

The J. and J. Rogers Company Records

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

By
STEVEN CARL ENGELHART
October 18, 1982

INTRODUCTION TO THE ROGERS COLLECTION 81.11

The Rogers Collection contains deeds, business accounts, reports, contracts, bills, receipts, maps, correspondence and miscellaneous materials concerning the J. and J. Rogers Iron Co. of AuSable Forks, N.Y., its reorganized offspring, the J. and J. Rogers Co. and its subsidiary the Alice Falls Co. The materials span the years between 1829 and 1971 and pertain primarily to the operations of this large iron, and later pulp and paper, manufacturing concern.

The growth and preeminence of the Rogers enterprises are largely responsible for the economic development of the mid AuSable Valley during the 19th and 20th centuries. The 1820's saw the beginnings of this concern, when James, John, and Thomas Rogers bought into an iron mining company with a Dr. Palmer at a location, now known as Palmer Hill, several miles from the village of AuSable Forks. They expanded their operations to include forging by purchasing the Sable Iron Company in 1837 and also bought out the Purmont iron interest at lower Jay and enlarged the works there.

The company was reorganized in 1870 as the J. and J. Rogers iron Company and continued to expand and grow. Not only did they acquire new mines, such as the Peru iron and Steel Company holdings, but built new forges and bought 75,000 acres of woodland in the area to supply wood for charcoal making and for building purposes. Water was diverted and dammed, plank roads were built between the mines and forges, and oats and hay were grown to feed the 300 teams of horses and zany oxen used to transport ore and supplies around.

The next twenty years saw the company reach a peak and then fall quickly into ruin. A combination of factors precipitated this, but the main reason was that with the introduction of pig iron and the "Bessemer" Process, the iron manufacturing regions of the south and northeast held a crucial and decisive competitive edge. In 1889 the company shut down all of its iron operations.

what ensued in the next decade was nothing short of remarkable. Mr. James Rogers, grandson of one of the founders, decided to utilize the resources of the company to establish a pulp mill in the village. Their vast forest holdings provided the spruce and balsam for pulp, their water power system provided energy to run mill and sluices to carry pulp wood into the mill, and their former employees and sons were retained for jobs in pulp manufacturing.

In 1903 the operation was expanded with the construction of a paper mill which housed three paper making machines, and proved to be an equally successful venture into the 1950's when their wood resources started to decline. The company was bought by a Mr. Michaels in 1955 who ran it until it was forced to close its doors due to lack of orders for paper products in 1971. The State of New York had also insisted at this time that a waste treatment plant be built to prevent the pollution of the AuSable River. This, however, added to an already unmanageable financial burden.

The Rogers Company era spanned 150 years and touched the lives of nearly everyone in that part of the Valley, therefore, forever leaving its mark on local history.

The materials in the collection are useful for several reasons. The financial records provided by the various business accounts offer a close look at the monetary workings of an early 20th century pulp and paper operation. The extensive collection of deeds provides both additional information on individual land parcels and a larger overview on the history of this company's large land holdings. Also of special mention are the surveyor's notebook, which illuminates the nature of that profession at the turn of the century, and the various maps which show individual parcels and historical evidence of roads and boundaries.

The collection was donated anonymously.

BACKGROUND SOURCES LOCATED IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

1. "Ausable Forks Booming: Pulp Succeeds Iron and a New industry is Established." in Plattsburgh Sentinel, Dec. 7, 1894. p.6, cols. 1-3.
2. Biographical Review. This volume contains biographical sketches of leading citizens of Clinton and Essex Counties, New York. Boston: Biographical Review Publishing Co., 1896. F127 C77 B61.
3. Bixby, George F. "The History of the iron Ore industry on Lake Champlain." In New York State Historical Association Proceedings 10: 169-237, 1911. Per.
4. Carey, R. Eric. "A Glimpse at the Rogers Company Era." In North Country Notes, Oct. 1974, No. 105. p.2&3. Per.
5. "Flourishing Pulp and Paper Plant of J.& J. Rogers Co., the Life of Ausable Forks." In Elizabethtown Post, June 11, 1903. p.4, cols.4-6. MF P14.
6. Hurd, Duane Hamilton. History of Clinton and Franklin Counties, New York. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis, 1880. F127 C77 H9.
7. Watson, Winslow C. The Military and Civil History of the County of Essex, New York. Albany: J. Munsell, 1869. F127 E8 W3.

