

Guide to the Sylvester Dana Jr. Papers, 1836-1865

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Sylvester Dana Jr. Papers, 1836-1865

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<https://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

1976.059

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing

Creator:

Dana, Sylvester, Jr., 1816-1910

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box ; 0.21 linear feet

Abstract:

The Sylvester Dana Jr. Papers contain his diary, journal, correspondence, autobiography, and a Dana family genealogy. Sylvester also penned a short memorandum of Abraham Lincoln.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Sylvester Dana Jr. Papers were purchased on November 16, 1976.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date and reformatted by Korrena Cowing in May 2020. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Sylvester Dana Jr. Papers, 1976.059. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Reverend Sylvester Dana Sr. (1769-1849) was born in Ashford, CT. At the age of three, the family moved to Wilkes-Barre, PA. His father was killed when the town was attacked by Tories and Indians in 1778. His mother returned with the children to Ashford where Sylvester worked on various farms until 1793 when he entered Yale College. In 1798 he was licensed to preach. For the next few years, he moved about preaching in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire. In 1801 he settled in Orford, NH, where he remained for 21 years. From 1823 to 1833, he preached for the Congregational Society comprised of western Orford and Fairlee, Vermont. From 1834 until his retirement in 1837, he was in Thornton, NH. He then moved to Concord, NH. As a result of a fire at his home in 1844, most of his manuscripts, sermons, and personal papers were lost.

He married Hannah Kimball, daughter of Deacon John and Anna (Ayer) Kimball, of Concord, NH, on March 2, 1802. Hannah was born June 24, 1777 at Concord. Four of Hannah and

Sylvester's nine children survived to adulthood: Anna (Dana) Barrows, Charles Backus Dana, Sylvester Dana Jr., and Hannah (Dana) Tappan.

Hannah died at Concord on November 16, 1846. Sylvester Sr. died there June 10, 1849.

Sylvester Dana Jr. (1816-1910) was born at Orford, NH, October 19, 1816. He was educated at Haverhill Academy, fall term 1831; Philips Academy in Andover, MA, December 1831 to July 1835; and Dartmouth College, class of 1839. He studied law at the Office of Pierce & Fowler in Concord and at Dane Law School, Harvard. Admitted to the bar in October 1842, he started practicing law in November 1842 and was appointed judge of the Police Court of Concord on June 3, 1862, an office he held until October 19, 1886.

Sylvester Dana Jr. married Mary Jane Seavey, daughter of Nathaniel and Mary Ann (Hinds) Seavey, on November 8, 1860 in Chichester, NH. They had eight children: Charles Sylvester (1861-1912), Mary Huntington (1864-1865), Anna Barrows (1867-1868), George Radcliffe (1870-1872), Marion (1871-1872), Florence (1873-1889), Isabel Seavey (1874-1897), and Alice Louise (1879-1976). He died in Concord on January 4, 1910. Mary Jane died there October 11, 1914.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists primarily of the papers of Sylvester Dana Jr., with a few family papers and a manuscript autobiography of sixty-eight pages on Sylvester Dana Sr., written circa 1840.

Sylvester Dana Jr.'s diary, 1846-1847, and memorandum book, 1845-1849, include entries on the weather, family matters, people, and local events. He comments on convicts at the state prison and religious matters. The correspondence comprises letters to friends including one in which he brings a friend up to date on details of his life and career. There are 48 letters in the book of outgoing correspondence. Topics include missionaries, politics, the War with Mexico, and family history. The materials in this collection date from 1836 to 1865.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are organized into folders by type.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 0	Register
Folder 1	Genealogy of the Dana family, 1836-1846, undated
Folder 2	Sylvester Dana Sr. autobiography, 1848
Folder 3	Sylvester Dana Jr. diary, 1846-1847
Folder 4	Sylvester Dana Jr. memorandum book, page 1-40, 1845-1846
Folder 5	Sylvester Dana Jr. memorandum book, page 41-80, 1846-1847
Folder 6	Sylvester Dana Jr. memorandum book, page 81-120, 1847-1848
Folder 7	Sylvester Dana Jr. memorandum book, page 121-160, 1848 January-July
Folder 8	Sylvester Dana Jr. memorandum book, page 161-200, 1848 July-1849 January
Folder 9	Sylvester Dana Jr. memorandum book, page 201-228, 1849 January-May

Folder 10 Sylvester Dana Jr. correspondence, 1845, 1847, 1865
Folder 11 Sylvester Dana Jr. copies of outgoing correspondence and "Life of Abraham Lincoln," by Charles S. Dana, 1846-1847, undated

Subject Terms

People:

Dana family
Dana, Sylvester, Jr., 1816-1910
Dana, Sylvester, Sr., 1769-1849
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865

Organizations:

New Hampshire State Prison

Subjects:

Autobiography
Correspondence
Diaries
Genealogy
Mexican War, 1846-1848
Prisoners
Prisons
Religion

Locations:

Concord, NH
Orford, NH

Occupations:

Clergy
Judges

Related Materials

Archives

Orange Association, 1951.008 (m)
Judge Sylvester Dana Residence, George W. Perry Scrapbooks, 1974.045

Library

Dana, Sylvester. *Sketch of Henry Pearson Rolfe*. circa 1898. Call number: 920 R7463

Museum

Silhouette of Hannah Kimball Dana, circa 1810, 1984.099.35.13