Introduction

This collection contains materials from the life of Emma Grant Hubbard (Mrs. Anderson “Devereaux”) Dieter (1825-1896) and her family members. The papers were donated to the Vermont Historical Society by Marilyn Schwab in 2009 through inheritance from her great-aunt, Marjorie L. Morris (ms. acc. no. 2009.9). The collection is housed in one archival flip-top box and occupies .5 feet of shelf space.

Biographical Sketch

Emma Grant Hubbard’s parents were Chester Hubbard (1788-1832) and Julia Granville Jewett (1794-1881), grand-daughter of Elisha Payne (1730-1807), the lieutenant governor of Vermont in 1781. Chester Hubbard was a prosperous merchant with a general merchandise store at 2 State Street in Montpelier, Vermont. In 1822, he became the partner of Julia’s brother, [Col.] Elisha “Payne” Jewett, in Hubbard & Jewett Co., merchants in Montpelier.

Emma Hubbard was born April 17, 1825, in Montpelier, Vermont. When her father, Chester, died in 1832, Emma Hubbard and her siblings were left in the care of a guardian, C.J. Keith. Emma’s siblings were Julia, Timothy, Ruth, and Chester (Jr.) Hubbard. Timothy Hubbard (1823-1880) became a wealthy merchant, real estate owner, and landlord in Montpelier, Vt.; Julia Hubbard (1821-1871) married Judge James M. Shafter, Secretary of State of Vermont (1842-1849). Judge and Mrs. Shafter later removed to Wisconsin and then to California. Ruth J. Hubbard (1827-1844) died at age 16; and Chester, Jr., Hubbard (Feb.-Sep., 1830) died as an infant. The widowed Julia (Mrs. Chester) Hubbard married Augustine Clark(e) in 1840. She died in 1881 in Montpelier. The Hubbards were an affluent family, deriving much of their wealth from Chester’s estate and Timothy’s business pursuits.

Emma Hubbard married Anderson “Devereaux” Dieter in 1854. Devereaux Dieter, son of a naval commodore, was born in Baltimore, Md., in 1824. Mr. Dieter became partner in the cotton and sugar brokerage firm of Levy & Dieter, based in New Orleans, La., and was consul for Venezuela to the U.S. government. Dieter spent time away from Emma in his business travels, especially during the Civil War years, when conditions discouraged travel and life in New Orleans was hard. During the war years, Emma remained in Montpelier with her son, Frederic, and other Hubbard family members, including her mother, Julia, and her brother, Timothy Hubbard.

It is apparent from his letters that Devereaux struggled for many years to earn a good living for his family. Whatever capital and business momentum he did manage to amass over the years became a casualty of the Civil War. Levy & Dieter filed for bankruptcy in 1871. Devereaux Dieter died in 1878 in New York City.
Emma Grant (Hubbard) Dieter Papers

Emma and Devereaux’s only child, Frederic Jewett Dieter, was born in 1860 in New Orleans. Frederic grew up in Montpelier and became a successful attorney in New York City, specializing in corporate and surrogate law. Frederic never married. He died in 1944 in New York City.

Emma Hubbard Dieter did not remarry after Devereaux’s death and lived in Montpelier until her death in 1896.

Scope and Content

The collection consists almost entirely of correspondence between family members, and primarily of Devereaux’s letters to Emma between 1852 and 1878. The letters contain interesting observations of life and business dealings in the Confederacy around New Orleans during the Civil War. The letters reveal a man working to succeed in the cotton and sugar trade, with the war and other circumstances continually foiling his attempts. The letters describe the wartime destruction of cotton crops by plantation owners, the difficulty of transporting goods along normal trade routes, and greedy federal military officers trying to profiteer by controlling the flow of goods. Unfortunately, this collection contains no actual financial records to document these events, but such documents might perhaps be found in the related Timothy J. Hubbard Papers, Doc 76 (see below).

The collection also contains considerable personal correspondence between Emma and her mother, Julia, in the 1850s, as well as letters between Julia and her other children, Timothy J. Hubbard and Julia Hubbard Shafter. There are letters of Emma’s son Frederic, of Emma’s uncle [Elisha] “Payne” Jewett, and of her guardian, C.J. Keith, as well as some miscellaneous correspondence and memorabilia. The latter includes a journal Emma kept of her sister Ruth’s final days in 1844.

Several of the letters in the collection were transcribed to typescript by a person unknown, thought to be Marjorie Morris. MSA 536:0.1 contains Mrs. Morris’ notes, photographs, correspondence, news clipping, and a copy of “Emily” Hubbard Dieter’s death certificate. It also contains a photo of “Jewett’s Tourists” house at 157 State Street in Montpelier, Vermont, owned by Fred L. Jewett in the 1930s. However, no connection between Mr. Jewett and Emma’s Jewett line has been detected.

Related Collections and Materials

The Timothy J. Hubbard Papers, Doc 76, deal mainly with Emma Hubbard Dieter’s brother, Timothy Hubbard, and his many business dealings in Montpelier throughout the nineteenth century up until 1881. Some of these items relate to Emma and Devereaux Dieter. Much material in Doc 76 dates from Emma’s grandfather, Capt. Timothy J. Hubbard (Sr.), and her father Chester. It includes Frederic J. Dieter’s estate papers.

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MSC 170 contains additional business papers from Timothy and Emma’s branch of the Hubbard family, during the 1800s.

Daybooks from Chester Hubbard’s general store may be found at XMSC-33 and XMSC-34.

For Hubbard genealogy, see One Thousand Years of Hubbard History, 866-1895, call no.: *929.2 H86d, and others in the library’s collection.

Inventory

MSA 536:1 Correspondence, Julia Granville Jewett Hubbard Clark (Emma’s mother), 1851-1855, includes four letters in both typescript and ms.
:2 _____, _____, 1856-1860, and undated, includes three letters in both typescript and ms.
:3 _____, Anderson “Devereaux” Dieter (Emma’s husband), 1852, includes one letter in typescript only.
:4 _____, _____, 1853 Jan-Jun.
:5 _____, _____, 1853 Jul-Dec.
:6 _____, _____, 1854 Jan-Apr.
:7 _____, _____, 1854 May-Dec.
:8 _____, _____, 1855-1859.
:9 _____, _____, 1860, 1862.
:10 _____, _____, 1863 Feb-May (lacks Jan).
:12 _____, _____, 1864.
:13 _____, _____, 1865.
:15 _____, _____, 1870 Jun-Dec; 1871 Nov; 1872 Nov; 1878 Mar.
:16 _____, _____, undated letters, miscellaneous fragments, loose envelopes.
:17 _____, Frederic Jewett Dieter (Emma’s son), 1864-1895.
:18 _____, family members: Julia Hubbard (Emma’s sister), Timothy Jewett Hubbard (Emma’s brother), Elisha Payne Jewett (Emma’s uncle), 1849-1858, includes two letters both typescript and ms.
:20 _____, miscellaneous correspondence, 1852-1878, and undated.
:21 Miscellaneous items, including a journal by Emma of her sister Ruth’s last days, a receipt, and memorabilia, 1852-1870, and undated.

Marge Garfield
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dieter.doc