

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts
No. 73

Date processed: Apr., 1978

- I. Title Candee, Leverett, 1795-1863. Papers, 1843-1864
- II. The papers of L. Candee & the Candee Rubber Co. (L. Candee & Co.) deposited in the Library on _____, by _____
In _____ converted the deposit to a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: $\frac{1}{2}$ foot
Approximate number of items: 150
- 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- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of _____ in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to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 2

VIII. Analysis: With the possible exception of an unsigned memorandum making observations on conditions on the Shore Line Railroad, this collection does not contain personal correspondence of Leverett Candee. It does contain records of real estate transactions in which Leverett Candee was involved after he began the manufacture of rubber shoes in 1842, the articles of incorporation of L. Candee and Company in 1852, a few letters concerning some of the firm's contractual obligations, misc. cheques, records of bad debts and promissory notes to Leverett Candee, L. Candee and Co. and the partnership that preceded it.

L. Candee and Company advertising cards dated 1896 (26) are included in these papers. In their day these cards must have been risqué! indeed!

Biographical Note

Leverett Candee (June 1, 1795 - Nov. 27, 1863) was born at Oxford, Conn. After a scanty education, Candee went to New Haven at the age of 15 and entered the dry goods business, finally with two partners organizing his own firm. In 1833 Candee went to New York but returned to New Haven in 1835. After briefly once again engaging in the dry goods business, Candee participated for several years in the manufacture of book paper. This venture failed in 1842 and Candee lost his accumulated fortune.

Candee turned immediately to the manufacture of elastic suspenders, and attempted to manufacture rubber shoes. This immediately brought him in contact with Charles Goodyear who had just applied for a patent on his vulcanization process. Candee took out a license to manufacture rubber shoes under this Goodyear patent application. With the financial support of Henry and Lucius Hotchkiss of New Haven and in partnership with them, Candee began to develop the processes and techniques in the manufacture of rubber shoes and boots, in Hamden, Conn. The plant was later relocated to New Haven. Candee was the first person in the world to manufacture rubber shoes and overshoes using the Goodyear process.

In June 1852 the partnership was converted to a corporation, L. Candee and Company, capitalized at \$ 200,000, with Candee as manager and president. With the exception of one year, he served in these capacities until his retirement, just a few months before his death in 1863. Timothy Lester was elected the first secretary of L. Candee and Company.

Leverett Candee married Jane Caroline Tomlinson and left one son.

L. Candee & Co. grew and prospered over the next decades, and in the 1870's was the largest rubber shoe and boot manufacturer in the world with 1500 employees and a daily production capacity of 30,000 pairs of rubber shoes and boots. In the early part of the 20th century new shoe manufacturing machinery, particularly that developed by United Shoe Machinery of Boston, made it possible to manufacture leather shoes of improved quality at lower cost. This affected L. Candee & Co.'s sales and it was forced to become a portion of the U. S. Rubber Co.

See "Dictionary of American Biography" (Scribners) 1929, volume 111, pages 469 - 470.

Box I

- Folder A - Real estate transactions of Candee and Lester (1843 - 1847). Deeds to properties in Hamden and North Haven, Ct. Surveyors report on a Hamden property. (5)
- Folder B - Real estate transactions of Leverett Candee (1850 - 1854). Deeds to properties in Hamden and North Haven, Ct. and Charlestown and Malden, Mass. (9)
- Folder C - Real estate transactions of L. Candee & Co. and the partnerships that preceded it (1847 - 1864). Deeds to properties in Hamden and New Haven, Ct. (8)
- Folder D - Founding of L. Candee & Co in 1852. Rough and final drafts of the articles of incorporation. Newspaper announcements of formation of the company. Minutes of stockholders meeting naming corporate officers. Assignment of plant and facilities by Leverett Candee to L. Candee & Co. Withdrawal of Abraham Heaton from the organization. (8)
- Folder E - Affairs of L. Candee and Company (1853 - 1864). Misc. letters including several concerning patent problems. Portion of Secretary's reports for 1863 showing L. Candee's position relative to competition. Letter dated 1864 signed by L. Candee, Jr., only son of Leverett Candee. (15)
- Folder F - Cheques and promissory notes (1845 - 1859). (36)
- Folder G - Bad debts. Uncollectable amounts due Leverett Candee (1847 - 1849) (5)
- Folder H - Bad debts. Uncollectable amounts due L. Candee and Company. Misc. letters on financial matters. (1852 - 1859) (28)
- Folder I - Misc. insurance policies and a letter relating to insurance policies (1859 - 1863). (4)
- Folder J - Two \$1000 bonds of the Evansville, Indianapolis and Cleveland Straight Line Railroad Company. (2)
- Folder K - Misc. correspondence including unsigned observations on conditions on the Shore Line Railroad, possibly in the handwriting of Leverett Candee. (4)
- Folder L - Advertising promotional cards issued by L. Candee & Co. dated 1896 (26)

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Addendum, January 30, 1980

Box I

Folder M - Excerpts from the diary of Mary Jane Beecher (I)
written during 1843. She was a young employee of
the first L. Candee rubber she factory in Hamden
and describes working conditions there. Abstract
from a paper written by Charles Hartley, Hamden
High School history teacher, in 1956, based on
documents in the Sterling Library.

Folder N - Letter from Nathaniel Haywood dated 1843 offering
the sale and transfer of his contract and license
from Charles Goodyear to L. Candee Company