

John Sanford (1795-1869)
Papers, 1858-1863 (bulk: 1861-1863)
MSA 188

Introduction

This collection consists of receipts from the settlement of two estates for which John Sanford of Cornwall, Vermont, was administrator. The collection was given to the Vermont Historical Society by Miss Beulah Sanford of Cornwall in 1944. It is housed in an archival flip top box and consumes .25 linear feet of shelf space.

Biographical Sketch

John Sanford (Feb. 14, 1795 - Feb. 1, 1869) was son of Benjamin Sanford of Litchfield, Connecticut. One of the town's earliest settlers, Benjamin arrived in Cornwall, Vermont, in 1784 and in later years was the town's representative to the state legislature. The Sanford family became prominent Merino sheep breeders. John served as a private in the War of 1812 in the Battle of Plattsburgh in 1814, and later became an attorney. He was a leading citizen of the town and settled many estates. John married Anna Peck on Jan. 4, 1820, daughter of Jacob Peck who migrated to Cornwall in 1785, also from Litchfield, Connecticut. The Peck farm adjoined the Sanford farm in Cornwall.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of two series of records:

I. John Sanford was administrator to the estate of Eli Stevens (Stephens), Sr. (1784-1860) of Cornwall, Vermont. The collection consists of individual receipts for payments made to settle the estate, dated between 1858 and 1863. Stevens, a breeder of Merino sheep, lived on a farm in Cornwall. The documents consist of receipts for disbursements made by Sanford, including transactions with merchants and trades people, tax collectors, land surveyors, beneficiaries, the probate court, and creditors from Cornwall and nearby towns. It contains some itemized accounts from local merchants. Of interest is an abstract of Stevens' will provisions naming his heirs. An index of names appearing in this series is filed in Folder 0.

II. John Sanford was also administrator to the estate of Oliver Russell (Russel) (1782-1858) of Shoreham, Vermont. Oliver Russell was the son of David Russell who came to Shoreham, Vermont from Massachusetts in 1784. The documents consist of individual receipts for disbursements made by Sanford between 1858 and 1861 including transactions with merchants and trades people, tax collectors, land surveyors, beneficiaries, probate court personnel, and creditors from Shoreham and nearby towns. It contains some itemized accounts from local merchants. Some documents list Russell's heirs and their spouses. Town officials are also named. An index of names appearing in this series is filed in Folder 0.

Related Collections

The original leather wallet which contained these papers is in the collection of the VHS museum (acc. no.1944.10 a-b).

InventoryI. Estate of Eli Stevens

- MSA 188:1 Receipts for estate settlement among heirs, estate fees, probate dealings, etc., 1861, and other earlier misc. receipts.
2 _____, 1862.
3 _____, 1863.
4 Receipts for debts paid by estate, 1861.
5 _____, 1862.
6 Tax receipts for payments by estate. 1861-1863.

II. Estate of Oliver Russell

- 7 Receipts for estate settlement among heirs, estate fees, probate dealings, real estate, etc., 1858-1861.
8 Receipts for debts paid by estate, 1858-1859.
9 Tax receipts for payments by estate, 1858-1859.
10 Land-related documents: Survey and deed, 1858.

Marge Garfield
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