

Timothy J. Hubbard (1823-1880)
Papers, 1808-1881
Doc 76, 443-444

Introduction

The Timothy J. Hubbard Papers is a collection of deeds, leases, insurance policies, accounts, correspondence, and various legal documents from the years 1808 to 1881. The collection primarily pertains to the activities of Timothy J. Hubbard (1823-1880) a businessman and landlord living in Montpelier, Vermont.

This collection came to the Vermont Historical Society in 1945 or 1957 through the bequest of Frederick Jewett Dieter, nephew of Timothy J. Hubbard. Dieter received large real estate holdings from Hubbard when the older man died in 1880.

The collection is stored in three document boxes, Doc 76 and 443-444. It was reprocessed in 1998.

Biographical Sketch

Three brothers, Timothy (1776-1850), Roger (1783-1848) and Chester Hubbard (1788-1832) came to Montpelier before or about 1800. Chester Hubbard married Julia Granville Jewett in 1820. She was born about 1790. Their son, Timothy J. Hubbard, was born on August 23, 1823 in Montpelier. His sister, Emma G. Hubbard, was born in 1825. Other children born to this couple were Ruth (1827) and Chester (1830 or 1831). Widowed in 1832, Julia Hubbard married Augustine Clark(e) in 1840. Emma G. Hubbard married Anderson Devereaux Dieter in 1854, and they had one son, Frederick Jewett Dieter (d. 1944).

Chester Hubbard owned the building at 2 State Street, on the southwest corner of Main and State Streets, which has always been leased to a variety of shopkeepers. He also operated a store, apparently in that same building. Timothy J. Hubbard inherited the building in 1832 when his father died. By the time Timothy J. Hubbard passed away, his estate included other buildings on that same corner, including numbers 10 and 12 State Street, some adjoining buildings on Main Street, and the nearly one half acre behind these buildings up to the north branch of the Winooski River.

Timothy J. Hubbard (TJH) was a merchant, real estate owner and landlord who kept meticulous records of his business and personal affairs. Little has been written of his personal affairs, but certain information can be gleaned from the files in this collection. TJH was about nine years old when his father died. It appears that he attended an academy in Burlington some of the time during the years between 1837 and 1844. TJH apparently was inconsistent in his school attendance, according to a letter from John Hopkins to Julia Hubbard. Calvin J. Keith was his appointed guardian and TJH discharged him from his guardianship in 1844.

E. P. Jewett, a relative of Julia Hubbard, took care of the accounts for TJH and the store after Chester's death. At some point, TJH took over and Julia Hubbard Clark and her son operated the store for many years. During his lifetime, TJH was involved in many financial, legal, and real estate transactions. The details of these are contained in this collection and will be left to future scholars to sort out.

We do not have any information that TJH ever married, but he appears to have been devoted to his family and friends. The collection contains a warmly worded letter thanking someone who tended his sister during her recovery from an epidemic in 1858. Another letter, written by Emma in 1870, refers to him as "My Dear Brother" and closes with expressions of thanks and endearment. He traveled to Wisconsin with his mother (Mrs. Julia Clark) and sister (Emma G. Hubbard) in 1850. He traveled to Florida in 1854 with Emma. We also have an expense account of a trip that he took to New York City in 1868 with his sister and others.

Timothy J. apparently had some involvement in civic affairs. In 1858 he was a member of the committee that formed to propose a system of graded schools in response to an act passed by the legislature. TJH wrote a minority report that was printed along with the committee report.

We do not know when his health began to deteriorate, but by 1863 TJH had a Certificate of Disability, unfit to perform military duty, due to a hernia. In 1867 he visited Sharon Springs, New York, possibly for health reasons. In 1868 and 1870 we have letters from a friend that refer to mutual health problems such as rheumatism. By 1874, we know that he was a cripple and was carried to his office by a servant. He was lifted in and out of his carriage by the driver. Timothy J. Hubbard died on November 7, 1880.

Scope and Content

The Timothy J. Hubbard Papers consist primarily of deeds, leases, insurance policies, accounts, correspondence, and various legal documents from the years 1808 to 1881. They contain thousands of documents saved by Timothy J. Hubbard, who was meticulous in documenting his business and legal affairs. Because of the scope of his business affairs, this collection contains a wealth of information about many of the people, particularly the businessmen, in Montpelier during the mid 1800s. The detailed lists of goods bought and sold offer a very interesting picture of the life style of the people of Montpelier.

