

**Trow Family
Collection, 1854-1880
MSA 243**

Introduction

This is mainly a collection of letters and photographs that relate to the Trow, Chandler, Averill, and Wilson families of Barre, Vermont, and Flint, Michigan. The collection was organized by Eleanor Angell, a Trow descendent, who gave it to the Vermont Historical Society in 1996 (ms. acc. no 96.12). The collection is housed in one archival flip-top box and occupies .25 linear feet of shelf space.

Family History

The Trow, Chandler, Averill, and Wilson families were early settlers in Barre, Vermont, and they became connected when Adela Trow (born 1843) and her sister Emma (born 1846) married twin brothers, John and James Averill (born 1841). The Trow sisters were children of Mary Doten Chandler and Dexter Trow, the twin brothers were sons of Mercy Wilson and Weston David Averill. Adela preserved the collection. She attended Barre Academy, taught school, and then married John in 1866. John enlisted in Co. E, 8th Regiment Vermont Volunteers. After he returned from the Civil War, he and Adela remained in Barre, where they farmed and raised seven children. Emma, author of most of these letters, married James in 1867. He had been in the same company as his twin in the Civil War, and he lost his leg from a wound he received. Emma and James moved to Michigan in 1868, where they also farmed, and had seven children.

Scope and Content

This collection was organized by Eleanor Angell, and her organization has been preserved. She provides a brief history of the families, a summary of the collection, and a bibliography. She also provides a listing of the letters as well as brief notes of what each letter contains, and in two cases she has typed out the contents of letters that are hard to read. She also has provided a genealogical chart, starting with David Weston Averill (b. 1788), John Wilson (b. 1778), John Chandler (b. 1793), and John Trow (b. 1782) (Folder 1).

The collection includes Barre Academy papers written by Adela and teaching certificates she earned. It also contains fourteen letters to Adela from friends and relatives, and letters to and from other family members. There are sixteen letters from Emma and her husband in Michigan written to Adela and John in Barre, and three other Wilson-Averill letters. The letters deal mostly with family matters, the health of the writer, problems of raising children, and the hardships of farming. The earlier letters are mostly from Barre Academy classmates during vacation breaks.

There are twenty-four photographs, organized as they had been in a family album. These represent members of the Averill, Wilson, and Chandler families, and include one

of Adela Trow and another of her and her husband John Averill. The pictures are labeled, and additional clarification has been added on the back of the photographs. The genealogical chart has a key to the individuals in the photographs.

Related Collections

Eleanor Angell's book, *Three Early Vermont Settlers: Amos Morse, George Trow, Ephraim Ainsworth*, 2000 (X929.2 M835aa), contains a wealth of genealogical information about the Trow family.

The VHS photo collection (FB-27) includes a tintype portrait of Sally Jones Trow Taft (1788-1856), wife of Allen Trow (1784-1829). There may be other photos of members of the Trow family in the various subsections of the VHS photo collection.

Inventory

- MSA 243:1 Brief biography of the families, with references cited
 Index of the letters and photographs, and brief notes taken on each
 of the letters is included
 Genealogical chart of the families
- 2 Letters, 1850s and 1860s
 Barre Academy exercises
 Teaching certificates
- 3 Letters to Adela from friends
- 4 Letters covering the later years (1870s-1880s)
- 5 Photographs

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Spring 2001