

The Whitney Library  
New Haven Colony Historical Society

Manuscript Register

MSS #B77

Pitkin/Hayden Family Papers, 1840-1977

MSS B77 Pitkin/Hayden Family Papers, 1840-1977

Anonymous donor, 1986

Approximate number of items: 1,500

Biographical note: The Pitkin family in this country began with William Pitkin, 1635-1694, who emigrated from England to Connecticut in 1659. He was Hartford's most active and influential politician at the time of his death. He started a dynasty of Pitkins that would pass from him to William Pitkin II, to William Pitkin III and to William Pitkin IV. All four were not only Hartford's leading officeholders but were dominant leaders of the colony as well.

The papers in this collection were generated by William R. Pitkin, b. 1877; several of his cousins; and his son and daughter-in-law, William R. Pitkin, Jr, b. 1913, and Geraldine Pitkin, n.d. They primarily concern management of the extensive family real estate business in New Haven. Through his mother, Louisa Sherman, he was descended from Roger Sherman, 1721-1793. Pitkin Street in New Haven is named for the family; the Pitkin Building still exists at 157-161 Orange Street. It is currently being used as headquarters for the New Haven Downtown Council.

William R. Pitkin's brother was James Sherman Pitman, 1882-1950, who managed the family real estate in New Haven and was a well-known author about yachting. He was married to Annie Lawrence DeForest, 1892-1985, of New Haven.

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William R. Pitkin, b. 1877, married Pauline Migeon Hayden, b. 1879, of Waterbury. The other half of the collection concerns the Hayden Family. The collection contains coats of arms for the Hayden and Migeon families.

The Hayden part of the collection consists of the papers of Edward Simeon Hayden, 1851-1899. He was born in Waterbury, the only son of Hiram Washington and Pauline Hayden. He married Elizabeth Gilder Kellogg, d. 1873. (Their daughter, Pauline Migeon Hayden, married William R. Pitkin.) He traced his ancestors to John Haiden, founder of Braintree, Massachusetts, ca. 1634.

Edwin Simeon Hayden was a metallurgist and was the inventor of a process for electrolyzing copper and other metals, which was patented throughout the world. He spent considerable time in Arizona where he was involved in mining of copper and gold. Much of his correspondence concerns that part of his business.

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Analysis: Collection consists of three boxes - Mostly business correspondence - more than half of it in the form of carbon copies. There are some photographs of Pitkin family members, though many of them have suffered from water damage. All of this material had been through a fire and a flood so that some of the papers are scorched, as well as being water damaged.

Oldest items are transcriptions of letters from members of Hayden family from 1840 to 1897.

MSS # B77 PITKIN/HAYDEN FAMILY PAPERS 1840-1977

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Items</u>
Box 1/A	Hayden Corres. 1885-1898	43
Box 1/B	<del>Personal</del> Corres. & Travel Mem 1884-1898	18
Box 1/C	Hayden Corres. 1893-1898	36
Box 1/D	Hayden Corres 1897-1898	38
Box 1/E	Business Corres & Docs 1897-1910	56
Box 1/F	Hayden Business & legal 1891-1899	43
Box 1/G	E.S. Hayden business ads	2
Box 1/H	E.S. Hayden obit published by SAR	7
Box 1/I	E.S. Hayden obit Waterbury American	16
Box 1/J	Obit New York Daily Tribune	37
Box 1/K	Letters to E.S. Hayden - Arizona Real Estate & mining	39

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Items</u>
2/A	Family and papers history	
2/B Pitkin	Pitkin Document re court case	
2/C	Passport, bank book Yale reunion, class 35	3
3/D	Pitkin corres 1921-1932	42
2/E	Corres 1921-1918	44
2/F	corres C.Lewis to D.S.Pitkin 1920-1932	125
2/G	Corres Mrs Wm Pitkin & son	32
2/H	Mother Pitkin from Gerry 1942-1943	68
2/I	same	54
2/J	Deeds, Tax Bills 1940-1977	6
2/K	corres to mother Pitkin 1944-1945	40
2/L	Real estate accounts 1911-1917	60
2/M	Real estate corr 1920-1932	48
2/N	same	130
2/O	Real estate docs 1928-1935	41
2/P	Corres & real estate docs. 1921-1929	40
2/Q	same 1927-1932	73
2/R	Corres 1919-1933	86

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Item</u>
3/A	Hayden transcriptions of letters 1848-1897	36
3/B	photo Wm. and children	1
3/C	Pauline Hayden Pitkin wedding photos 1912	3
3/D	WM.Pitkin, Jr photo	1
3/E	Lt Wm Pitkin 1942 photo	1
3/F	Wm , Sr photos	4
3/G	Mrs Wm Pitkin, jr	1
3/H	Photos	20
3/I	Hayden cors 1890-1898	56
3/J	Hayden business corr 1895-1898	42
3/K	Elizabeth Hayden Estate	1
3/L	Photos	