

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. 123

Date processed: September 1980

- I. Title Main, Elias T. (1819-1888) Collection, 1825-88
- II. The papers of Elias T. Main deposited in the Library on November 1970, by Alvin S. Williams ~~in~~ as a gift. converted the deposit to a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 3"
Approximate number of items: 215
- 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- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the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: Elias T. Main was born in 1819 in the town of Willington, Connecticut, the son of Bradley Main, a farmer in Coventry, Connecticut. Elias T. Main was a carriage maker in New Haven, and is listed as such in the New Haven Directory from 1843 through 1852. In 1842 he married Jane Elizabeth Smith, daughter of William A. Smith of Orange, Connecticut, an early settler of that town. Elias and Jane had 7 children. In 1852, Elias Main bought a farm in Orange, Connecticut, and moved there to follow 'agrarian pursuits.'
- Elias Main was always active in his community. While in New Haven, he was foreman of a (hand) fire engine company and a Captain of the Connecticut Governors Foot Guard, Second Company.
- (continued next page)
- VIII. Analysis: This collection consists of one box containing Main's deeds, which show he owned land in New Haven, records from the Connecticut Governor's Foot Guard, and from the district meetings of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows over which he often presided as Deputy District Grand Master. There are personal bills and receipts and some papers pertaining to the Town Clerks Office in Orange.

The documents date from 1825-1888. All the papers dated from 1825 through 1839 are marriage notices (which continue through 1850) sent to the Town Clerk of Orange, Connecticut. These predate Mr. Main's term, which seems to have begun in 1858.

The documents are arranged by subjects and within these subjects, chronologically, except for the records of the Town of Orange. Those which pertain to Elias T. Main's term in office are filed before those which predate his term.

Biography, continued

Main was elected Town Clerk of Orange and served there from 1858 until his death, in 1888. He was also the registrar of vital records for the town. When the town offices moved to West Haven in 1873, Main did too, giving up his farm and "devoting himself to his public duties."

Elias T. Main remained active in public affairs all his life. He was a charter member of the New Haven City Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, where he filled every chair of that body. He was an active member of the Baptist Church of West Haven. Main was an 'ardent' Republican and chaired the town committee in Orange for many years. In 1872 he was elected a member of the Lower House of the General Assembly and was a delegate to 'numerous conventions.'

bibliography

Commemorative Biographical Record of New Haven County, Connecticut, Chicago
J.H. Beers and Co., 1902 pages 896-8.

Rockey, John L., History of New Haven County, Connecticut, volume II
edited by J.L. Rockey, New York, W.W. Preston, 1892

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Box I.

- Folder A. - Deeds and miscellaneous papers, 1854-1864 [6]
Deeds to and from Elias T. Main for land in New Haven and a telegram notifying Main of his father's death.
- B. - Bills and Receipts, 1850-1885 [13]
From merchants, doctors and the tax collector in New Haven, West Haven and Orange. Includes a bill sent by Main for coachwork done.
- C. - Bills and receipts, 1885-1888 [16]
From merchants in West Haven.
- D. - Connecticut. Governors Foot Guard, Second Company. New Haven. April 1841-September 1842 [10]
A list of the members, September 6, 1841 and company orders to assemble, including lists of those in the Guard.
- E. - Connecticut. Governors Foot Guard, Second Company. New Haven May 1840-April 1843 [11]
Bills and receipts for meals and equipment, a thank you letter for hospitality, sent to the Company.
- F. - Lodge records, 1849 [12]
Minutes of some District Degree Meetings of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. These are joint meetings of the Quinnipiac, Harmony, Montowese and City Lodges. Includes names of new members and recipients of new degree medals.
- G. - Lodge records, 1850 [12]
Minutes of district meetings.
- H. - Town of Orange, documents, 1868-1888 [12]
Miscellaneous papers: includes subpoenas, dog registrations, a consent to marry letter, a notice of death, a notice of a meeting concerning a new road to cross the New Haven and Derby railroads, et cetera. During Mr. Main's term as Town Clerk.

TABLE OF CONTENTS (contin'd)

Box I.

Folders I - L - Town of Orange, documents, 1825-1836
Marriage notifications sent to the Town Clerk of Orange, Connecticut. The men who served in this office for these years, and what seems to be their terms in office are: Solomon Johnson (1823-33), Lyman Prindle (1834), and William Woodruff (1835-49).

I - 1825-1836 [17]

J - 1837-1841 [17]

K - 1842-1845 [23]

L - 1846-1850 [16]

Folder M. - Miscellaneous

A bill sent by E.B. Main, possibly a brother, [1] or another relative, for "Horse shoeing and jobbing", in Hartford, Connecticut, May 1882.

~~N. - Current information pertaining to the collection.~~ [1]