Guide to the Addoms Family Papers, 1763-1872

68.7

Special Collections
Benjamin F. Feinberg Library
SUNY College at Plattsburgh
Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901

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July 2007

Revised by
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April 2012

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Addoms, John, 1737-1823
Addoms, John Townsend, 1781-1868
Plattsburgh (N.Y.)—Social Life and Customs—1800-1900
Biographical Note

John Addoms (also spelled Addams), 1737-1823, migrated from Duchess County, New York, where he owned a large tract of land. This particular holding had been granted to him by King George III prior to 1776. Addoms served as a surveyor and civil engineer in the American Revolution and quickly rose to the rank of major.

After his service in the Revolution, John Addoms obtained land in Plattsburgh. He moved and settled his family in the area and was instrumental in attracting other settlers to Northern New York. Addoms, with slave labor to aid his efforts, built a farm in 1790 on Cumberland Head. He remained there until his death. The farm has been preserved and contains a small family cemetery and a separate burial ground for Mr. Addoms' slaves.

Mr. John Townsend Addoms, 1781-1868. J. T. Addoms (son of John Addoms, 1737-1823) was a well-known Methodist Episcopal minister. He married Harriet Young of West Plattsburgh and had eight children with her, five of whom died between the ages of thirteen and twenty. One child died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Addoms were also deeply involved in the early temperance movement. Mr. Addoms was an early and outspoken leader of the movement.

Scope Note

The Addoms Family Papers encompass the years 1763 through 1872. During this time period, three generations of the family conducted business, wrote to one another and about each other in letters and diaries, and also recorded their observations and feelings in journals and in school compositions.

The majority of the documents (correspondences, diaries, journals, school compositions, etc.) in the Addoms' Family Papers are those of Reverend J. T. Addoms and his family. These records span the time period 1820-1872 and provide unique insight into the Addoms' family life. Many of the documents detail the development of the Addoms children, their schooling, and their interactions with one another and friends. Other documents dated from this time period concern the tragic events occurring between February 25, 1839 and May 20, 1844 in which five of the Addoms' children passed away. Poignant diary passages recount the heartbreak one Addoms' daughter endured as she watched two of her siblings pass away within three months of each other. Also within the pages of her diary are elegies composed for her lost siblings. These documents not only illustrate a dark and trying period in the Addoms' family life, they also demonstrate the harsh realities of life in the nineteenth century.

Also included in the collection are documents involving deaths among Reverend Addoms' congregation. Many of the miscellaneous materials in the collection concern death and dying in the form of poems, obituary scrapbooks, various memorials, and religious literature. The collection contains two letters from the War of 1812 and eight letters from the Civil War era.

The collection is housed in two document boxes and further subdivided by consecutively numbered folders.

Photocopies of these materials are filed in the appropriate folders within the boxes.
## Container List

### Box 1:

#### Correspondence, 1793-1872

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan. 16, 1793-Aug. 24, 1809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sept. 9, 1809-Sept. 24, 1816</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>May 13, 1816-Sep. 10, 1819</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Dec. 8, 1819-Jan. 30, 1826</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>July 10, 1826-Jan. 26, 1836</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>March 2, 1837-May 26, 1844</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct. 25, 1846-March 13, 1860</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Aug. 12, 1860-Nov. 30, 1860</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nov. 30, 1866-April 1, 1872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Undated Correspondence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Business Accounts: Bills and Receipts, 1787-1856

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1787-1799</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1801-1810</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>1811-1815</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>1816-1820</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>1841-1850</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>1851-1856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Undated Business Accounts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cashier Checks, 1823-1824

20   Oct. 7, 1823 - Sept. 20, 1824

Business Contracts, 1763-1829

21   March 14, 1763 - May 5, 1829
22   Unexecuted Contracts

Box 2:

23   Baptismal Certificate for Elizabeth Antoinette Addoms, May 21, 1826

Compositions

24   Composition Book
25   Elizabeth Addoms
26   Harriet Addoms
27   Janet Addoms
28   Julia Addoms
29   Julia Addoms
30   Mary Addoms
31   William Addoms
32   Dates--Birth, Death, Marriage

Estate Papers

33   John Addoms, Esq.
34   John T. Addoms
35   Jonas Addoms

Miscellaneous Other Materials

36   Fashion Cutouts
37   Inspirational Message
Journals

Memorandum Book

Moral Reform Society Records

Obituary

Photograph

Poems

Real Estate: Locations, Descriptions

School Assignments

School Workbooks

Scrapbooks

Court Summons

Teaching Certificates

Miscellaneous Notes
Recipe for Orange Jelly
Account of Marshal Bugeaud “Foretelling the Weather”
Deposition by Jonathan Flint that he served in Connecticut regiments, and in battles, with William Young in 1776
March 11th & 12th, 1829 notes for the opening and adjournment of the Plattsburgh district Local Preachers Conference.

Wrapping Paper

Wedding Memento

**Related Materials in Special Collections**


“Historical Department: John Townsend Addoms.” *Plattsburgh Republican* 20 Nov. 1909: 3.