The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the
William Smith and Caroline Cobb Smith family papers
1848-1893
MssCol 4626

Compiled by Kit Messick, 2014.

Summary

Creator: Smith family

Title: William Smith and Caroline Cobb Smith family papers

Date: 1848-1893

Size: .21 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by William H. Arkewburgh, 1946.

Abstract: Correspondence, family papers, and business records of the family of William Smith and Caroline Cobb Smith of Massachusetts and Ohio, and of their son, engineer and inventor Frank C. Smith of Delaware, Ohio.

Preferred citation: William Smith and Caroline Cobb Smith family papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Kit Messick, 2014 Compiled by Kit Messick, 2014.

Creator History

William Smith of Massachusetts married Caroline Cobb Smith ca. 1849. The couple then moved to Cleveland, Ohio. Their son, Frank C. Smith, was an engineer and inventor based in Delaware, Ohio.

Scope and Content Note

Family correspondence, 1848 to 1893, is between William Smith of Massachusetts and later Ohio, his wife Caroline Cobb Smith, their children, and various relatives. Early correspondence consists chiefly of letters from Caroline Cobb to William Smith, documenting their courtship and eventual wedding; trips taken by Cobb to various locations in Massachusetts and New England; local news; and social matters. Letters from their children and other family members predominantly discuss family affairs. Also present is a medical recipe for "common bowel complaints" and an abstinence pledge.

Family papers and business records relate to investments and business ventures undertaken by William Smith in Cleveland, and by his son, mechanical engineer and inventor Frank C. Smith of Delaware, Ohio. These records include the will of William Smith; land papers for properties in Ohio and Massachusetts; a certificate of military exemption for William Smith; material pertaining to oil drilling ventures; and receipts. Frank C. Smith's patents, and his work on behalf of various automotive and locomotive interests, is documented through considerable professional correspondence, clippings, and ephemera.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Clippings
Ephemera
Legal instruments
Love letters
notes
Patents
Property records
Wills

Occupations
Inventors -- United States -- 19th century

Names
Smith, Caroline Cobb
Smith, Frank Charles, 1937-
Smith, William

Container List

b. 1 f. 1 Family correspondence 1848-1877
b. 1 f. 2 Business correspondence and records 1877-1893