

Daniel Kellogg (1791-1875)
Family Papers, 1807-1862
MS 26

Introduction

This collection contains the papers of the family of Daniel Kellogg (1791-1875), a justice on the Vermont Supreme Court from Brattleboro, Vermont, covering the period 1808-1862. The collection was given to the Vermont Historical Society by Susan K. Wright of Westminister, Vermont, in May 1949. It is stored in one archival flip top box and consumes .5 linear feet of shelf space.

Biographical Note

Daniel Kellogg was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, in 1791. He graduated from Williams College in 1810. He studied law with General Martin Field in Newfane, Vermont, and was admitted to the Vermont bar in 1812. He started his legal career at Rockingham, Vermont, where he remained until he moved to Brattleboro in 1855.

Kellogg was elected judge of probate in Windham County, 1819-1820, and state's attorney for the same county. He was also U.S. district attorney for Vermont, 1829-1841. He held military rank as adjutant inspector-general of Vermont's militia. He served in the state House, and was a judge on the Vermont Supreme Court from 1845-1851. He was often a Democratic candidate for governor.

Kellogg married three times: first to Jane McAfee of Rockingham; then to Merab Ann Bradley (who died in 1845); and lastly to Miranda M. Aldis, of St. Albans, Vermont. Of his three wives, only Merab Bradley is referred to in these papers. His children included: Henry Kellogg (1823-1844), who was a lawyer and alumnus of Williams College and drowned in 1844; George B. Kellogg (1825-1875), who was a lawyer and Civil War veteran and died in St. Louis in 1875; Sarah B. Kellogg (born 1831); and Daniel Kellogg (1831-1918), who was also a lawyer.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of correspondence and other papers of Daniel Kellogg of Newfane, Rockingham, and Brattleboro, Vermont, particularly in the period before he relocated to Brattleboro in 1855.

The earliest documentation in the collection relates to Kellogg's studies at Williams College. A number of short essays Kellogg wrote between 1807 and 1810 evidently reflect topics debated in class. In his writing, Kellogg defended dancing (1807) and female companionship for students (1808). He also gave an oration, "On the Abuse of Power," during commencement exercises on September 5, 1810; a copy of both this speech and the commencement program are included. Much of the early correspondence, 1808-1813, was also written to Kellogg by friends from college.

Other documents relate to a variety of positions held by Kellogg between 1813 and 1830; these include appointments as postmaster, commissions in the militia, and judicial appointments. For example, Kellogg was named postmaster for Newfane in 1811 and aid de camp in 1813. The collection also contains deeds for land in several Windham County towns and deeds for pews in Saxtons River (1818) and Jamaica (1821), Vermont.

A handful of miscellaneous papers pertain to Daniel Kellogg's career and family in the 1850s and 1860s. These include his appointment as second assistant judge of Vermont Supreme Court in 1850 and a letter written by his son, George Kellogg, in December 1862, which describes the city of St. Louis and the legal community.

Although a small number of later letters, 1843-1846, relate to legal business, the remainder of the collection is primarily correspondence received by Daniel Kellogg's second wife, Merab Bradley Kellogg, in the 1830s and 1840s. Beginning in 1831, the collection contains many letters Daniel Kellogg wrote to his wife explaining why court business was interfering with his return home. In 1838, one of his letters to Merab describes his service with General Wool during unrest, the "Patriot War," on the Canadian border. Merab Bradley Kellogg died in 1845 and a copy of a sermon preached at her funeral in Saxtons River on March 30, 1845, is included with letters Daniel Kellogg wrote her in 1845.

The collection also contains letters written to Merab Kellogg by her parents (Sarah Richards and William Czar Kellogg), her children (Henry, George, and Sarah Kellogg), her sister-in-law (Ann Maria Kellogg) and other friends and family members.

Inventory

MS 26:01	Essays and debate papers from Williams College, 1807-1810
02	Commissions, appointments, and land acquisitions, 1811-1830
03	Letters to Daniel Kellogg, 1808-1811
04	_____, 1812-1813
05	_____, 1843-1846
06	Letters to Merab Kellogg, from Daniel Kellogg, 1831-1838
07	_____, _____, 1840-1845 and undated
08	_____, from William Czar Bradley (her father), 1835-1848
09	_____, from Mrs. William C. Bradley (her mother), undated
10	_____, from others, 1830, 1835-1844 and undated
11	Miscellaneous papers, 1836, 1850-1862
12	_____, undated

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September 2015
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