

J. Gregory Smith (1818-1891)
Papers, 1810-1928 (bulk 1845-1899)
MS Box 84-93
Ms Box 95-96; Ms Size C
XMSC 47.1-9

Introduction

The railroad and personal papers of J. Gregory Smith of St. Albans, Vermont, a director of the Vermont Central Railroad, Vermont and Canada Railroad, and Northern Pacific Railroad, and two-term Vermont governor were donated to the Vermont Historical Society in 1957 by his grandson Curtis A. Smith. The collection is made up of twelve flip top boxes, and nine oversize volumes, and occupies eight linear feet of shelf space.

This finding guide was prepared in 1995 as part of a project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Biographical Sketch

J. (John) Gregory Smith was born in St. Albans, Vermont, July 22, 1818, the son of John and Maria (Curtis) Smith. He attended the University of Vermont and Yale Law School, and was admitted to the Vermont bar in 1842. His father was a lawyer who was actively involved in the expansion of the railroads in Vermont and J. Gregory joined him both in the practice of law and railroad management.

John Smith was on the board of the Vermont Central Railroad, a railroad chartered in 1843 and headquartered in Northfield, and was president of the Vermont and Canada Railroad, which he had started in 1845 to eventually connect the Vermont Central Railroad with Montreal. Upon his father's death in 1858, J. Gregory Smith became president of the Vermont Central Railroad and his brother, Worthington C. Smith, was named president of the Vermont and Canada. The Central Vermont Railroad was organized in 1873 and assumed management of both the Vermont Central and Vermont and Canada Railroads. In 1883 the Consolidated Railroad of Vermont was formed to purchase the Vermont Central and Vermont and Canada property, and immediately leased it to the Central Vermont Railroad thereby consolidating the Smith family's railroad holdings. The family expanded their holdings to include related industries such as the St. Albans Foundry, the National Car Company, and its subsidiary the Vermont Iron and Car Company.

While expanding his holdings in Vermont and the northeast, J. Gregory Smith became interested in the idea of a railroad to the west and became president of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company in 1866, a position he held until ca. 1872.

Smith was also active in politics and was elected to the state senate in 1858 and 1859. In 1860, 1861, and 1862 he was elected to the house as a representative of St.

Albans, and served as speaker of the house. In 1863 Smith was elected governor and served two terms before retiring to devote time to his duties as the president of Central Vermont and the Northern Pacific Railroad.

J. Gregory Smith married Ann Eliza Brainerd of St. Albans in 1843 and together they had six children: George Gregory (married Frances Lewis), Edward Curtis (married Anna B. James), Lawrence (died in infancy), Annie B., Julia B. (married Oliver Stevens), Helen L. (married D. Sage Mackay). Smith died November 6, 1891.

Scope and Content Note

The J. Gregory Smith papers, 1810-1928 (bulk 1845-1899) are made up of business and personal papers of Smith and chronicle his involvement with the Vermont Central Railroad and Vermont and Canada Railroad and several other businesses. Smith's career was closely linked to that of his father, John Smith, and his son, Edward C. Smith, and their papers are a part of this collection. There is also correspondence of Ann Eliza (Brainerd) Smith, J. Gregory's wife. The collection is divided into four series: correspondence, papers of railroads managed by the Smiths, papers of business associates, and miscellaneous which includes political papers and biographical material.

Organization

The papers are organized into four series:

- I. Correspondence (arranged by year)
- II. Railroad papers for railroad companies with whom Smith was directly involved
 - a. Vermont Central Railroad
 - b. Central Vermont Railroad
 - c. Vermont and Canada Railroad
 - d. Consolidated Railroad
 - e. Canada Atlantic Railroad
 - f. Northern Pacific Railroad
- III. Papers with business associates (arranged alphabetically)
- IV. Miscellaneous papers

Related Collections

The Vermont Historical Society has the records of Thomas H. Canfield, that include the records of the Northern Pacific Railroad (Doc 6). A small box of the records of the Vermont Central Railroad are also at the VHS (MSA 182). J. Gregory Smith's records as governor of Vermont are located at the Vermont State Archives. There are also papers of the Smith Family of St. Albans, 1797-1956, at the Bailey/Howe Library of the University of Vermont.

