

1988-002

RUFUS DOW (ca. Active 1829-1862)
 PAPERS, 1839-1862
 1 Box

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

There is little information in the standard references for Rufus Dow. In the Book of Dow, page 101, it states that he appears in the 1850 census as a farmer in S. Hampton, NH and from 1850-1853 was warden of the State Prison in Concord. He married Sally Fitts (b. 1809) on March 11, 1829 and they had two children Rufus Franklin Dow (b. 1831) and Charles H. Dow (b. 1843).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

This collections consist mainly of correspondence of a political nature concerning the Democratic Party and the "Know Nothing" Party. There are letters from many New Hampshire political figures such as: William Blaisdell, E. Currier, J.H. Gilman, G.M. Kittredge, George Marston, Franklin Pierce, John Pillsbury, John Wells and others . There are also papers regarding Dow's management as warden of the State Prison.

- Fld 1 Letters addressed to Col. Dow mostly refer to Army business, those addressed to Dow, Esq., pertain to Democratic Party business
- Fld 2 'Confidential' letter (3/4/45) about Pres. elect Polk from Gilbert A. Grant. Many confidential letters. 7/3/45 letter refers to charges to be brought against Dow. Dow seeking office of Sheriff of Rockingham County. Mostly political.
- Fld 3 Dr. G. M. Kittredge's name comes up often, most of political nature
- Fld 4 Letters concerning Dow's running for some state office - all political letters.
- Fld 5 Rockingham County politics. 12/1/1851 letter requesting assistance in receiving a West Point appointment for his cousin, J.H. Gilman, from Wm. Blaisdell.
- Fld 6 Dow appointed State Prison Warden

- Fld 7 Letter concerning prison purchases. One from Wm. Blaisdell (3/12/53) raving against Boston Democrats, John Tucker in particular. Pillsbury affair referred to.
- Fld 8 Pleading letters from Geo. Marston for help to gain a political position; more on the Pillsbury affair. Appointed State Appraiser of prison property.
- Fld 9 Mention of "sponging" money out of John Pillsbury (6/30/53). Letter from Geo. Marston about interview with Pres. F. Pierce.
- Fld 10 Gen. Peaslee mentioned often in reference to some appointment. Also, John Wells running for the Senate.
- Fld 11 Condemnation of the Douglas Nebraska Bill mentioned in detail in 3/3/54 letter from E. Currier. Several 'confidential' letters about pardoning John Coombs from prison.
- Fld 12 Political and prison business. One follow up letter on the Nebraska Bill (no date) from E. Currier.
- Fld 13 Several confidential letters on subject of the "Know Nothings" secret order. The rest political.
- Fld 14 Two songs written for N.H. Political Committee. More on withdrawals from "Know Nothing" society. Two letters on the appointment of Epping Deputy Sheriff.
- Fld 15 Changing date of state convention. Petition to remove Dow as Sheriff of Rockingham County including official removal notice from Secretary of State.
- Fld 16 Letter denouncing Frank Pierce's presidency from E. Currier (7/27/56). Letters concerning Buchanan's election, senatorial election, and comments on slavery.
- Fld 17 Political comments.
- Fld 18 Correspondence 1845-1856. Several letters regarding misconduct by Dow while Warden of the prison. Some political appointments.
- Fld 19-21 Letters of recommendation for Dow as Rockingham County Sheriff.
- Fld 22 Memoranda and depositions relating to law suit against Dow as a result of practices as Warden of New Hampshire State Prison (1851-56)

Fld 23 Miscellaneous legal papers; articles of agreement for the sale of scales made at the State Prison, 1852; agreement to dissolve Boston clothing business partnership, 1854; Power of Attorney, 1855; appointment as sheriff, 1855

Cards Made for Catalog:

N.H. State Prison	Dinsmoor, Samuel
Concord, NH	Kitteredge, George W.
Politics - N.H. - 1850's	MacFarland, Asa
Baker, Nathaniel B.	Marston, George
Blaisdell, William	Peaslee, Charles H.
Burke, Edmund	Rollins, Edward H.
Burleigh, George Wm.	Sanborn, Charles H.
Chase, Francis Russell	Virgin, Joel C.
Currier, E.	Wells, John Sullivan
Cushman, Samuel	Politics - N.H. - Democratic party
Politics - N.H. - Know Nothings	Pierce, Franklin (Pres.)