

**Charles (1795-1863) and Emmeline (1819-1895) Linsley
Papers, 1827-1892
MSA 159 & MSA 159.1**

Introduction

The Charles and Emmeline Linsley Papers, 1827-1892, is a collection composed primarily of correspondence between Charles Linsley (1795-1863) of Middlebury, Vermont, his second wife, Emmeline Linsley (1819-1895), and members of their family. There are significant letters from Charles Linsley's friend and associate, U. S. Senator Silas Wright (1795-1847).

The collection was given to the Vermont Historical Society in 1988 by Mary Linsley Albert, great granddaughter of Charles Linsley (Ms. Acc. No. 88.15). It is stored in two Hollinger boxes and occupies .75 linear feet of shelf space.

Biographical Sketches

Charles Linsley (August 29, 1795-November 3, 1863), son of Judge Joel Linsley, was born in Cornwall, Vermont. He began studying law in Middlebury, Vermont and continued his studies under Chief Justice Royce of St. Albans, Vermont. He was admitted to the bar of Franklin County in 1823 and soon after returned to Middlebury, Vermont. He practiced law there until 1856, when he moved to Rutland, Vermont. He remained in Rutland until 1862, until, due to ill-health, he was forced to return to Middlebury, Vermont. He died in Middlebury on November 3, 1863.

During his career, he served as director and solicitor of the Rutland and Burlington Railroad Company, and was Railroad Commissioner for two years under the Act of 1855. He served in the Vermont House of Representatives for Rutland County in 1858 and held federal appointments as District Attorney, 1845-1849, during the administration of President Polk, and as collector of Customs, 1860-1861, during the administration of President Buchanan. He was among the earliest members of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Middlebury.

Charles' first wife, Sarah Chipman (1806-February 12, 1841), was the daughter of Daniel Chipman. They married in June 1827 and had eight children: Daniel (1827-1889), Sarah (1828-1854), Charles (1831-1853), George (1833-1889), Susan (1835-1835), Edward (1837-1841), Eliza (1838-1861), Emma (1840-1854).

Emmeline Wells (January 8, 1818-1895) and Charles Linsley were married on December 5, 1841 at St. Stephen's Church, Middlebury. They had at nine children: David (1842-1842), Mary (b. 1844), Emmeline (1845-1858), Joel (1847-1899), John Gilbert (1849-1851), William (1851-1910), Hellena (1854-1857), Julius Gilbert (1856-1930), Richard (1859-1860).

Charles' brother, Joel Harvey Linsley (July 15, 1790–1868), graduated from Middlebury College in 1811. He studied law with David Edmond of Vergennes, Vermont and Peter Starr of Middlebury, Vermont. He was admitted to the bar and practiced law in Middlebury, Vermont until 1821. He began the study of theology and was a missionary in the South for a year, after which he became pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Greenwich, Connecticut. He then moved on to the Park Street Church in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1836 he was elected president of Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio. He resigned in 1846 and returned to the Second Congregational Church, Greenwich, Connecticut.

Scope and Content

The collection includes letters written by Charles Linsley and Emmeline Wells to each other during their courtship in 1841, as well as many letters from Charles Linsley to Emmeline after their marriage. It also includes two folders of letters from Joel H. Linsley to his brother, Charles, one folder of letters from Daniel Linsley to his father, Charles Linsley, a large number of letters from Emmeline Linsley to her son, Gilbert, 1869-1874, and one folder of letters from Gilbert to Emmeline. There are letters, 1829-1866, from Charles' longtime friend Silas Wright (1795-1847), who had been raised in Weybridge, Vermont, but moved to Canton, New York, where he became a Congressman, U.S. Senator, and then governor of New York. The letters refer to political activity of the time, with references to Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, James Polk, and John Tyler.

Linsley's letter of appointment as Collector of Customs, 1860, includes the signature of President Buchanan. There are also three letters discussing conditions in the south during the Civil War. As Linsley traveled widely, as far west as Chicago, Illinois and as far south as Louisville, Kentucky, there are letters mentioning his meeting with gold rush participants (1850), a balloon ascension (1883) and a horse fair (1853).

Related Collections

Related collections can be found under the following "Vermont--Biography" headings in the VHS catalog: Linsley, Charles; Linsley, Joel; Linsley, Sarah. One folder of papers from Charles' son George is in the Vermont Historical Society Manuscript Collection (MSA 054:01). Other papers of Charles Linsley are located at the Sheldon Museum in Middlebury, Vermont.

Organization

The collection is divided into the following series and sub-series:

- I. Correspondence between Charles and Emmeline Linsley
- II. Correspondence between Emmeline Linsley and son J. Gilbert
- III. Correspondence between family members
- IV. Other correspondence

- Linsley
- V. Papers relating to federal and state appointments held by Charles
 - VI. Genealogy
 - VII. Deeds
 - VIII. Miscellaneous

Inventory

I. Correspondence between Charles Linsley and Emmeline Wells Linsley

- 159:1 Correspondence from Emmeline to Charles Linsley, 1841
- 2 Correspondence to Emmeline from Charles Linsley, 1841
- 3 _____, 1844-1859

II. Correspondence between Emmeline Linsley and son J. Gilbert

- 4 Correspondence from J. Gilbert to Emmeline, 1869
- 5 Correspondence to J. Gilbert from Emmeline, 1869
- 6 _____, 1870
- 7 _____, 1871
- 8 _____, 1872
- 9 _____, 1873-1874

III. Correspondence between family members

- 10 Letters from Emmeline Wells to brother William, 1837-1841
- 11 Letters to Emmeline Linsley, from relatives, 1828-1885
- 12 Letters to Charles Linsley from son Daniel, 1851-1852
- 13 Letters to Charles and Emmeline Linsley from family members, friends, 1822-1892
- 159.1:1 Letters from Joel H. Linsley to his brother, Charles, 1816-1835
- 2 _____, 1836-1861, n.d.
- 3 Letters from Joel H. Linsley to relatives, 1832-1863

IV. Other correspondence

- 4 Correspondence to Charles Linsley, 1835-1857
- 5 Correspondence to family members referring to Civil War, 1861-1864
- 6 Letters to Charles Linsley from Silas Wright, 1829-1866
- 7 Letters about death of Charles Linsley, 1863
- 8 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1832-1887, n.d.

V. Charles Linsley's appointments

- 9 Papers relating to federal and state appointments held by Charles Linsley, 1822-1860

VI. Genealogy

- 10 Genealogy materials

VII. Deeds

11 Deeds to property belonging to Charles Linsley, 1828-1832

VIII. Miscellaneous

12 Miscellaneous papers & engraving

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