CONTENTS OF ROGERS COLLECTION

The Rogers Collection, consisting of six hundred and forty six items, is housed in thirty-one Hollinger boxes, twenty-seven which are flat and four which are upright. The flat boxes contain the Collection's bound volumes, an assortment of ledgers, journals, cash, account, and invoice books. The upright boxes contain deeds, correspondence, maps, reports, mortgages, leases, abstracts and searches, right-of-way, and other miscellaneous items.

The Rogers Collection No. 81.11

BOX 1 of 31 DEEDS 1829-1914

Section One: parcels deeded to the J.& J. Rogers Co. or the Alice Falls Co. 1834-1914. Arranged alphabetically by name of grantor of deed. 159 ITEMS

Section Two: parcels conveyed between two parties, neither of which are the J.& J. Rogers Co. or the Alice Falls Co. 1829-1912. Arranged alphabetically by name of recipient of deed. 197 ITEMS

Box also contains an alphabetical list for each section of the names found on the deeds.
NUMBER OF ITEMS 356 ITEMS

BOX 2 of 31 DEEDS 1848-1937

Parcels deeded from the J.& J. Rogers Co. or the Alice Falls Co. to another party.
Arranged alphabetically by name of recipient.

Box also contains an alphabetical list of the names found on the deeds.

NUMBER OF ITEMS 96 ITEMS

BOX 3 of 31

Folder

- 1 Thomas F. Chappel (surveyor's) notebook, no date 1 ITEM
- 2 Map of the J.& J. Rogers Millsite in Ausable Forks, N.Y. 1902 1 ITEM
- 3 Maps (miscellaneous) 9 ITEMS
- 4 Surveyor's property descriptions 8 ITEMS
- 5 State Right-of-Way Appropriations, 1950 2 ITEMS
- 6 State Right-of-Way Appropriations, 1950 5 ITEMS
- 7 State Right-of-Way Appropriations, 1950 1 ITEM
- 8 Miscellaneous Rights-of-Way, Wood Rights agreement and Water Rights agreement, 1865-1915 10 ITEMS
- 9 Correspondence 1830-1900 9 ITEMS
- 10 Correspondence 1901-1919 13 ITEMS
- 11 Correspondence 1920-1942 36 ITEMS
- 12 Reports: Engineer's, Forester's, and Limnologist's 1893-1906 3 ITEMS

NUMBER OF ITEMS 98 ITEMS

BOX 4 of 31

Folder

- 1 Abstract of Title 1 ITEM
- 2 Abstract of Title 1 ITEM
- 3 Abstracts of Title 6 ITEMS
- 4 Deed Searches 8 ITEMS
- 5 New York State Comptroller's Bills and Receipts for back (land) taxes, 1881-1889 7 ITEMS
- 6 New York State Comptroller's Bills and Receipts for back (land) taxes, 1896-1900 3 ITEMS
- 7 New York State Comptroller's Bills and Receipts for back (land) taxes, 1910 9 ITEMS
- 8 New York State Comptroller's Bills and Receipts for back (land) taxes, 1915 4 ITEMS
- 9 New York State Comptroller's Bills and Receipts for back (land) taxes, 1920 4 ITEMS
- 10 Leases 1880-1893 4 ITEMS
- 11 Court Documents 1907-1932 3 ITEMS
- 12 Consolidated Mortgages 1902-1911 4 ITEMS