The Minnesota Historical Society has 10,600 cubic feet of records from the Northern Pacific Railway, 1861-1970 (<http://www.mnhs.org/>). The National Archives of

Canada has the records of the Canadian National Railways that includes many Vermont railroads.

Series Descriptions

Correspondence

This series is the combined correspondence of John Smith, his son J. Gregory, and grandson Edward C. Smith. They were involved in management of the Vermont Central, Vermont and Canada, and Consolidated railroads, and their correspondence includes the official papers of those railroads as well as letters with other roads and related businesses. There are also letterbooks of J. Gregory Smith's outgoing letters, 1882-1891.

John, J. Gregory and E. C. Smith were all active in politics and the correspondence files include letters about political issues. During John Smith's tenure as congressman in 1840 he received letters from St. Albans about the local postmaster. There are more political letters in 1842 including one dated November 6, 1842, from H. E. Hubbell, urging Smith to run for governor and discussing Democratic politics. The correspondence from 1872 to 1882 includes letters to J. Gregory Smith on political matters, especially concerning his contest with ex-Governor Stewart to secure an appointment to the United States Senate in 1880, and there is a letter in 1882 from George W. Hooker about Senator Edmund's refusal of a judgeship. In 1897 there are letters to E. C. Smith about his campaign against General McCullough for the Republican nomination for governor, and in 1898 there are letters to Smith as governor.

Although most of the papers concern business or politics there are some personal letters interfiled. At the end of the series there are typescripts of letters sent to the Smith and Brainerd families, 1840-1870, including letters between J. Gregory Smith and Ann Eliza Brainerd before and after their marriage.

The correspondence series is arranged by year.

Railroad Papers

The papers in this series are from railroad companies that the Smith family was directly involved with and is subdivided by each company: Vermont Central Railroad, 1849-1877; Central Vermont Railroad, 1874-1897; Vermont and Canada Railroad, 1845-1886; Consolidated Railroad, 1877-1884; Canada Atlantic Railway Co., 1879-1897; and the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, 1866-1882. The papers are arranged by year.

The railroad papers include stock reports, financial reports, deeds, agreements with other railroads, legal papers including reports of lawsuits and their outcome, timetables and broadsides advertising schedules and fares, contracts, reorganization plans, charters, and copies of government bills concerning railroading.

Papers of business associates

This series includes papers of business associates including banks, other railroads, and manufacturers. There are papers of several other businesses owned and operated by

the Smith family including Smith, Brainerd and Company, 1853; the National Car Company, 1877; and the St. Albans Iron and Steel Works, 1872-1883. Other railroads and businesses represented in the collection are the Canada and Atlantic Railway Company, 1879-1896; Burlington and Lamoille Railroad, 1880-1888; Grand Trunk Railway Company, 1883-1889; Missisquoi Valley Railway Company, 1870-1883; New London Northern Railroad and New London Steamboat Company, 1882-1885; St. Albans and Richford Plank Road Company, 1850; and the Waterloo, Magog Railway Company, 1881-1883. There are also papers of St. Albans associates and of the local Congregational church. The papers are arranged alphabetically by name.

Miscellaneous

The miscellaneous papers include political papers of John, J. Gregory, and Edward C. Smith. There are lists of Vermont representatives, 1832-1833; copies of governor's proclamations, 1864, and 1898-1899; and copies of legislative bills and agreements. There is a folder of biographical information on J. Gregory Smith with copies of publications about him

Inventory

I. Correspondence

MS Box 84:1	Correspondence, n.d.
2	_____, 1835-1839
3	_____, 1840
4	_____, 1841
5	_____, 1842
6	_____, 1845
7	_____, 1846
8	_____, 1847
9	_____, 1848
10	_____, 1849
11	_____, 1849
12	_____, 1850
13	_____, 1850
14	_____, 1851
15	_____, 1851
16	_____, 1851
MS Box 85:1	_____, 1852
2	_____, 1852
3	_____, 1852
4	_____, 1852
5	_____, 1853
6	_____, 1853
7	_____, 1853
8	_____, 1853
9	_____, 1854
10	_____, 1854
11	_____, 1855

