Guide to the Penfield Collection on 
Mooers, Altona, and West Chazy, 1822-1912

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Special Collections
Benjamin F. Feinberg Library
State University of New York College at Plattsburgh
Plattsburgh, N. Y. 12901

by
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Revised by
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Introduction

The Penfield Collection was donated in May, 1994 by Adelaide Carlton Penfield, West Chazy, New York. It includes correspondence, printed works, a diary from 1866, and an account book from 1841 to 1844. Printed works include early newspapers, sheet music, and advertising materials. The correspondence deals with the West Chazy, Mooers, and Altona areas. There are a number of Civil War letters (to and from residents of the West Chazy area) as well as letters to area residents from the western United States (see folder Z: letter from Rufus Cooke dated June 25, 1826; also letters from Lucy Kinsley, folder 3). An invitation to a July 4th ball at Malone, New York in 1822 is found in folder 3.

The sheet music is representative of popular music of the 1890s, including "Daisy Bell" and the melodramatic, "We’ll Have to Mortgage the Farm".

This collection is particularly strong in correspondence of the Civil War period. Letters written in the area give a detailed picture of everyday life during the time.

The manuscript essays and poetry appear to be copies, in some cases, of printed works. Particularly interesting is the piece entitled, "A Trip to the Moon".

The legal papers deal with areas from both within and outside of Clinton County and the West Chazy area. The Howard, Ranson, and other families are represented.

The printed materials include a commencement program from Adrian College (May 30, 1861) which includes an essay, “Better Wear Out, Than Rust Out," by Calista Z. Atwood, West Chazy, N.Y., and a Manual for the Use of Members of the Presbyterian Church In Beekmantown. Clinton County. N.Y. (1852).
Contents

The collection consists of one hollinger box and one newspaper storage box, and includes correspondence, manuscript copies of literary works, printed materials, a number of newspapers, and sheet music.

Box 1

Folder 1: Correspondence
Carlton, Henry J. Undated and 2/24/1853 to 8/13/1869
Carlton, Herbert D. 2/14/1884 (Valentine from AuSable Forks )
Cooke, Rufus 6/25/1826 (letter from)
Kingsley, Elizabeth Undated
Kinsley, Cephas 6/28/1822 to 7/20/1851

Folder 2: Correspondence
Kinsley, Lucy Undated and 8/31/1860 to 10/7/1912

Folder 3: Correspondence
Unidentified/undated

Folder 4:
Manuscript copies of various works, mostly poetry

Folder 5:
Legal papers

Folder 6:
Printed materials (pamphlets, newspaper clippings, calling cards; commencement program, Adrian College, 1861)

Folder 7:
Advertisements, recipes, school exercises (manuscript)

Folder 8:
Account book, 1841-1844

Folder 9:
Diary, A. G. Howard, 1866

Box 2

Centennial Historical Sermon: First Presbyterian and Congregational Church of Chazy, N.Y., July 9, 1876. (Original and photocopy)
Newspapers and sheet music.
Related Materials in Special Collections