Other family members are represented in these papers. Most significant of these are Hubbard's mother, Julia Clark, his sister, Emma G. Hubbard Dieter, and his cousin Gustavus S. Hubbard.

The oldest documents in the collection date from 1808 through 1819 and are primarily bonds with the Town of Montpelier during the time when Capt. Timothy Hubbard was a selectman. Capt. Timothy Hubbard bestowed some of his properties on the relatives of Chester Hubbard and these papers might have come into the possession of

TJH through that connection. Also included is an accounting of Capt. Timothy Hubbard's bequest to Chester Hubbard's Estate.

In 1852 Gustavus Hubbard wrote a will prior to leaving for California in which he appointed TJH, his cousin, as the executor. It appears that Gustavus turned over his will and his business affairs to TJH. The collection holds many of Gustavus Hubbard's accounts from 1852 through approximately 1857.

This collection includes many papers that would be of interest to persons doing research about Montpelier, particularly the businesses in Montpelier from 1842 through 1880. Many of the store accounts are written on printed business forms with the names of the owners, flowery descriptions of the nature of the business, as well as the location in some cases.

The fire insurance policies for the TJH properties as well as building measurements and descriptions of repairs on the buildings, some of which still stand on the corner of Main and State Streets, are of great interest. The many leases that TJH wrote would yield a great deal of information about the variety of businesses and tenants located in these buildings as well as other properties in several other Vermont locations.

The business and personal accounts include lengthy lists from which can be gleaned a picture of some of what life in Montpelier entailed. These include food, medicine, dry goods, clothing, taxes, newspapers, sewing machines, steam engines, lumber shipments, gas and water works installation, horse and buggy maintenance and the many legal disputes involved in these matters. TJH owned farm property as well, and those accounts include measurements of hay deliveries weighed on Fairbanks scales.

The receipts and lists of expenses for the trips made by TJH contain some very interesting details. The few personal letters in this collection contain interesting tidbits about people and happenings from Montpelier, Barre, and Northfield, Vermont; to Louisiana; St. Augustine, Florida; and San Francisco, California. Some of the most interesting accounts involve medical attention to various family members. One legal paper in the settlement of the Robinson bankruptcy from 1872 to 1874 includes a written copy of the cross-examination of TJH. It is in this paper that the information is found, in his own words, that TJH had to be carried to his office each day.

Organization

The majority of this collection consists of the papers saved and organized by Timothy J. Hubbard. The papers were placed in folders as they were unfolded and the folders were filed in approximate order by date. At the time of processing, it was deemed best to keep them in the approximate original order until the entire collection could be assessed. The folders vary in their contents. Some are devoted entirely to business affairs or a certain type of papers, such as leases. Other folders contain wide ranges of dates and a mixture of business and personal affairs.

This arrangement could change in the future to reflect certain categories such as personal papers, personal accounts, business accounts, leases, taxes, investments, insurance policies, insurance premiums, and legal matters. It also would make sense to separate the papers of Capt. Timothy Hubbard and Gustavus Hubbard into separate series. The attached Inventory has been annotated to reflect some of the items that might need to be relocated.

Related Collections

- MSC-170 Timothy J. Hubbard, pocket diaries; ms booklet; letter books; ms books listing property owned by Hubbard, Jewett & Hoyes etc.; bank books; cash books; account books.
- XMSC-34 includes large ms day book of the Chester Hubbard general store, 1821-22
- MS711 M768 Charles E. Crane, *Talk to Montpelier Forum*, Monday, April 15, 1946, 8 PM, Union School, speech about the Hubbard property after the death of Frederick Dieter.
- VHS Museum collection (Frederic Jewett Dieter bequest
 - 41.17 a & b Lady's brown comb
 - 45.19.1 Sofa used by Marquise LaFayette (on display in VHS's Victorian Lobby)
 - 45.19.2 Rocking chair used in Hubbard House
 - 45.19.3 Mahogany table used in Hubbard House

Inventory

Attached