	12	_____	, 1856
	13	_____	, 1857
	14	_____	, 1858
MS Box 86:	1	_____	, 1863
	2	_____	, 1864-1866
	3	_____	, 1867
	4	_____	, 1870-1871
	5	_____	, 1872-1876
	6	_____	, 1877
	7	_____	, 1878
	8	_____	, 1879
	9	_____	, 1879
	10	_____	, 1880
	11	_____	, 1880
	12	_____	, 1880
	13	_____	, 1880
	14	_____	, 1880
	15	_____	, 1880
	16	_____	, 1881
	17	_____	, 1881
MS Box 87:	1	_____	, 1881
	2	_____	, 1881
	3	_____	, 1881
	4	_____	, 1881
	5	_____	, 1881
	6	_____	, 1882
	7	_____	, 1882
	8	_____	, 1882
	9	_____	, 1882
	10	_____	, 1882
	11	_____	, 1882
	12	_____	, 1882
	13	_____	, 1882
MS Box 88:	1	_____	, 1882
	2	_____	, 1883
	3	_____	, 1884
	4	_____	, 1885
	5	_____	, 1886
	6	_____	, 1887
	7	_____	, 1888
	8	_____	, 1889
	9	_____	, 1890-1896
	10	_____	, 1897
	11	_____	, 1897
	12	_____	, 1897
	13	_____	, 1898

14	_____, 1898
15	_____, 1899-1916
XMSC 47.1	Letterbook, 1882-1884
XMSC 47.2	_____, 1884-1886
XMSC 47.3	_____, 1886-1887
XMSC 47.4	_____, 1889-1891
MS Box 89:1	Correspondence, typescripts
2	_____
3	_____

II. Railroad records

4	Vermont Central Railroad Company papers, n.d.
5	_____, 1849
6	_____, 1849
7	_____, 1850
8	_____, 1851
9	_____, 1852
10	_____, 1853
11	_____, 1854
12	_____, 1855
13	_____, 1856
14	_____, 1857
15	_____, 1858
16	_____, 1860-1871
Ms Size C	_____, certificate for 8% bonds (4 sheets)
MS Box 89:17	_____, 1872
18	_____, 1873
XMSC 47:5	_____, 1876-1877, Account of bonds
MS Box 89:19	_____, 1877
20	Central Vermont Railroad Company, n.d.
21	_____, 1874
22	_____, 1875
23	_____, 1876
MS Box 90:1	_____, 1877
2	_____, 1878
3	_____, 1879
4	_____, 1879
5	_____, 1880
6	_____, 1880
7	_____, 1881
8	_____, 1881
9	_____, 1881
10	_____, 1882
11	_____, 1883
12	_____, 1884
13	_____, 1885

- 14 _____, 1886
15 _____, 1887
16 _____, 1888
17 _____, 1889
18 _____, 1890
19 _____, 1891-1928
XMSC 47.6 _____, accounts with J. Gregory Smith, 1882-1897
Ms Size C _____, miscellaneous accounts, 1873-1891
MS Box 90:20 Vermont and Canada Railroad, n.d.
21 _____, n.d.
22 _____, 1845
23 _____, 1846
24 _____, 1847
MS Box 91:1 _____, 1848
2 _____, 1849
3 _____, 1850
4 _____, 1850
5 _____, 1850
6 _____, 1851
7 _____, 1852
8 _____, 1853
9 _____, 1854
10 _____, 1855
11 _____, 1856
12 _____, 1857
13 _____, 1858-1859
14 _____, 1860-1869
15 _____, 1870-1879
XMSC 47.7 _____, volume with financial statement for 1874-1875, and notes
from St. Lawrence County supreme court case, n.d.
MS Box 91:16 _____, 1880-1886
17 Consolidated Railroad, ca. 1877
18 _____, 1883-1884
MS Box 92:1 Canada Atlantic Railway Co., n.d.
2 _____, 1879-1880
3 _____, 1881
4 _____, 1881
XMSC 47.8 _____, stock subscription book, 1881
MS Box 92:5 _____, 1882
6 _____, 1882
7 _____, 1882
8 _____, 1883
9 _____, 1883
10 _____, 1884
11 _____, 1885
12 _____, 1886

