

Connecticut Historical Society
museum & library

Samuel Arnold papers

A Guide to the collection at the Connecticut Historical Society

Collection Overview

Repository:	Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut
Creator :	Arnold, Samuel
Title :	Samuel Arnold Papers
Dates :	1824-1867
Extent :	1 linear foot (2 boxes)
Location:	Ms 98205
Language:	English

Biographical Sketch

Samuel Arnold, a resident of Haddam, Connecticut, and a Democrat, was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1857. In addition, he served as president of the Bank of East Haddam; he owned two sailing vessels, the Schooners J. Cone and James McCloskey; he served as an agent for the town fund; and he ran a farm. The Company of J & GC Arnold operated a quarry in Haddam.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of eight account books arranged in chronological order. All but one of the volumes document the activities of Samuel Arnold. These activities include trade in textiles, stone, timber and foodstuffs and services such as dressing cloth at the Buckley & Arnold factory, framing a barn, or carting men and material for the new courthouse. He noted when he lent or borrowed cash, what New Year's presents he gave family members, and the execution of several land transactions, some involving land in Brooklyn, NY.

The earliest volume dates from 1824-1836. Starting in the next volume, dated 1856, Arnold made notes about daily activities. He mentioned trips he made to New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, noted visits to the theater, documented when he made court appearances and attended political

conventions, and he noted particularly severe weather. He also mentions sending a horse to a racetrack. In 1867, he noted paying for music lessons for Anna, and remarked on his daughter (Anna?) attending Miss Payne's School in Middletown.

Arnold's interest in politics is demonstrated through entries in which he described town meetings, presidential, state and local elections, a Buchanan Festival on January 15, 1857, meetings of the State Central Committee, the Democratic Congressional Convention, his own election to Congress in 1857, and a Washington birthday supper. Unfortunately, volumes covering his term in Congress are not part of this collection; there is a gap between 1857 and 1864. On a local level, Arnold was also involved in presenting several petitions from the town to the state legislature protesting plans to move the county courthouse and jail to Middletown.

In 1864, he noted three instances of assisting someone in purchasing a substitute for the U.S. Army. These occurred on August 3, November 1, and December 11, 1864.

The one volume not exclusively belonging to Samuel Arnold records the labor accounts and trade of J and GC Arnold & Co., from 1827-1837. The firm operated a quarry in Haddam and the owners recorded the number of days individuals worked for the company or boarded with the family. The company delivered stone for building the new courthouse and there are other notations for loading ships and drawing stones. Scattered among the expenses for the company are some personal accounts.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Use Restrictions

Use of the material requires compliance with the Connecticut Historical Society's Research Center regulations.

Subject Headings

Corporate Names

J. & G.C. Arnold & Co.

Subjects

Quarries and quarrying -- Connecticut -- Haddam..

Geographic Names

Connecticut -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.
Haddam (Conn. : Town) -- Business and industry.
Haddam (Conn. : Town) -- History.
Haddam (Conn. : Town) -- Politics.

Genre Forms

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Item, Collection Title, Collection number (Box #, Folder #). Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut.

Processing Details

EAD Finding Aid created February 2011.

Accruals

The collection is closed.

Contents:

Volumes

Box	Volume	
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1	1	1824-1836
1	2	1827-1837, J & GC Arnold & Co.
1	3	1856
1	4	1857
1	5	1864
Box Volume		
2	6	1865
2	7	1866

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