Manuscripts
No. 57A

Date processed: Feb. 22, 1977

I. Title: New Haven Harbor Collection--Farmington Canal Papers, 1822-1925

II. The papers of Farmington Canal, part of which were deposited in the Library in 1865, 1862, 1887 by Capt. J.W. Goodrich, A. Heaton, & Th. R. Trowbridge Jr. as a gift.

III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 10 inches
Approximate number of items: 960 - plus 15 and two manuscripts, 501 and 121 pages respectively, added in June, 1980.

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V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the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: see page 1 for brief history of Farmington Canal.

Thomas Fitch Rowland was born in New Haven in 1831. He was a lineal descendant of the Honorable Thomas Fitch, last Colonial Governor of Connecticut. At 13 he went to work at his father's Grist Mill in New Haven. (see George Rowland Papers, MSS #57D)

Later he became an engineer, eventually founding the Continental Iron Works in New York. He built the original Monitor of Civil War fame and later designed many Water and Gas Plants. He died in 1907. His interest in the Farmington Canal stemmed from his father's interest and investment in the canal.

VIII. Analysis: The collection contains original documents plus hand copied and typed transcripts, newspaper clippings, photographs; maps, posters and Farmington Canal seal. Most of the collection is in very poor condition. Additional material pertaining to the Farmington Canal may be found in the George Rowland Collection. For detail of collection see Content Guide--p. 2.

For additional maps see card catalogue: Farmington Canal [2]
New Haven & Northampton RR [2]

Additional material was added to this collection in June, 1980.

The Thomas Fitch Rowland collection of papers on the Farmington Canal which consist of notes prepared for a history of the canal by Frederick Bostwick, Rowland's nephew, and an edited typescript of the history which does not seem to have ever been published. This material is filed in Box II: C - M-2 (Table of Contents p.5)

Processed by: Zofia Sywak
The Farmington Canal was chartered in 1822 and in 1836 it merged with the Hampshire and Hampden Canal Co. (chartered, 1823) to form the New Haven and Northampton Co. The success of the Erie Canal in New York State to open up the interior to commerce enticed other areas to duplicate this. New Haven businessmen, seeing the profitable commerce existing along the Connecticut River and the riches reaped by Hartford, hoped to divert some of this profit by building a canal along the natural lowland from New Haven to the Massachusetts boundary where it would join with that state's undertaking to provide water transportation to its western area. Eventually this canal system would link New Haven with Lake Erie and the St. Lawrence River.

The Farmington Canal was to be financed through subscriptions which proved to be inadequate. The Mechanics Bank of New Haven was granted a charter in 1824 to fund construction of the canal. The canal was opened its entire length in Connecticut in 1829 and to Northampton, Mass. in 1836.

The canal was never a financial success: plagued by financial problems from the start and a lack of water supply; sabotaged by disgruntled farmers who resented the presence of the canal through their farms and the inadequate sums paid for their land; and the severe drought of 1845. With the advent of rail communication, the canal was replaced by the New Haven and Northampton Railroad which bought out the canal company. A railroad was constructed along the same route as the canal. Its maiden run in 1848 from New Haven to Plainville signalled the end of the canal era in Connecticut.
Content Guide

FARMINGTON CANAL

Box I.
folder A. Farmington Canal: Commission--minutes of meetings, 1822-1828, 1841-1943; corr., (minutes--notebook in very poor condition) [84]

B. Farmington Canal: meetings of directors or commission, 1825-1827 [8]

C. Farmington Canal: Corr.--to/from Simeon Baldwin, 1822-35
1--4. Ebenezer Baldwin (son) & Judge Benj. Wright of N.Y., 1823
5--7. George Cowles, 1822-1923
8--9. James Goodrich, 1923
10-20. Samuel Hinchley, 1822, 1825-27, 1835

D. Corr. (cont)
1. Davis Hunt, 1825
2--5. Roger Mills, 1823
6-13. John H. Lyman, 1822-1823
14. John Pittibone, Jr., 1822
15. No addressee, 1823--notification of charter of incorpo­ration granted to the Hampshire & Hampden Canal by MA Legislature.

E. Farmington Canal: organization and administration, 1822-35
1. Elevation along the canal route, 1822
2. Names of Commissioners, 1822
3. Incorporation Act of Farmington Canal, 1822
4. Estimate of expense of Farm. Canal, 1822
5--6. Report to petitioners by Farm. Canal
7. Notice of meeting of Commissioners & agenda, 1823
8. Resolution, 1923
9. Journal of Survey to Southwick, 1823 by S. Baldwin
10. Journal of Survey, 1823 by S. Baldwin
11. List of subscribers to Canal stock, 1825
12. List of streams, 1825
13. Financial statement, 1825
14. Mechanics Bank--act of incorporation, 1826
17. From the Selectmen of Farmington to the Selectmen of New Haven, 1829
19. List of Commissioners, 1835
23. Notice of organization and terms of subscription, n.d.
25. Misc.

