

Guide to the Collection on the Society of the Second War with Great Britain in the State of New York

79.1

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

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Introduction

The Society of the Second War with Great Britain in the State of New York is a hereditary organization. To belong, one must be a lineal descendant of a person who served in the army, navy, revenue, marine or privateer service of the United States during the War of 1812. This state society was organized and incorporated in 1896 and admitted to the General Society of the War of 1812 in 1897. All members of the state society are automatically admitted to the General Society.

This collection contains information about the activities of the Society and its members during the first four decades of the 20th century and is primarily the work of Henry Harmon Noble (1861-1934) who was the secretary of the Society from 1901 until his death in 1934. In addition, he was the Registrar General of the General Society of the War of 1812. Mr. Noble was also an employee of the United States Customs Service. Although his work caused him to move frequently, Mr. Noble was able to perform his Society duties quickly and efficiently, maintaining many friendships through his correspondence.

Following Mr. Noble's organization, this collection holds correspondence in two sections. Box 1 contains general Society correspondence, primarily involved with the Secretary's official duties: the completing of applications, issuing insignia and other proof of membership, as well as calling the membership to meetings.

The second location for correspondence is within members' files. Mr. Noble maintained files on many of the members of the society. These files include correspondence concerning the member's family or ancestry, clippings from a large number of newspapers and journals, and handwritten notes. Housed in Boxes 2 and 3, the member's files are arranged alphabetically by surname. Each file may contain

information on more than one person. As an example, the Baker file holds materials on members George Comstock Baker (1865-1908) and Laurence C. Baker, their father and grandfather who were not members, as well as their War of 1812 ancestor, Peter Comstock. This file also contains information on other Society members surnamed Baker who do not appear to be related. Within each file information is organized in this manner: correspondence arranged chronologically, news clippings, and then notes.

Following members' files are publications. First are five constitutions, regulations, and rosters of the Society of the Second War with Great Britain in the State of New York. The publications of the General Society of the War of 1812 are next, followed by those of the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Valuable information concerning the Society can be found in the collection's ephemera. The subsection labeled Membership Information, housed in folders 86 and 87 contains many informal rosters prepared for a wide range of purposes.

One of Mr. Noble's major projects was the compilation of a World War I list of members and their sons. Information on this task can be found in Folder 88.

Ten Days Notices, which were sent to the members of the executive committee of the Society ten days prior to a meeting, are in folder 89. These notices list the names, occupations, and addresses of applicants for admission as well as the name and service record of the ancestor through whose service in the War of 1812 they seek admission. This information would be of great value to the genealogical researcher.

The last box, box 6, holds eight seals of the Society of the Second War with Great Britain.

This collection will be of great importance to anyone interested in the Society itself, but it will also interest genealogists as well as those researching any particular member. Insight into upper-middle class life in the first decades of the 20th century can be gained by examining the lives of the members. Many were prominent men in the fields of law, business, politics, and the military (The relationship between length of family residence in the United States, evidenced by an ancestor who fought in the War of 1812) and the ability to become a leader in society calls for more investigation.)

In general, this collection gives a fairly detailed portrait of the Society of the Second War with Great Britain in the State of New York, its members, and operations in the first decades of the twentieth century.

Contents

Five upright Hollinger boxes and one flat Hollinger box house the Society of the Second War with Great Britain in the State of New York Collection. Within the boxes material is further subdivided by consecutively numbered folders. Box 1 holds chronologically arranged correspondence. Information files on individual society members are

contained in boxes 2 and 3. These are arranged alphabetically by member's surname. Society publications are located in boxes 3, 4, and 5. Box 5 also houses collection ephemera. Box 6 contains the seals of the Society.

