

Guide to the Adgate Family Papers

81.3

Special Collections
Benjamin F. Feinberg Library
Plattsburgh State University College
Plattsburgh, N. Y. 12901

By
Richard D. Doina, Jr.
July 1981

Revised by
Laura Perras
July 2007

Introduction

The Adgate Papers, a small collection on loan from the Clinton County Historical Society, spans the years 1796 to 1931 and represents several generations of the Adgate family. The collection begins with the life and work of Matthew Adgate (1737-1818).

Matthew Adgate was born in Connecticut and later moved to Canaan in Columbia County, New York. Adgate gained political prominence during Revolutionary War and served as a delegate to both the Fourth Provincial Congress in 1776 and the 1788 convention that convened to ratify the new Federal Constitution. In 1792 Adgate moved to the area presently known as AuSable in Clinton County. Throughout the course of his lifetime, Adgate married three times and had a total of eight children. All of these children were born to his first wife, Eunice Baldwin of Canaan.

Baldwin and Adgate's eldest child was Asa Adgate (1767-1832). Asa, the most well represented correspondent in the collection, was a lawyer, farmer, and iron manufacturer. In 1793, he moved to Peru, New York, an area that was later incorporated as part of Essex County. Like his father, Asa Adgate was active in politics. He was a representative in Albany in 1798 and 1823, and served in the Fourteenth Congress from June 1815 to March 1817.

Asa Adgate married twice: his first marriage was to Annar Allen of Peru who died in 1813. His second was to Anna Waterman in 1816. Adgate fathered three children during his first marriage: Theodore (1795-1857), John (1800-1865), and Eunice (1803-1864). A fourth child, Catherine (b. 1821), was born during his second marriage.

Catherine married Charles Arthur (1805-1864) of AuSable. According to the 1850 census, he was a nailer with an estate valued at \$2500. The couple had two children,

Anna (1840-1857) and Asa (b. 1843). Asa A. Arthur graduated from Bellevue Medical School in 1865 and settled in Vermont where, in 1893, he married a young woman named Martha.

Ninety-six items comprise the collection and primarily cover personal and family matters. There are, however, four items relating to Asa Adgate's brief congressional career. One of these documents describes the pension claim issued by Captain Levi Frisbie. According to the document, Captain Frisbie "lost a leg in the service at Plattsburgh." Other documents of interest include an essay on religion written by Matthew Adgate in 1816 and printed in Plattsburgh by Azariah Flagg; directories for the Fourteenth Congress; two essays written by Anna Arthur in 1857; and cards used by Asa Arthur to attend medical lectures.

**See Also: Collection 67.3, Asa Adgate Family Papers, 1799-1888.
Collection 74.9, D. Whitney Adgate Papers**

The Descendants of Thomas Adgate of Saybrook and Norwich, CT
Compiled by Hal Langworthy
<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hal/Adgate/index.html>