13 Miscellaneous items 6 ITEMS
NUMBER OF ITEMS 60 ITEMS

BOUND VOLUMES IN BOXES

BOX 5 of 31 Account books, 1941-43 2 ITEMS
BOX 6 of 31 Account Books, 1943-45 2 ITEMS
BOX 7 of 31 Account Books, 1945-47 2 ITEMS
BOX 8 of 31 Account books, 1947-49 2 ITEMS
BOX 9 of 31 Account books, 1949-51 2 ITEMS
BOX 10 of 31 Account books, 1951-53 2 ITEMS
BOX 11 of 31 Account books, 1953-55 2 ITEMS
BOX 12 of 31 Account book, 1955-57 1 ITEM
BOX 13 of 31 Invoice Books, 1970-71 2 ITEMS
BOX 14 of 31 Misc. Journal G, 1901-04 1 ITEM
BOX 15 of 31 Misc. Journal H, 1904-06 1 ITEM
BOX 16 of 31 Misc. Journal J, 1908-10 1 ITEM
BOX 17 of 31 Misc. Journal M, 1915-17 1 ITEM
BOX 18 of 31 Misc. Journal N, 1920-22 1 ITEM
BOX 19 of 31 Cash Book #15, 1903-05 1 ITEM
BOX 20 of 31 Cash Book #16, 1905-07 1 ITEM
BOX 21 of 31 Cash Book #19, 1914-17 1 ITEM
BOX 22 of 31 Cash Book #21, 1917-20 1 ITEM
BOX 23 of 31 Cash Book #22, 1920-22 1 ITEM
BOX 24 of 31 Ledger C, 1904-10 1 ITEM
BOX 25 of 31 Ledger E, 1917-22 1 ITEM
BOX 26 of 31 Order Record # 1, 1910-25 1 ITEM
BOX 27 of 31 Order Record # 2, 1910-25 1 ITEM
BOX 28 of 31 Order Record, 1955-56 1 ITEM
BOX 29 of 31 Order Record, 1922-39; Journal, 1955-57 2 ITEMS
BOX 30 of 31 Bleaching Plant Expense Record, 1921-42 1 ITEM
BOX 31 of 31 Ledger Binder 1927-36 1 ITEM
TOTAL ITEMS IN COLLECTION 646 ITEMS

DEEDS: SECTION ONE

Alphabetical listing of names for parcels deeded to the J. & J. Rogers Co. or the Alice Falls Co. 1834

1914. Name given is the grant or of the deed; date of transaction and number of parcels is included.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>ITEM</u>
Allen Brothers Co.	1895	1
Ames, Seymour	1869	1

Babbit, Asher	1863	1
Baber, Edmund K. & Augusta H.	1896,1901	4
Ball, Issac	1865	1
Ballou, Theodore & Charlotte	1834,43,47,48,59	5
Baldwin, Joseph & Lurancy	1894	1
Barton, Calib & Emma	1840,48,53	3
Bigelow, Anson & Harriett	1861	1
Bliss, Jedediah	1893	1
Blood, Sylvanus Jr.	1870	1
Bowen, William & Mary	1889	1
Brinkerhoff, Charlotte & James	1845	1
Buckley, Michael	1871	1
Buckley, Timothy	1860	1
Burt, Stephen & Payne	1849,51	2
Carey, Michael	1870	1
Chambers, Peter	1887	1
Charles, Albert	1866	1
Charron, Andrew & Elizabeth	1866	2
Chase, Margaret	1894	1
Comstock, Allen, Peter, & Calib	1860	1
Coolidge, Jonathan & Hannah	1892	1
Day, Eliza	1870	1
Demarrah, Charles & Martha	1877	1
Dennett, Peter	1878	1
Devins, Ann & Mark	1859	1
Dibble, George & Adelaide	1921	1

Dwyer, John & Mary	1872	1
Elmore, Selencia & Priscilla	1844	1
English, Phillip	1869	1
Fadden, Ellen & Issac	1866	1
Feathurston, Emerson & Lavina	1873	1
Fisk, Josiah & Phebe	1839,52,65	3
Fletcher, Leander	1879	1
Freeman	1858	1
Gill, Frances	1893	1
Gilson, Thomas & Elizabeth	1864	1
Gould, George & Jennette	1870	1
Granger, Henry	1848	1
Granger, John & James	1848	1
Hadd, Lewis	1895	1
Hall, Monroe & Ermine	1869,70	2
Hewitt, Frances	1894	1
Hopkins, Lawrence	1863	1
Fee, Archibald & Sarah	1856	1
Keese, Oliver	2nd 1845,50	2
Keese, Peter & Melinda	1852	1
Kingsland, Jacob	1839	1
Lahait, Julien	1879	1
McDonald, William	1852,54,57,64,70	5
McGregor, John & Charlotte	1852,62	2
McKillip Patrick & Ann	1868	1
Mace, James & Catherine	1863	1
Marsh, Lelia & Patrick	1895,98	2
Martin, Henry	1852	1

