

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts
No. 97

Date processed: November, 1978

- I. Title Sumner-Rockwell Collection, 1854-1925.
- II. The papers of William Graham Sumner, Alfred P. Rockwell and members of their families purchased by the Library in March, 1977 and March and October, 1978 from Maurice Sagoff.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 5 inches
Approximate number of items: 375
- IV. Restrictions:
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the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: William Graham Sumner (1840-1910) was born in Paterson, N.J. and grew up in Hartford, Conn. Upon graduating from Yale he continued his education in Europe where he studied languages on the Continent and Anglican theology at Oxford. In 1867 he was ordained Deacon in the Protestant Episcopal Church. From 1866 to 1869 he was a Tutor at Yale. In 1869 he left New Haven but returned to Yale in 1872 as Professor of Political and Social Sciences. He was responsible for creating the Sociology Department at Yale. He was married to Jennie Whittemore Elliott of New York City and had three sons, two of whom survived infancy. He resided at 240 Edwards St. in New Haven.
- His son, Eliot Sumner (1878-1941), graduated from Yale and was associated with the Pennsylvania Railroad in Philadelphia. He married Katherine Diana Ward Rockwell (1873-1936), daughter of Alfred P. and Katherine Foote Rockwell.
- Alfred Perkins Rockwell (1834-1903) was born in Norwich, Conn. and died in New Haven while on a visit here. He married Katherine Virginia Foote (1839-1902) of New Haven, and they had four children. He studied at Yale and abroad and took part in the Civil War, reaching the rank of Colonel. From 1865 to 1868 he was professor of mining at Sheffield Scientific School and served in the same capacity at M.I.T. from 1868 to 1873. He was chairman of the Boston Board of Fire Commissioners (1876-1879), President of the Eastern Railroad Co. (1879-1882) and Treasurer of the Great Falls, N.H. Manufacturing Co. (1879-1886).
- Samuel Edmund Foote (1787-1858), father of Mrs. Rockwell, was born in Guilford, Conn., lived in New York and Cincinnati, and retired to New Haven. He was a sea captain and later associated with a number of large companies. His wife was Elizabeth Elliott (1807-78)

SUMNER-ROCKWELL COLLECTION 1854-1925

VII. Biography:(continued)

For more complete biographical data, see Folder N.

VIII. Analysis: The collection consists of one box containing 375 documents covering the period 1854-1925. The W.G. Sumner and A.P. Rockwell material ends ca. 1908, but the letters of Eliot and Diana Sumner continue to 1925. The bulk of the papers are bills, receipts and letters addressed to W.G. Sumner, A.P. Rockwell, Eliot and Diana Sumner and members of their immediate families including some miscellaneous documents of Samuel E. Foote, Mrs. Rockwell's father.

The collection is arranged by individual, starting with W.G. Sumner. Each individual's papers are subdivided into bills and receipts and correspondence (personal and business). They are arranged alphabetically by writer or company except where otherwise noted in the Table of Contents. For a more complete description, see the Table of Contents, pp. 1-2.

The bills and receipts give a picture of commerce in 19th century New Haven and can be used in conjunction with the Advertising Cards, etc. Collection (MSS #65). The personal letters, especially those to Mr. and Mrs. Eliot Sumner contain anecdotes about events and leading families in New Haven during this period.

The numbers in brackets on the right indicate the number of documents in each folder.

SUMNER-ROCKWELL COLLECTION 1854-1925

Table of ContentsBOX I

- Folder A - William Graham Sumner - Incoming Correspondence (A-Z) personal and professional
(speaking engagements, political contributions, etc.) 1872-1901 [21]
(filed alphabetically by writer)
- B- Sumner - Incoming Correspondence(A-Z)
from tradespeople 1873-1908 [38]
(filed alphabetically by company or individual)
- C- Sumner - Bills & Receipts (A-H) 1874-1908 [91]
(filed alphabetically by company or individual)
- D- Sumner - Bills & Receipts (J-Y) 1873-1908 [92]
(alphabetical)
- E- Alfred P. Rockwell - Letters from his wife,
Katherine Foote Rockwell 1864-1865 [14]
(most not dated)
- F- Rockwell - Incoming Correspondence 1854-1906 [29]
(including letters from W.G. Sumner, 1874;
Senator Joseph R. Hawley, 1884; and Governor
H.B. Harrison, 1884)
(arranged chronologically)
- G- Rockwell - Correspondence from White Bros.
1887-1902 [4]
xeroxes of letters from White Bros.
1879-1912 [16]
see White Brothers Collection MSS #62D
Box III, Folder I for additional letters
- H- Rockwell - Bill & Receipts, Business
Correspondence (A-T) 1868-1887 [12]
(alphabetical by company or writer)
- I- Katherine Foote Rockwell - Incoming Correspondence
(C-R) 1868-1897 [16]
including 1869 letter from A.P. Rockwell
and letters from her cousin Mary D.
Hoppin
- J- Diana(Rockwell) & Eliot Sumner -Letters
from Mrs. W.G. Sumner 1908, 1916 [13]
(most undated)

