OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Author: Joseph B. Miles, Captain Charles Devol, Dr. Leonard Jewett, Ebenezer Currier, David Clayton, Josiah Coe, Ohio Conference High School of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Athens Post Office, William McVay, and Daniel Grosvenor.

Title: Ledgers Collection

Date: 1802 – 1937

Abstract: Ledgers, account books, day books, matriculation book, and scrapbook of various Athens businesses.

Quantity: 1.3 cu.ft.

BIOGRAPHY OF VARIOUS ATHENS BUSINESSES

Joseph B. Miles was a leading citizen and merchant in Athens. He was born in Rutland, MA, June 21, 1781. In 1791 he moved to Belpre in Washington County, OH with his parents. In 1808 he moved to Athens and began business as a merchant. In January 1809 he married Elizabeth Buckingham of Carthage Township, Athens County. He lived in Athens for thirty-five years and participated in all social, religious, and business activities.

He was engaged in the mercantile and milling businesses and was respected as an upright man and Christian. In 1843 he moved his family to Washington, Tazewell County, IL where he died on September 18, 1860. He was married twice and had thirteen children.

Captain Charles Devol was born on June 30, 1782 at Tiverton, Rhode Island. In 1788 his family moved to Washington County, OH and settled at Marietta until the end of the Indian War. At the close of the war the family moved five miles above the town on the Muskingum River where his father, Jonathan, erected a large mill where Charles worked until he was twenty-one.

During the War of 1812 Charles commanded a company of cavalry on the frontier under General Harrison. Just before the war he married Sallie Hoyt of Athens County.
At the close of the war he settled on a farm at the mouth of the Hocking River.

Devol served as a magistrate for several years and, due to the scarcity of medical people, he acted as a doctor and dentist. He had four children. He died from paralysis on August 28, 1845 in Chauncy, OH while on a business trip.

Dr. Leonard Jewett, a native of Massachusetts, was born on September 6, 1770. In 1802 he moved from New York to Washington County. In 1804 or 1805 he moved to Athens conducting business in medications and liquor. In 1806 he was elected to the Ohio State Senate and held that position until 1811. His other political offices Athens Township Trustee (1809 – 1810) and Athens County representative to the Ohio State House of Representatives (1809 – 1810). At the onset of the War of 1812 he was commissioned as a surgeon and was assigned to the staff of General Tupper. After the war he returned to Athens and resumed his medical practice.

Jewett was married to Mary Porter of Massachusetts and had four children. He died on May 13, 1816.

Ebenezer Currier was born in Hempstead, Rockingham County, New Hampshire on December 15, 1772 and came to Ohio in 1804. He settled in Athens in 1806. He was an early mercantile merchant of the town. He was politically active serving in town and township offices, justice of the peace, county commissioner, county treasurer, four-time member of the State Legislature, and an associate justice of the court of common pleas. He was married and had two children. Currier died on March 2, 1851.

David M. Clayton was born in 1817 and married Susannah S. Clayton, with whom he had three children. He was involved in dry goods, hardware, and groceries. Clayton also served as post master from 1861 to 1865. His son, Jeffrey B. Clayton, was born in 1840 and graduated from Ohio University in 1862.

Josiah Coe was born in Stratford, Connecticut in 1769. In 1803 he bought 500 acres in the northwest Teritory. He moved to Athens County in 1806 and set up a milling business in Nelsonville. He served on the first grand jury in the County and was a contributor to the first, log courthouse. He was a large dealer in real estate and a founder of the Athens Presbyterian Church. Coe was married four times. He died in 1846 leaving fifteen children.

Ohio Conference High School of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Springfield, Clark County, Ohio was recognized by an act of the Ohio Legislature on March 7, 1842. The school, however, traces its origins to an act by the Legislature on March 1, 1834 establishing a high school in the town. A Board of Trustees purchased a lot on E. High Street, the present site of the Springfield Seminary. Peter A. Sprigman, owner of the land, proceeded to solicit subscriptions for the erection of a school building. In 1835 the school was organized under Milo G. Williams as principal. The plan of the school was to be a preparatory and collegiate course through the junior year. In 1841 it was proposed to transfer the school to the Methodist Church.