Mead, Erastus	1860	1
Millard, Clark & Mary	1866	1
Miner, Edward & Ann	1881	1
Mooney, Joseph & Caroline	1867	1
Moore, Allen & Louisa	1867	1
Nelson, Genevieve	1885	1
Nelson, William	1887	1
New York State	1865,67,71,77,80,85,97,99,1903,26	27
Page, Horace & Annie	1897,1900	2
Palmer, Hunloke & Margaret	1863	1
Parks, George et al	1914	2
Patnode, Alexis & Alma	1871	1
Patterson, Adam	1861	1
Perry, Moses Jr.	1879	1
Perry, Sarah	1857	1
Peru Steel Ore Co, Ltd.	1886,89	2
Pickham, Catherine & William	1867,68	2
Pilling, James	1841	1
Platt, Robert	1870	1
Potter, George	1863,64	2
Powers, Major	1852	1
Richardson, Charles & Sarah	1853,72	2
Robare, Celeste	1893	1
Rogers to company	1862,92,1901	4
Ryan, Cornelieus	1870	1
Ryder, Absalom & June	1845	1
Ryerss, Joseph	1866	1
Sherwood, Andrew	1848	1
Slocum, Giles et al	1848	1

Smith, Gerrit & Ann	1848,63,66	4
Spalding, Gilbert & Orenda	1849	1
Squires, Norman & Phebe	1867	1
Stevens, Enos & Zeruah	1871	1
Tabor, Charles	1857	1
Tallmadge, S.W.	1852	1
Taylor, William & Laura	1869	1
Tomlinson, Thomas & Rachael	1848,54,60,61,63	5
Trumbull, Thomas & Elizabeth	1861	1
Watson, Winston & Ablal	1868	1
Whitney, Luther	1893	1

SECTION TWO

Alphabetical listing of names for parcels deeded between two parties neither of which being the Rogers Co. Name given is the recipient of the deed; date of transaction and number of parcels is included. 1829-1912.

<u>NAME(S)</u>	<u>DATE(S)</u>	<u>ITEM(S)</u>
Ahern, James	1864,70,85	3
Allen, Brothers	1891,92,93,95	10
Ames, Seymour	1868	1
Rabbit, Asher	1863	1
Baber, Edmund K.	1882,83,95	8
Ball, Issac	1832	2
Benburn, Anson	1867	1
Best, Thomas	1849	1
Betters, Napoleon	1888	1
Betters, Nelson	1877	3
Bourne, Stratton	1864	1
Bowen, Christopher	1890,91	2

Bowen, Darius	1864,72,73	3
Bowen, Lewis	1889	1
Bowen, William	1882	1
Carey, Michael	1865,70	2
Chambers, Peter	1883	1
Chase, John B.	1870,78	2
Chase, Richard	1869,70	2
Coolidge, Thomas	1887, 92	12
Crowley, William	1873	1
D'Avignon, Celia	1906	1
Demarrah, Charles	1877	1
Dennett, Norman	1877	1
Disco, Peter	1877,78,79,80,81	7
Douglas, Benjamin	1867	1
Douglas, David	1871,77,81,85	6
Dwyer, Mary	1869	1
Estes, Herbert	1897	2
Faddin, Helen	1864	1
Feathurson, Emerson	1883	1
Ford, William	1887	1
Gaskill, Edgar	1882	2
Goddeau, Louis	1856,1869	4
Goff, Calib	1864	1
Gorman, Thomas	1876	1
Hall, Charlotte	1888,92	2
Harrigan, Henry	1877	1
Harrigan, William	1873	2
Hayes, Ahaz	1851,54	4
Hearn, James	1872	1
Hickok, Wyatt	1842	1
Hoffman, Peter	1852	1
Hopkins, Lawrence	1853	1

Hunt, Japer	1829	1
Jenkins, "Kitty"	1849	1
Jones, David	1891	1
Keese, Oliver 2nd	1849	1
Keeseville, Ausable Chasm & Lake	1889	2
Champlain Railroad Co		
Kennedy, Emily	1866,86	2
Kennedy, John	1872	1
Kingsland, Edmund	1851,69,71,72,73	13
Kingsland, Jacob D.	1889	1
LaBeau, Alphonso	1879	1
LaBombard, Bozorn	1856	1
Laflin, Walter	1853	1
Lahait, Julien	1871	1
Lattrell, Frank	1883	1
Lawrence, James	1879	1
Lawrence, Guy	1904	2
Lawrence, Solomon	1879	1
Livingston, Henry	1828	1
Macaber, Silas	1869	1
McDonald, Edward	1865,66,78	4
McGregor, William	1834	1
March, Lelia	1898	2
Martin, Hugh	1836	1
Martineau, Xagia	1874	1
Milligan, Simeon	1849	2
Miner, Ann	1872	1
Miner, Edward	1853	1
Northern Adirondack Power Co.	1912	2
Nye, John W.	1904,07	2

