

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. 108

Date processed: March, 1980

- I. Title Sherman Family Collection, 1745-1945
- II. The papers of Roger Sherman, Roger Sherman, Jr., Roger Minott Sherman, deposited in the Library ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and Roger Sherman Prescott ~~xx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 8"
Approximate number of items: 220 plus 4 bound volumes
- IV. Restrictions: None
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of
in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of
the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated
to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on
- VII. Biographical note: Roger Sherman (1721-1793), the only man to sign not
only the Declaration of Independence, but also the 1774 Articles of
Association, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution, was
born in Newton, Mass., the son of William and Mehetabel Wellington
Sherman. Although he received no formal education, he came under the
influence of the Rev. Samuel Dunbar and read widely in theology,
history, mathematics, law and politics.
In 1743 Sherman moved to New Milford, Conn. and worked as a
surveyor for New Haven and Litchfield counties, becoming a considerable
land owner and taking part in town affairs. In 1754 he was admitted to
the Litchfield bar and entered the Connecticut General Assembly.
Moving to New Haven in 1761, he became a merchant and importer. His
many contributions to Yale were rewarded by an appointment as
Treasurer of Yale College and an honorary degree from that institution
in 1768.
His interest in politics continued, and he represented New Haven
in the General Assembly and later in the State Senate, while at the
same time holding the offices of judge of the Superior Court of Conn.
and in 1784-1786 of mayor of New Haven.
In 1774 he became a member of the First Continental Congress
and of the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence. During
the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Sherman introduced the famous
Connecticut Compromise which became the basis for representation in
Congress (by population in the House, and by state in the Senate).
He was also a member of the first Congress in 1789, moving to the
U.S. Senate in 1791, where he served until he died.
Sherman was married to Elizabeth Hartwell in 1749 (7 children)
and to Rebecca (Rebekah) Prescott in 1763 (8 children).

Biographical Note - continued

For further references and biographical material, see The Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 17, pp. 88-91 and the Sherman Genealogy, pp. 149-201.

Roger Sherman, Jr., son of Roger and Rebecca Sherman, was born in New Haven in 1768. He received a B.A. and an M.A. degree from Yale, studied law, and served briefly as a representative in the Connecticut General Assembly. However, his primary interest was in business, and he was the owner with his uncle, Benjamin Prescott, of Prescott & Sherman on Long Wharf in New Haven. They owned ships and dealt in real estate. In 1801 Sherman married Susannah Staples of Canterbury. He died in 1856 at the age of 88. For more complete biographical data, see the Sherman Genealogy, pp. 245-250.

Roger Minott Sherman (1773-1844) was the son of Josiah, brother of Roger Sherman. He was born in Woburn, Mass. and lived with his uncle while attending Yale. He studied law under Oliver Ellsworth, Tapping Reeve and Simeon Baldwin and was admitted to the bar in 1796. He married Elizabeth Gould in 1796 and in 1807 they moved to Fairfield where he practiced law for 43 years, chiefly as a trial lawyer. Sherman served on the Governor's Council, in the General Assembly and as judge of the Superior Court. He died in Fairfield in 1844.

The Fairfield Historical Society has an extensive collection of his papers. For further biographical material, see the Sherman Genealogy, pp. 219-220 and Yale Biographies, 1792-1805.

Roger Sherman Prescott (1799-1856) was the son of Benjamin Prescott, partner of Roger Sherman, Jr. and brother of Rebecca Sherman. He was a merchant in New Haven. For biographical information, see Prescott Memorial, p. 96 and the New Haven Vital Records for his marriage to Rebecca Carrington.

General William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891) was a relative of the New Haven Shermans. They were all descended from Thomas Sherman. See the Sherman Genealogy, pp. 397-398 for the Civil War general's biography.

VIII: Analysis: The collection consists of two boxes and four oversize items. It includes papers of the Honorable Roger Sherman, signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and some of his descendants. It also includes some genealogical material compiled by descendants and one letter to General William T. Sherman of Civil War fame, a distant relative.

The bulk of the papers fall between 1745 and 1850. Roger Sherman's papers are chiefly legal documents written or signed by him and a few documents of his work as a surveyor. Bills and ledgers of his activities as a merchant in New Haven are also in the collection. There are no papers having to do with his political activities except for notes in his almanacs (Box 1, Folder H.)