- MS Box 93:1 _____, 1887
 2 _____, 1888
 3 _____, 1889
 4 _____, 1890-1897
 5 Northern Pacific Railroad Company, n.d.
 6 _____, 1866
 7 _____, 1867
 8 _____, 1868
 9 _____, 1869
 10 _____, 1870
 11 _____, 1871
 12 _____, 1872-1879
 13 _____, 1880-1882

III. Business Associates

- 14 American Loan and Trust Company, 1882-1889
 15 Atlantic and North-west Railway Company, 1879-1881
 16 Barre Railroad Co., 1888
 17 Booth, J. P., Lumber Manufacturer, 1886-1888
 18 Boston, Clinton and Fitchburg Railroad Company lease to Old
 Colony Railroad Company, 1879
 19 Burlington and Lamoille Railroad, 1880-1888
 20 Canadian Pacific Railroad, 1880-1885
 21 Cheney, B. P., 1869-1884
 22 Congregational Church, St. Albans, Vermont, 1888
 23 Day, Frank and Robert, 1885
 MS Box 95:1 Grand Junction Railroad, 1849
 2 Grand Trunk Railway Co., 1883-1889
 3 Great Eastern Fast Freight Line, 1880-1885
 4 Lasall, Ralph, 1861-1872
 5 Missisquoi Valley Railway Co., 1870-1883
 6 Montreal and Lachine Railroad, 1847
 7 Montreal and Sorel Railroad, 1881
 8 Mystic River Corporation, 1871, 1879
 9 National Car Co., 1877
 10 National Steamship Company, 1867
 11 New Hampshire Railroad Co., 1881
 12 New London Northern Railroad, New London Steamboat Co.,
 1882-1885
 13 New York and Boston Rapid Transit, 1887-1888
 14 New York, Boston, and Montreal Railway Co., n.d.
 15 North Shore Railway Company, 1871-1885
 16 Northern Railroad Company, 1847-1854
 17 Ocean Terminal Railroad, 1881
 18 Passumpsic Railroad, 1859
 19 Plattsburgh and Montreal Railroad, 1850

- 20 Quebec Bank, 1884-1885
- 21 Railroad Associations, acts, etc., 1856-1890
- 22 Rutland and Burlington Railroad, 1849-1851
- 23 Rutland Railroad, n.d.
- Ms Size C _____, *Rutland Herald Extra*, January 15, 1846, re: construction of
Rutland Railroad
- XMSC 47.9 St. Albans and Richford Plank Road Company, 1850
- MS Box 95:24 St. Albans Iron and Steel Works; Kidder, Peabody and Company,
1872-1883
- 25 Scranton Steel Company, 1882
- 26 Smith, Brainerd and Company, 1853
- 27 Vermont Valley Railroad, 1872
- MS Box 96:1 Waterloo, Magog Railway Company, 1881-1883

IV. Miscellaneous

- 2 Miscellaneous bills and agreements
- 3 List of Vermont Representatives, 1832-1833
- 4 Governor's proclamations, J. Gregory Smith, 1863-1864
- 5 _____, Edward C. Smith, 1898-1899
- 6 J. Gregory Smith biographical information including copy of *The
Vermont* (August 1896), with article about him; and
expression of sympathy upon his death
- 7 Miscellaneous, n.d.
- 8 _____, _____,
- 9 _____, 1810-1830
- 10 _____, 1831-1850
- 11 _____, 1837, Aaron Clark scrapbook
- 12 _____, 1851-1855
- 13 _____, 1856-1857
- 14 _____, 1861-1864
- 15 _____, 1871
- 16 _____, 1876-1880
- 17 _____, 1881-1885
- 18 _____, 1887-1889
- 19 _____, 1890

(updated October 2, 2007)