William Robertson Coe Fund No. 3, 2022.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Samuel Francis Cleveland Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

Samuel Francis Cleveland Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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### Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

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## Samuel Francis Cleveland (1815-1893)

Samuel Francis Cleveland (1815-1893) was born in Marlboro, Ulster County, New York, to Elijah Cleveland (1775-1834) and Lucretia Brookins Cleveland (1787-1837). In 1834, the Cleveland family left their home in Preble, Cortland County, New York, for Wisconsin. However, Elijah Cleveland died en route near Elkhart, Indiana, on September 20, 1834. Lucretia Cleveland died in Elkhart in 1837.

In 1847, Samuel Cleveland married Lucy Knight Cleveland (1828-1868) in Michigan. Their son, Mortimer Lindsay Cleveland (1848-1907), was born in Wisconsin. Cleveland left Wisconsin in 1852 to mine gold in California, while his wife and son moved with the Knight family to Bennington, Ottawa County, Kansas. The Cleveland family reunited in the 1860s, and a second son, Arthur Artemas Cleveland (1867-1937), was born in Bennington in 1867.

Samuel Cleveland worked as a farmer, providing crops and stock to businesses in Bennington, Salina, Lindsey, and other towns and villages in Kansas. He also served as postmaster for Bennington.

In the early 1870s, family troubles and crop failures eventually led Cleveland to sell the farm and move with his sons to Waconda, Mitchell County, Kansas. He unsuccessfully continued farming in Waconda, which led to a relocation to Cawker City, Mitchell County, Kansas, in the mid-1870s. In Cawker City, he established a

nursery and during the winter months, worked as an agent for nurseries selling fruit trees and grape vines on commission. He also sold insurance and subscriptions to multiple publications on commission.

In 1882, Cleveland moved to Delphos, Ottawa County, Kansas. Mortimer Cleveland settled in Short Creek (later Galena), Cherokee County, Kansas, where he worked in the lead mines. Arthur Cleveland and Samuel Cleveland later joined him in Galena.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence, diaries, and other papers kept by Samuel Francis Cleveland, 1847-1893. Material relates to his life and work in Bennington, Waconda, Delphos, and Galena, Kansas. Documented are Cleveland's relationships with wife Lucy Knight Cleveland, sons Mortimer Lindsay Cleveland and Arthur Artemas Cleveland, and father-in-law John Knight; his efforts farming and running a nursery; his travels throughout Kansas; and his political opinions and religious beliefs. Present throughout are indications of crop failures, prairie fires, locusts, buffalo and antelope hunting, debts, family dysfunction and disagreements over guardianship, and strained relationships between white settlers and indigenous peoples.

Other material includes ephemera, legal documents, medicinal recipes, loose notes, and receipts, as well as a leather wallet. Material postdating the death of Samuel Cleveland, from 1893 to 1923, relates to his sons.

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## Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by format and chronologically thereafter.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence	1861 January 13-1868 October 18
b. 1, f. 2	Correspondence	1870 August 20-1877 April 16
b. 1, f. 3	Correspondence	1881 January 30-1883 December 9
b. 1, f. 4	Correspondence	1884 January 4-1885 June 7
b. 1, f. 5	Correspondence	1885 June 26- September 18
b. 1, f. 6	Correspondence	1885 October 4-1886 June 2, undated
b. 1, f. 7	Diary	1865 December 22-1866 January 4
b. 1, f. 8	Diary	1867 August 11-1868 January 29
b. 1, f. 9	Diary	1868 January 30- June 20
b. 1, f. 10	Diary	1868 June 21- August 15
b. 1, f. 11	Diary	1868 August 18-1870 September 11
b. 1, f. 12	Diary	1868 September 19-1869 January 1
b. 1, f. 13	Diary	1869 June 30-1870 January 23
b. 1, f. 14	Diary	1870 January 24- April 19
b. 1, f. 15	Diary	1873 November 10-1874 January 22

b. 1, f. 16	Diary	1876 July 26-1877 October 9
b. 1, f. 17	Diary	1879 May 2- December 23
b. 1, f. 18	Diary	1880 May 7-1881 February 4
b. 1, f. 19	Diary	1881 March 5-18
b. 1, f. 20	Employment with Burlington Insurance Co.	1881-1883
b. 1, f. 21	Ephemera	1885-1886, undated
b. 1, f. 22	Legal documents	1869-1979, undated
b. 1, f. 23	Medical recipes and treatments	1869-1895, undated
b. 1, f. 24	Notes on Biblical readings	1859-1860
b. 1, f. 25-26	Loose notes	1867-1873, undated
b. 1, f. 27	Preliminary examination report for patent for improvement in cream cans	1872 August 7
b. 1, f. 28-31	Receipts	1847-1923, undated
b. 1, f. 32	Leather wallet	undated

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Big game hunting -- Kansas  
Custody of children -- Kansas  
Families -- Kansas  
Farmers -- Kansas  
Farms -- Kansas  
Fathers and sons  
Formulas, recipes, etc.  
Indians of North America -- Kansas  
Nurseries (Horticulture) -- Kansas  
Postmasters -- Kansas

### Acquired From

Michael Brown Rare Books, LLC , bookseller

### Geographic Names

Cawker City (Kan.)  
Cherokee County (Kan.)  
Galena (Kan.)  
Kansas -- Description and travel  
Kansas -- Economic conditions -- 19th century  
Mitchell County (Kan.)  
Ottawa County (Kan.)

### Genres / Formats

Diaries  
Kansas -- Social life and customs -- 19th century  
Legal documents  
Receipts (financial records)  
Wallets

### Occupations

Farmers -- Kansas -- 19th century  
Postmasters -- Kansas -- 19th century

### Names

Cleveland, Arthur Artemas, 1867-1937  
Cleveland, Lucy Knight, 1828-1868  
Cleveland, Mortimer Lindsay, 1848-1907  
Knight, John, 1802-1879

### Families

Cleveland family