

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 55 M 41
62 M 78 (purchase)

Location D2 - J - 5

Title Charles H. Ruggles Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1821-1855

Date of receipt May 1955

Received from Mrs. Colden Ruggles Florance via
Mr. Eustace L. Florance; Howard
S. Mott (purchase/1 letter)

Volume on arrival unknown

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 1 AB; 5 inches

Condition Good

Restrictions None

Description

See attached sheet

Special Formats Photographs Maps Audio Tapes Films Graphics
 Artifacts Machine-readable records
 Other (list) _____

Name added entries not found in RLIN/NAF

Temporary catalog card added entries
Lawyers - New York - 19th century
Judges - New York - 19th century
Law Libraries - New York - 19th century
Mulberry
Real estate development - New York (N.Y.) -
19th century

Ruggles, David Westbrock, Cornelius
Ruggles, Samuel B., 1800-1881 Woodworth, William W.
Ruggles, Sarah Colden
Westbrock, Sarah

Accessioned by 1/17/89

Date FP

Biographical Note

Charles H. Ruggles, judge and congressman, was born February 10, 1789 in New Milford, Connecticut. He began his law practice in Kingston, New York and lived in the state of New York throughout the rest of his life. Ruggles was a member of the State Assembly in 1820 and was elected to Congress (1821-1823) as a representative from Poughkeepsie. He was also a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention in 1846. Ruggles served as circuit judge and vice-chancellor of the Second Judicial District of New York (1833-1846) and in 1847 he was elected a judge of the New York Court of Appeals, a post he held from 1847 to 1855.

In 1827 Ruggles married Gertrude Beekman who died the following year. He was married again in 1850 to Mary C. Livingston. Ruggles died at Poughkeepsie on June 15, 1865.

Scope and Content

The Charles H. Ruggles Papers (1821-1855) include Correspondence, Accounts and Land Papers.

The Correspondence (1821-1855) is separated into General Correspondence (1822-1853), Letters from Samuel B. Ruggles (1821-1855), Letters from Sarah Colden Ruggles (Mrs. David Ruggles) (1824;1837-1840), Letters to Sarah C. Ruggles from Charles H. Ruggles (1821-1841), Letters from other family members(1825-1841) and Letters regarding law books for New York courts (1848-1853).

General Correspondence includes references to business matters, politics, personal concerns and several letters of recommendation.

Samuel Bulkley Ruggles, lawyer, was a first cousin of Charles H. Ruggles, with whom he appears to have maintained a close relationship over the years. The letters from Samuel B. Ruggles reflect his interests in politics, railroads, the Erie Canal and New York real estate. Two letters concerning the economic situation discuss the panic of 1837 and the U.S. Bank failure of 1841. Personal and family matters are also of interest as Samuel describes his courtship and marriage to Mary Rathbone and questions his cousin closely on the Washington social and political scene.

Sarah Colden Ruggles, Charles H. Ruggles's sister-in-law, was married to David Ruggles. Her letters are primarily devoted to family matters. Charles Ruggles's letters to his sister-in-law describe his activities in Washington as a congressman and also concern family matters and the silk industry. David Ruggles was involved in the importation and propagation of mulberry trees.

Letters from other family members include correspondence from David Ruggles, Sarah Wetbrook and Cornelius D. Westbrook (Ruggles's sister and brother-in-law). Augustus C. Ruggles, David C. Ruggles and C.J. Ruggles (all nephews) are also represented.

The letters regarding law books for New York courts document Ruggles's efforts to establish and promote the maintenance of law libraries in the courts of New York. Lists of titles are also included.

Accounts (1826-1843) consist, primarily, of records of loans and other transactions between Ruggles and William W. Woodworth. Some household bills and receipts are also included.

Land Papers (1835-1843) include correspondence, deeds, bills and receipts relative to lots on 26th street between 4th and Lexington Avenues in New York City.