F. Stock Certificates--Farmington Canal, 1825-1827 [26]

*Journal of Survey Sept. 19, 1823 at Granby to Sept. 30, 1823 at Simsbury (small notebook) by Simeon Baldwin
Box I - continued

Folder G - Farmington Canal: Canal Basin, petition and contracts, 1825-1839

H - assessment of damages, 1828 (poor cond.) [7]
I - assessment of damages, 1828 (poor cond.) [23]
J - assessment of damages for Hamden (typed) [6]
   rates of tolls, 1828 (hand copied) [2]
K - Map: profile of navigation from Northampton to Hartford; plus letter, 1925
L - Miscellaneous: Photograph of poster, Canal Boat DeWitt Clinton, 1829;
   Advertisement, book on Farmington
   Photo-engraving of Old City Market & Farmington Canal & text

M - Hampshire and Hampden Canal Co. [9]
   - Petition to Mass. Legislature, 1822 (2 c.)
   - Charter of Co., 1823
   - Contract to build canal, 1826
   - 11th installment, 1828
   - Permission by New Hampshire Legislature to build lock navigation over Lebanon Falls, n.d.
   - Loan certificates, 1833

N - Stock certificates, 1826-1828 [24]

O - New Haven and Northampton Canal Company [20]
   - Announcement of merger, 1836
   - Deed, 1836
   - Small notebook, loan agreement from New Haven to company

P - New Haven & Northampton Railroad Co. (plus misc.) [20]
   - Grant, portion of flats in canal basin, 1847
   - Invitation, 1848
   - Permission to fill New Haven canal basin for railroad depot, 1848
   - Lease, 1848
   - Newspaper clippings, 1847
   - Part of document labelled "51" with signatures
   - Extract from Encyclopedia on canals

Q - Printed Material (poor condition) some with handwritten notations, 1822-1835 [11]

R - Hand copied transcript pertaining to the Farmington Canal [58]

S - Hand copied transcript of clippings, manuscripts, etc. [ca.114]

T - Photographs believed to be and provided by a patron, 12-16-93, [23]

Box II-


A-2 - Typed copy of newspaper articles re New Haven & Northampton Canal Co., plus index [240]

A-3 - Farmington Canal Seal
Box II - continued

Folder B - Typed copy of pamphlets relating to Farmington Canal, plus index

C - Thomas Fitch Rowland (1831-1907) Papers

Obituary - Society of Gas Lighting 1908, (5 p. -2 copies)

D - Frederick Bostwick, ALS to T.F. Rowland 1900 re research on history of Farmington Canal

- Notebook, article from New Haven Palladium re fire in 1842 - copied by hand

E - K - Mss. handwritten - articles from New Haven Register on Farmington Canal, 1825-1837

(See Box II:A-2 for typed copies)

E - Feb. 1822- April, 1826

F - April, 1826 - Sept. 1827

G - Sept. 1827 - Jan. 1829

H - May - Nov. 1829

I - Nov. 1829 - Dec. 1831

J - Dec. 1831 - Aug. 1835

K - Aug. 1835 - Dec. 1837

L - Miscellaneous Papers re canal and George Rowland

- Register article on Farmington Bank

1832-1833

- lists of articles for sale at City Mill 1837-1837 (9 p.)

- newspaper clippings

- records sent to T.F. Rowland by F. Bostwick e.g. History of Hamden, p. 301

Conn. Herald, 1826 (3 p.)

Rockey's 'History of New Haven County re Farmington Canal

Recollections of New Haven by Gardner Morse, NHCHS Journal v. 5, p.95

New Haven Town Records excerpts

Accounts - typed, 1822-1825 (8 p.)

M - 1 - Typescript, History of Farmington Canal by Frederick Bostwick, 1907 edited by "Mr. Roberts" (plus letter to T.F. Rowland) [p. 1-59]

M - 2 - Typescript (continued) [p. 60-121]

It does not appear that this manuscript was ever published

*** FOLDERS C THROUGH M-2 ARE NOT ON MICROFILM

OVERSIZE ITEMS:

Item 1: Posters, broadsides, petitions with signatures (I:G:7-8 may be part of a petition). Filed in broadside drawer of architectural drawings file. See Also #57B:IV - one poster.
TEMPORARY OVERSIZE LOCATION

Material placed in the bottom drawer of the architectural drawings cabinet -- January 24, 1986

MSS# 22 Maritime Collection
Oversize Item 1 (a - p)
Oversize Item 13C
Oversize Item 14F
Oversize Item 7 aa
Box II Items A and B

Civil War Collection - MSS #77
1 folder oversize additions

MSS# 28 City and County Documents
Oversize Item 58

MSS #57a Farmington Canal
Item III