The papers of Roger Sherman, Jr. and Roger Sherman Prescott consist of ledgers and daybooks of their business accounts.

The papers are filed chronologically under each person, with miscellaneous material at the end. The number at right indicates the number of documents in each folder.

MSS #108

SHERMAN FAMILY COLLECTION, 1745-1945

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BOX 1

Roger Sherman, 1721-1793

Folder A - Legal Documents signed by Roger Sherman, 1752-1788 (6)

- Writ of execution, 1752, Benjamin Eastman v. Daniel Lake, Litchfield County
- Debenter - House of Assistants, October session, 1768, New Haven
- Order to pay Eneas Munson by Levi Ives, 1773
- Fragment - **recto:** arbitration award, March, 1774
verso: bond: (T. Punderson), April, 1774
- Deed, Theophilus Munson to Nathaniel Lyon
- Bill and note to Elizur Goodrich, 1790

B - Legal Documents re Benedict Arnold, 1766 (2)

- Complaint against Arnold et al. Jan., 1766
verso: bill for complaint
- Arrest warrant for Arnold et al. Jan. 1766 signed by Sherman as Justice of the Peace

MOVED TO ←
OVERSIZE
ITEM #1.

(Gift of Morgan B. Brainard, 1950)

C - Transcripts of documents in Folder B (4)

D - Revolutionary war papers (2)

- Receipt for money for New Haven troops in Continental Army, July, 1777 (written by Sherman)
- Report of committee investigating Walter Livingston, 1783

* E - Receipts and bills to Sherman 1766-1779 (9)

F - Correspondence - Incoming (2)

- Jeremy Condy to Sherman, May 4, 1765
- David Phenix, New York, Dec. 14, 1791

G - Correspondence - Outgoing (3)

Copies of letter to his wife Rebecca, 1790

H - Almanacs (2)

- Poor Will's, 1780 and McCulloch's, 1793, in which he kept notes and lists
- Gift of Doris Baldwin, 1986.

* From Leffingwell Collection

MSS #108 Sherman Family Collection, 1745-1945

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

BOX 1 Roger Sherman, 1721-1793 (Continued)

- Folder I - Miscellaneous Documents 1768-1793 (7)
- Deed Caleb Malery to Roger Sherman New Milford, 1749
 - Deed, James Pierpoint to Sherman for land in New Haven, July, 1768
 - Order to Sherman to Philip Daggett to RS, 1772, deliver goods and money, from Ralph Isaacs
 - Summons, James Ludlow to answer complaint(copy) signed by Sherman, Nov. 1782
 - List of members of New Haven Convention, 1770, including Sherman
 - Bills from Elijah Austin and Abram Smith, 1792-1793
 - Pamphlet, "Bells of History" 1922, Conn. Carillon to honor memory of R. Sherman
- J - Copies of documents (10)
- Reduced facsimile - layout of land by R. Sherman, New Milford, 1745
 - Halftone, "A Plan of Mr. Patridge Thacher's Land in New Milford" Roger Sherman Survey, 1753 (from R. Sherman Collection, Archives, Sterling Library, Yale University) 2 copies
 - Halftone - writ of attachment, Litchfield Co., 1755, signed by R. Sherman, J.P.
 - Xerox copy, Debenter, House of Assistants, New Haven, Oct. session, 1770
 - Xerox copy, order for payment on debenture, signed by Sherman, Nov. 25, 1786 (2 copies, 2 p. ea.)
- K - Photographs (8)
- Photograph of Portrait of R. Sherman by Ralph Earl in the Yale University Art Gallery (4 copies)
 - Copies of other paintings and/or etchings (3)
 - Photograph of the Roger Sherman House, 1050 Chapel taken in 1885
- L - Loose papers removed from volume in Oversize Item #2 (R. Sherman's Ledger, 1761-1770) (4)

MSS #108 Sherman Family Collection, 1745-1945

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

BOX 1 (Continued)

