



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn writings

1844-1849

MssCol 754

Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2015

Summary

Creator: Dearborn, H. A. S. (Henry Alexander Scammell), 1783-1851

Title: Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn writings

Date: 1844-1849

Size: 1.26 linear feet (6 volumes)

Source: Purchased from Mrs. M. Dearborn McGrotty, 1903

Abstract: Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn (1783-1851) of Roxbury, Massachusetts was a politician, militia officer, author and horticulturist. Born in Exeter, New Hampshire, he was the son of Henry Dearborn (1751-1829), an American army officer and statesman, and Dorcas Osgood Marble. The Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn writings comprise six scrapbook volumes containing his published writings, speeches, and reports, and Dearborn's collected papers regarding his role in the 1842 Dorr Rebellion in Rhode Island. The volumes were compiled by Dearborn for his family between 1844 and 1849; contents date from 1806 to 1849. Horticulture and American politics and government are the chief topics represented in his writings. A few illustrations, mostly botanical, are found within.

Access: Advance notice required.

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Processing note: Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2015

Creator History

Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn (1783-1851) of Roxbury, Massachusetts was a politician, militia officer, author and horticulturist. Born in Exeter, New Hampshire, he was the son of Henry Dearborn (1751-1829), an American army officer and statesman, and Dorcas Osgood Marble.

H.A.S. Dearborn began his career as a lawyer and held various public offices and military commands during his life. He was Collector of Customs at Boston, 1812-1829, and in 1812 was appointed brigadier general in the Massachusetts militia, commanding volunteers at Boston Harbor defenses.

Dearborn was a delegate to the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention of 1820-1821, and a member of the Massachusetts legislature, 1829-1830, and the U.S. House of Representatives, 1831-1833. In 1835 he was appointed Adjutant General of Massachusetts, but was dismissed in 1843 for loaning state arms to the government of Rhode Island to suppress the Dorr Rebellion in 1842. Dearborn was the author of several non-fiction works and wrote extensively on political, horticultural and other topics for newspapers and periodicals. He collaborated with his father to transcribe and edit his Revolutionary War journals, wrote sketches of his father's life and military career, and prepared materials for publication in the press on his behalf. A noted horticulturist and leader in the rural cemetery movement, Dearborn served as the first president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, founded in 1829. He also helped found the New England Society for the Promotion of Manufactures and the Mechanical Arts, which existed from 1826 to 1868. In 1847 the Native American Party, later known as the American Party and popularly as the Know Nothing Party, nominated him to run for U.S. Vice President. H.A.S. Dearborn was Mayor of Roxbury from 1847 until his death in 1851.

Scope and Content Note

The Henry Alexander Scammell Dearborn writings comprise six scrapbook volumes containing his published writings, speeches, and reports, and Dearborn's collected papers regarding his role in the 1842 Dorr Rebellion in Rhode Island. The volumes were compiled by Dearborn for his family between 1844 and 1849; contents date from 1806 to 1849. Horticulture and American politics and government are the chief topics represented in his writings. A few illustrations, mostly botanical, are found within.

The collection consists of a complete three-volume set of writings on horticultural topics, and three remnant volumes of numbered sets of miscellaneous writings, the Dorr Rebellion volume among them. His published work, dating from 1806 to 1849, appears in printed and manuscript form. Horticultural topics include the creation of rural cemeteries and the activities of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Miscellaneous writings, which include some horticultural items, chiefly concern American politics and government, at the local and national level.

The volumes variously contain manuscript writings and clippings from newspapers, periodicals and pamphlets; only some of the content is dated. The Dorr Rebellion volume also contains original correspondence and documents. Many newspaper clippings are editorial in nature, some written anonymously. All volumes have title pages and tables of content with the exception of volume 5, which lacks a table of contents.

Volumes 1-3, a complete set of *Writings on horticulture and other branches of rural industry*, 1844, consists of pieces written within the previous twenty years, as stated by Dearborn. "The Vegetation of an Acorn," a manuscript with pen-and-ink illustrations, is inserted but not indexed in volume 3. Volumes 1 and 2 contain designs for a medal for the New England Society for the Promotion of Manufactures and the Mechanic Arts in pen-and-wash, with a related report in volume 2. Additional agricultural and horticultural writings, with a few chromolithograph illustrations, are found in Volume 6.

Volume 4, *Writings on politics, jurisprudence ... and other subjects*, compiled 1846, and Volume 6, *Writings on various subjects*, compiled 1849, appear to be remnants of sets, with miscellaneous writings dating from 1806 to 1849. Volume 4 (originally volume 1 of a set of three volumes) contains mostly newspaper clippings concerning American politics and government, economic development, constitutional and legal matters, and military affairs, at the local and national level. Some of his pieces supporting his father Henry Dearborn's 1818 account of the battle of Bunker Hill are included. Dearborn's participation in the civic affairs of Roxbury, Massachusetts is particularly well documented in addresses, reports and clippings in volume 6 (originally volume 7 of a set), covering political,

agricultural, horticultural and other topics, such as science and the arts. Newspaper items in both volumes reflect his adherence to nativism, leading to his U.S. Vice Presidential nomination by the Native American Party in 1847.

Volume 5, *Writings on many subjects* (compiled 1846, originally volume 2 of a set), sub-titled *Papers in relation to the loan of arms to Rhode Island by H.A.S. Dearborn, on the XXV of June 1842*, relate to his actions as Adjutant General of Massachusetts during the Dorr Rebellion and his dismissal from that office. Materials date from 1842 to 1844, consisting of letters written to Dearborn, orders, copies of letters sent, printed proceedings of the Massachusetts legislature, testimonials, newspaper clippings, and Dearborn's explanatory writings. Correspondents include Massachusetts Governor Marcus Morton and Thomas J. Stead, aide-de-camp to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Key Terms

Subjects

Agriculture -- Massachusetts
Dorr Rebellion, 1842
Horticulture -- Massachusetts

Occupations

Authors
Horticulturists
Politicians
Soldiers

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Botanical illustrations
Drawings (visual works)
Scrapbooks

Geographic Names

Massachusetts -- History -- 1775-1865
Massachusetts -- Politics and government -- 1775-1865
Roxbury (Boston, Mass.) -- History
United States -- History -- 1783-1865
United States -- Politics and government -- 1783-1865

Names

Morton, Marcus, 1784-1864
Stead, Thomas J.
Forest Hills Cemetery (Boston, Mass.)
Massachusetts Horticultural Society
Massachusetts. Adjutant General's Office
Massachusetts. Militia
Mount Auburn Cemetery (Cambridge, Mass.)
New England Society for the Promotion of Manufactures and the Mechanic Arts

Container List

Writings on horticulture and other branches of rural industry 1844

v. 1 Volume 1

v. 2 Volume 2

v. 3 Volume 3

v. 4 Writings on politics, jurisprudence ... and other subjects 1846

Writings date from 1806 to 1846 and are arranged by subject: Political, Jurisprudence, and Military.

Originally volume 1 of a set of three volumes.

v. 5 Writings on many subjects 1846

H.A.S. Dearborn's papers relating to his actions during the Dorr Rebellion, dating from 1842 to 1844.

Originally volume 2 of a set. Misdated as MDCCCLXVI (1866).

v. 6 Writings on various subjects 1849

Writings date from 1833 to 1849 and are arranged by subject: Addresses and reports, Political, Agriculture and Horticulture, and Miscellaneous.

Originally volume 7 of a set.