Charles P. Wells collection

Trinity College, Hartford Connecticut

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Charles P. Wells collection
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Summary Information

Repository: Watkinson Library--Manuscript Collections
Creator: Wells, Charles P.
Source: English, James F., Jr.
Title: Charles P. Wells collection
ID: MS2016.004
Date [inclusive]: 1655-1870
Physical Description: 3 Cubic Feet In 3 records storage cartons
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: Charles P. Wells (1811-1876) was a lifelong resident of Hartford, Connecticut. This collection contains correspondence, business records, and personal effects from his life.

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Biographical / Historical

Charles P. Wells was born in Hartford, Connecticut on May 14, 1811, the son of John J. Wells and Anne Hubbard Wells. He became interested in the drug business at an early age, and stayed in that field for a number of years. Wells had a partnership for a portion of that time with Henry Humphrey. Additionally, Wells was a devoted Bible scholar and was involved in local churches. In 1838 Wells married Jane Naomi Strong. They had two children, Charles T. Wells and Mary Catherine Wells.

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Content Description

The largest portion of the collection is by far the correspondence found in the Personal subseries. Dating primarily between 1812 and 1875, there are a variety of correspondents, many of them family members. Also found here are Wells’ writings, including Bible study notes, poetry, and essays. The correspondence
is arranged alphabetically by author, and then chronologically. Other unique items include contracts made with friends and a souvenir from the opening of the Erie Canal.

Wells’ time in partnership with Henry Humphrey is the focus of the business subseries. Some of the papers (an 1870 deed) are from after the dissolution of the partnership, but this remains the best place for the items. Within this series are documents from the formation of the partnership.

Family refers to items sent to, or owned by, members of the Wells family, but Charles P. Wells was not the intended recipient. Letters from Jane Strong Wells to her brother-in-law, Gustavus Davis, are an example of this.

Included with this collection are toys and other childhood memorabilia.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in one series with three subseries. Subseries 1: Personal Subseries 2: Business Subseries 3: Family

Controlled Access Headings

- Bible--Study and Teaching
- Hartford (Conn.)
• Pharmacists--Hartford (Conn.)
• Wells, Charles P.
• English, James F., Jr.

Collection Inventory

Box 1, Folder 1: Accounts with Family, 1832-1838, 1856
Box 1, Folder 2: Assorted Writings-Debates and Essays, 1830s
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Box 1, Folder 4: Assorted Writings-Religion and Poetry, 1820s-1830s, undated
Box 1, Folder 5: Assorted Writings-Religion and Poetry, 1820s-1830s, undated
Box 1, Folder 5: Assorted Writings-Religion and Poetry, 1820s-1830s, undated
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Box 1, Folder 7: Assorted Writings-Religion and Poetry, 1820s-1830s, undated
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Box 1, Folder 9: Contracts with Friends, 1831, 1833, undated
Box 1, Folder 10: Club minutes, 1831
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