- Folder M - Roger Sherman, Jr. (1768-1846) (5)
- Note to Jeremiah Evarts to pay Samuel Noar, 1812
 - Receipt for taxes paid by Sherman, 1815
 - ALS Sherman to Benjamin Prescott, 1822
 - Receipt to James English for rent due Mrs. Rebecca Sherman, July 1829
 - Certification that Enos A. Prescott owns share of stock in contract to rebuild Union Wharf, New Haven, signed by R.S.Jr., 1846
- N - Day Book, 1788-1801 (2)
- Bound volume ca. 175 pages: with separate alphabetical index; includes accounts with prominent New Haveners and family members; Sherman's estate; list of legacies. (Gift of Mrs. David Daggett, n.d.)
- O - Loose papers from Day Book in Folder N (4)

BOX 2

- Folder A - Loose papers from Oversize Item 3 (3)
(Roger Sherman, Jr. Day Book, 1803-1848)
- B - Roger Minott Sherman (1773-1844), 1801-1831 (5)
- Receipt, June 1801, signed by R.M.Sherman
 - ALS Isaac Keeler to RMS, Ridgefield, 1803
 - ALS Aaron Read to RMS, Reading, 1819
 - * - ALS Roger M. Sherman to Thomas G. Woodward, 1831
 - * - letter, n.d. (in Sherman's hand) "For the Herald"
- C - Roger Sherman Prescott (1799-1856), Ledger (1)
1832-1841 - Bound volume 203 pages, plus alphabetical index in front (used as scrapbook later - illustrations pasted over many pages) Gift of Mrs. Harold Newton, 1973.
- *D - Prescott & Sherman (5)
- ALS Nathan Frink to Prescott & Sherman, 1807
 - " " " " Harry Frink re Prescott & Sherman sloop, 1804

* From Leffingwell Collection

TABLE OF CONTENTS(Continued)

BOX 2 (Continued)

- Folder E - General William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891) (5)
- Correspondence concerning his relationship to Roger Sherman, 1867-1945
- F - Sherman Genealogy (108)
- Descendants of Roger Sherman, compiled by Henrietta F. Thacher, 1941; Roger Sherman Inscription Fund and list of donors; list of R.S. descendants. Gift of Miss Thacher, 1950.
- G - Genealogical notes and correspondence, 1913-1945 (19)

OVERSIZE ITEMS

- Item #1 - A Genealogy of Shermans in New England (4)
n.d. descendants of Samuel Sherman (graph) (2)
- *ARREST WARRANT, B. ARJOW, 1766*
- #2 - Roger Sherman, Ledger 1761-1770 (1)
Bound volume, 555 pages - includes list of Yale students, 1761; Sherman family history; accounts (many with prominent New Haveners)*
- #3 - Roger Sherman, Jr. - Day Book 1803-1848 (1)
Bound volume ca. 109 pages; accounts, recipes
- #4 - Ancestral Register - descendants of Roger Sherman, by Edwin Hubbard, 1847 (1)

* Also includes "Cost of the Forces Raised in Connecticut Mar. 1762" & 17 "Queries relating to his majestie's Colonies & Plantations in America."

Box/ Folders	Contents	No. of Items
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ADDITIONS TO COLLECTION, JUNE 1989

2/H	<u>Anthony H. Sherman</u> Certificate of admission, 2nd regiment, New Haven, May 25, 1805 Warrant of confirmation as Serjeant in 1st battalion of artillery, New Haven, July 3, 1813 (signed by Charles Sherman, Major Commandant)	2
2/I	<u>George E. Sherman</u> Letter from [J.?] Lovell, November 12, 1834 Letter from [J.?] Lovell, April 23, 1838 Soldier's Certificate, 5th Co., 27th Reg., 1st Brigade, 1st Division, New York State Artillery, February 15, 1846 Private's Certificate of Membership in National Guard of New York State, 7th Reg., 3rd Brigade, 1st Division. Various dates and certifications, September 5, 1864 - September 5, 1871 Honorable Discharge from 7th Reg. 3rd Brigade, 1st Division of Militia, State of New York, April 24, 1872 Commission as 1st Lieutenant and Quartermaster, 4th Reg., National Guard, State of New Jersey, August 30, 1872	6
2/J	<u>Broadsides</u> Resolution passed by the Non-commissioned officers of the New Haven battalion of artillery August 12, 1812 and July 26, 1813	2

Note: There appear to be three individuals represented in these additions. Anthony H. Sherman (1780-1851), his son George E. Sherman (1810-1866) and his grandson George E. Sherman (1845 - ?).