The Reverend Solomon Howard became principal of the school in 1845 and, for the third time, it admitted girls and boys. Howard resigned in 1852 to become the president of Ohio University. The school continued until 1871 when it was sold to the Springfield Board of Education for $27,150.

Athens Post Office was first established in January 1804 and the first postmaster
was Jehiel Gregory. The office was kept at his house, across the river and east of Athens. The office changed hands in the spring of the same year and went to Dr. Eliphaz Perkins and was moved to State Street.

William McVay was born on March 4, 1841 in Athens County. He lived on a farm in Waterloo Township as a sheep breeder. His business and showing took him to Hebardsville, Albany and as far as Columbus. He married Anne and had six children.

Daniel Grosvenor was born on March 4, 1839 in Athens County. His parents came to Ohio from Massachusetts in 1838 with three sons, one being Charles H. Grosvenor. Daniel served three years in the 3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was secretary of the Athens County Republican Central Committee, was a member of the Hayes and Wheeler Club, and worked on the campaign committee for Rutherford B. Hayes. Grosvenor was a merchant of food, household and farm supplies. He moved to Washington, D.C. probably after 1880.

Athenian Scrapbook contains clippings on prominent residents.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The Collection two ledger books, two account books, five day books, a matriculation book, and a scrapbook. The Collection covers 102 years of mercantile business representing eight men of Athens County. The books note customer accounts and merchant purchases and trades. The Grosvenor ledger also contains the minutes of the Athens County Republican Central Committee from July through August of 1876 as well as a list of the Allusiory members of the Committee. The McVay book also includes a family birth record dating back to 1840. The Post Office, school book and the Miles ledger include Ohio University accounts.

RELATED MATERIALS

Brawley / Carpenter Collection (MSS# 40); Josiah Coe Collection (MSS# 21); Charles Grosvenor Collection (MSS# 150); Hatch / Frost / Broadwell Family Collection (MSS# 6); William Parker Johnson Collection (MSS# 173); Moore and Welch Collection (MSS# 42); Samuel Pruden Collection (MSS# 17); Josian True Collection (MSS# 24); A.B. Walker Collection (MSS# 120); Ezra Walker Collection (MSS# 124); Johnson Welch Collection (MSS# 22); Wesley Young Collection (MSS# 49)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Ohio University Libraries.
Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to cite the collection name, collection number, and the Ohio University Libraries, in all footnotes and bibliographical references.

Accession Number: 77-63

Provenance: The Ohio University Archives received the collection prior to 1956.

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Copyrights: Ohio University retains all copyrights unless retained by the donor, other correspondents, or other artists.

Photoduplication: Ohio University will entertain requests to photocopy reasonable amounts of material from the collection for the convenience of individual researchers.

Processing: Carolyn Copper processed the Collection in 1985.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

CONTAINER LIST

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<td>Dr. Leonard Jewett Ledger, 1802 – 1816, 20.5 x 32.5 cm., 340 pgs. account of daily transactions</td>
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<td>B1 / 1</td>
<td>Joseph B. Miles Day Book, July 23, 1811 – December 5, 1814, 16.5 x 38.5 cm., 358 pgs. daily transactions, selling Bibles, lead, iron, fabric, coffee and grains</td>
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<td>Joseph B. Miles Ledger of Accounts 1811 – 1814, 20 x 32.5 cm., 358 pgs. listing of Day Book accounts with Ohio University account on pg. 118</td>
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Grosvenor's meetings

P9 / 1 Scrapbook containing clippings about well-known Athenians, 20 x 25.5 cm., 98 pgs. with an article on the death of Henry O'Bleness