Box 1 CORRESPONDENCE 1915-1939

- 1/1: 9 Apr. 1915-4 Sept. 1917 (25 items)
- 1/2: 5 Sept. 1917-22 Feb. 1918 (25 items)
- 1/3: 28 Feb. 1918-2 July 1918 (25 items)
- 1/4: 4 July 1918-29 Sept. 1922 (26 items)
- 1/5: 2 Oct. 1922-19 May 1925 (25 items)
- 1/6: 20 May 1925-1 Aug. 1927 (24 items)
- 1/7: 28 Feb. 1928-20 Sept. 1928 (25 items)
- 1/8: 28 Oct. 1928-21 Aug. 1929 (25 items)
- 1/9: 31 Aug. 1929-9 Apr. 1930 (25 items)
- 1/10: 12 Apr. 1930-20 July 1931 (24 items)
- 1/11: 25 July 1931-17 Aug. 1931 (24 items)
- 1/12: 18 Aug. 1931-11 Sept. 1931 (25 items)
- 1/13: 2 Apr. 1932-9 Sept. 1939 (11 items)
- 1/14: Undated Correspondence (15 items)

Box 2 MEMBER'S FILE 1915-1939

Folder

- 2/15: Ainsworth (4 items)
- 2/16: Averill (12 items)
- 2/17: Baker (70 items)
- 2/18: Bauer (3 items)
- 2/19: Bissell (4 items)

2/20 Brown (11 items)
2/21: Burroughs (3 items)
2/22 Burtnett (9 items)
2/23: Cady (9 items)
2/24: Cameron (6 items)
2/25: Chase 5 items
2/26: Clark (63 items)
2/27: Cool (3 items)
2/28: Cox (3 items)
2/29: Harrow (5 items)
2/30: Dillon (1 item)
2/31: Dold (5 items)
2/32: Fairchild (1 item)
2/33: Francis (16 items)
2/34: Graves (3 items)
2/35: Griffith (3 items)
2/36: Hale (13 items)
2/37: Hand (4 items)
2/38: Hastings (51 items)
2/39: Hess (6 items)
2/40: Holden (22 items)
2/41: Judson (6 items)
2/42: Kellogg (10 items)

2/43: Lamont (11 items)

2/44: Larkin (32 items)

2/45: Lobdell (1 item)

2/46: Loucks (3 items)

2/47: Macarthur (78 items)

Box 3

Folder

3/48: Macdonough (15 items)

3/49: McLellan (9 items)

3/50: Metcalfe (4 items)

3/51: Miller (6 items)

3/52: Nellis (2 items)

3/53: Nichols (5 items)

3/54: Noble (3 items)

3/55 Page (25 items)

3/56: Palmer (20 items)

3/57: Parker (10 items)

3/58: Payne (5 items)

3/59: Peck (70 items)

3/60: Prince (10 items)

3/61: Radford (23 items)

3/62: Richards (8 items)

3/63: Richardson (11 items)

3/64: Rymers (4 items)

3/65: Sage (2 items)
3/66: Sayre (3 items)
3/67: Simpson (4 items)
3/68: Smith (11 items)
3/69: Stetson (20 items)
3/70: Swords (1 item)
3/71: Thomas (19 items)
3/72: Teorne (1 item)
3/73: Wadhams (140 items)
3/74: Weed (29 items)
3/75: Whipple (1 item)
3/76: Whish (2 items)

PUBLICATIONS

3/77: Society of the Second War with Great Britain in the State of New York (5 items)

Box 4

Folders

4/78-4/81: General Society of the War of 1812 (8 items) Folders

4/82-4/83: Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (8 items)

Box 5

Folder

5/84: Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (4 items)

5/85: Society Events: Programs, Itineraries, Speeches, News Clippings (42 items)

5/86-5/87: Membership Information (40 items)

5/88: WWI Service Records (13 items)

5/89: Ten Days' Notices (69 items)

5/90: Miscellaneous (57 items)

Box 6

Seals of the Society (8 items)

NUMBER OF ITEMS:

Box 1 324

Box 2 476

Box 3 458

Box 4 16

Box 5 225

Box 6 8

Total: 1507