Page, Horace	1887	1
Page, Lemuel	1885	3
Parks, Fred	1895	2
Patnode, Alexis	1870	1
Peru Steel & iron Co.	1879	1
Pickham, William	1861	1
Potter, Jesse	1853	2
Prime, Henry M.	1895	2
Radcliff,	1843	1
Rich, Charles	1881	1
Richardson, Charles	1851	1
Riley, Barney	1863	1
Robinson, John	1869	1
Ryan, David	1871	1
Ryder, Absalom	1840	1
Senecal, Prosper	1936	1
Shackette, Gene	1886	1
Sharrow; Lewis	1855,72	1
Sherwood, Andrew	1848	3
Smith, George	1900,08	2
Smith, Henry	1900	1
Stevens, Asher	1849	1
Thomas, Joseph	1840	2
Trumbull, Thomas	1860,94	2
Underwood, George	1891	2
Warren, Leonia	1912	1
Watson, Walter	1885	1
Watson, Winstow	1868	1
Weston, Elijah	1883,99	2

DEEDS: SECTION THREE

Alphabetical listing of names for parcels deeded to individuals and organizations by the J.& J. Rogers Co. or the Alice Falls Co. 1848-1937. Name given is the recipient of the deed; date of transaction and number of parcels is included.

<u>NAME(S)</u>	<u>DATE(S)</u>	<u>ITEM(S)</u>
Allen, Franklin	1869	1
Archy, Peter	1885	1
Baber, Edmund	1896,98	3
Bagan, Barney	1862,64	2
Bellrose, Louis	1907	1
Bettors, Vetal	1849,71	2
Black Brook School District #8	1874	1
Bondreau, David	1886	1
Buckley, Patrick	1852	1
Bull, F. Marion	1873	1
Bullen, Samuel	1857	1
Burns, Bridget	1857	1
Bushey, Oscar	1913	1
Carey, Michael	1865	3
Carey, Patrick	1864	1
Carrel, Peter	1873	1
Cunningham, James	1910	1
D'Avignon, Charles	1896	1
Day, Burrill	1856	2
Denette, Margaret	1863	1
Dennett, Peter	1862,68,72	5
Devine, Mark	1865	2
Dimmick, Joseph	1907	1
Disco, Peter	1864,61,78,95	4
Dufney, Charles	1891	1
Dunlavy, Michael	1868,81	2
Durgan, Stephen	1890	1
Evans, James	1855	1

Feathurston, George	1855	1
Featherstone, Edward W.	1907,08	2
Fitzgerald, James	1869	1
Fitzgerald, Patrick	1857,73	2
Frenyea, James	1905	1
Gardiner, L.P.	1937	1
Gould, George	1867,69	2
Gouman, Daniel	1893	1
Harrigan, William	1864,65	2
Hutchins, Melvin	1889	1
Kelley, Patrick 2nd	1878	1
Killsary, Michael	1870	1
LaBombard, Francis	1859	2
Madden, Joannah	1885	1
Mann, Samuel	1865,68,70	3
Miner, Edward	1881	1
Mooney, Joseph W.	1865,66,67	3
Moore, Victor	1924	1
Mousseau, James	1922	1
Nelson, William	1883	1
Patterson, Henry	1892	1
Pearson, William	1865	1
Powers, James	1848	1
Powers, William	1873	1
Presbyterian Society of Black Brook	18651856,92	1
Reardon, John	1859,66	2
Riley, Barney	1856,58,69	2
Ryan, John	1859	3
Ryan, Michael	1876,78,81	1
St. Matthew's Catholic Church of Black Brook		3
Seymour, Raphael	1900	1

Shelby, Oliver	1865	1
Sheffield, George	1863	1
Vassar, Jessie	1902	1
Watson, David	1861	1
Watson, John	1876	1
Wright, Charles	1895	1
Yell, Cluffle	1918	1