

Guide to the Selden Family Papers

MS 673



compiled by Steve Hensen

March 1973

Yale University Library
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 673

CREATOR: Selden family

TITLE: Selden family papers

DATES: 1787–1883

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.83 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, writings (including school essays and exercises, poetry and political essays), miscellaneous accounts, school bills, and other papers of the Selden family of Hadlyme, Connecticut. The principal family members represented are Richard Ely Selden (1797-1868), a member of the class of 1818 at Yale, a justice of the peace, and a state senator, and his son Samuel Hart Selden (1826-1891), a member of the class of 1848.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0673>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0673>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library in 1973.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Selden Family Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Samuel Hart Selden was the second son of Richard Ely Selden (1797-1868), who graduated from Yale College in 1818, was a farmer and a member of the Connecticut State Senate in 1844. Samuel's mother was Elizabeth, daughter of William Lynde, of Saybrook, Connecticut. He was born in Hadlyme, in the township of Lyme, Connecticut, March 16, 1826.

After graduation from Yale College in 1848, it was his desire to study for the ministry, but his health did not permit. For a year he was a tutor in the family of William Denniston, in Salisbury Mills, New York, and thereafter followed the profession of civil engineering. From 1850 to 1862 he was engaged in railroad work, principally with the Erie & Pittsburgh Railroad, making his home at first in Batavia, New York, and afterwards in Erie and Girard, Pennsylvania. From 1862 to the time of his death he was connected with the Chicago & Northwestern Railway, as resident engineer in charge of the North Michigan Peninsula Division, residing for three years at Marquette, and from 1865 at Escanaba, Michigan.

On June 16, 1853, Selden married Sarah A., the eldest child of Oliver I. Lay, of Lyme, Connecticut. Mrs. Selden and five of their seven daughters outlived him. The third daughter is the wife of C. P. Coffin (Yale, 1881), and the fourth of T. H. Linsley (Yale, 1876s). Early in November 1891, Selden left Escanaba with his family for their winter home in Harrison, Florida. Making a few days' stop at Linsley's home in Evanston, Illinois, he was there taken ill with erysipelas and passed away on November 25, 1891, at the age of 65.

Selden was a man of winning presence, of strong character, and of deep religious convictions. For twenty-five years he was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. His life was blameless and his influence strongly felt in the community on the side of religion and morality.

(Derived from *Yale Obituary Record*, 1859-70 and 1880-1902).

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, writings (including school essays and exercises, poetry and political essays), miscellaneous accounts, school bills, and other papers of the Selden family of Hadlyme, Connecticut. The principal family members represented are Richard Ely Selden (1797-1868), a member of the class of 1818 at Yale, a justice of the peace, and a state senator, and his son Samuel Hart Selden (1826-1891), a member of the class of 1848.

Collection Contents

Original accession

Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	1795, 1815-1817
b. 1, f. 2	1818-1819
b. 1, f. 3	1832, 1835-1836, 1838-1839
b. 1, f. 4	1840-1842, 1844-1848, 1850-1851, 1862
b. 1, f. 5	Drafts, undated
b. 1, f. 6	Invitations sent to Richard E. Selden
b. 1, f. 7	Writings: poetry
b. 1, f. 8	Writings: essays and exercises
b. 1, f. 9	College bills and other Yale-related papers
b. 1, f. 10	Miscellaneous legal papers
b. 1, f. 11	Selden family-miscellaneous

Accession 2018-M-0031: Additional Material, 1787–1883

This accession comprises ledgers, farm records, and family papers documenting the Selden family's farm life in Lyme, Connecticut. The ledgers, 1787-1884, were maintained by Richard Ely Selden and record purchases and payments for goods and services and logs of employee's activities and pay. Transactions include business dealings for timber, grass, hay, fish, livestock, and produce. The ledgers primarily document the farm's business, but they also record births and deaths, marriages performed by Selden, poems, and other personal matters. The farm records, 1787-1845, comprise manuscript material pertaining to the farm's business operations. The family papers, 1812-1868, comprise clippings, writings, and poetry pertaining to the Selden family.

The accession is arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.

Ledgers		
b. 1, f. 1	bulk 1787–1803	bulk 1787–1803
b. 1, f. 2-3	1803–1807	1803–1807
b. 2, f. 1	1807–1814	1807–1814
b. 3, f. 1	1817–1833	1817–1833
b. 3, f. 2	1824–1850	1824–1850
b. 2, f. 2-3	1850–1877	1850–1877
b. 2, f. 4	1850–1883	1850–1883
Farm records		
b. 2, f. 5	1787–1845	1787–1845
Family papers		
b. 2, f. 6	1812–1868	1812–1868

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

Families

Geographic Names

Connecticut -- Politics and government
Hadlyme (Conn.) -- History
United States -- Politics and government

Occupations

Legislators
Politicians

Names

Selden, R. E. (Richard Ely), 1797-1868
Selden, Samuel Hart, 1826-1891

Families

Selden family

Corporate Bodies

Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1818
Yale University -- Students