

HALE, SAMUEL WHITNEY (1822-1891)
PAPERS, 1858-1906, 1946-1947
ca. 110 Items, 1 Box

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Samuel Whitney Hale, son of Samuel and Salome Whitney Hale, was born in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. His father was a farmer and Samuel lived and worked on the farm and was educated at district schools and the local academy. His first job was working in business in Dublin, NH with his brother John Moses Hale. Later Samuel bought a mill that made shoe pegs. His pegs were sold as far away as England and Germany. He sold this mill and started another which made woodenware including bowls and spoons.

In 1859 he sold the mill and moved to Keene to join S. A. Osborne as a partner in a furniture store. They expanded making cane seats, chairs, doors, sashes and blinds. After a boiler exploded and destroyed the business, he purchased Fay & Co. and opened Keene Chair Co. which was in business until 1874.

Hale served as director of the Citizen's Bank of Keene and Massachusetts Bank of Fitchburg. He was a charter member of the Second Congregational Church in Keene and gave \$20,000 toward construction. He was active in politics as a republican and served two terms in the legislature, on the Governor's Council and as a delegate to the Republican National Convention. He was Governor of New Hampshire 1883-1885.

Hale made many "wildcat" investments and lost money on most of them. None of his mines showed a profit. In 1880 he had established the Ashuelot Mills for the manufacture of furniture. This mill burned to the ground in 1884. By 1885 he was ruined financially and bankrupt in 1885. He vowed he would repay all his debts and succeeded in paying \$122,000 before his death. He started a bottling company in 1887 and sold Averna Nerve Food which was a success. Hale died from Pneumonia October 16, 1891.

Hale was married to Emilia Hay (b. 1832), daughter of Joseph Fitch and Nancy Sanders Hay. They had two children: William Samuel Hale (b. 1854) and Mary Louise Hale (b. 1855)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

These letters and papers are mainly illustrative of the business activities of Hale. There are several angry letters from people who had the misfortune to do business with Hale. One such was D. N. Bradstreet of Peterboro, NH who demanded pay for services in a mining venture (Feb 12, 1884). Another

was from a Dr. George W. Rhodes in Boston who threatens to expose Hale if he does not pay back stocks and money owed. He states that "New Hampshire wants an honest and upright man.." (Oct. 4, 1881).

Samuel Whitney Hale, a Yankee is the typescript of a thesis written by Hale's grandson Francis H. Whitcomb while at Bard College in 1947. It consists of twenty-three typed pages concerning Hale's business and political life as well as his involvement with the Manchester and Keene Railroad.

Samuel Whitney Hale, Papers

Fld 1	Contracts, 1859-1887
Fld 2	Business Correspondence, 1873-1890
Fld 3	Deeds, 1858-1880
Fld 4	Deeds, 1882-1889
Fld 5	Mining, 1880-1890
Fld 6	Railroad, 1880-1883
Fld 7	Keene Chair Record Book, 1880
Fld 8	Receipts & notes, 1885
Fld 9	Protested notes, 1885
Fld 10	Will & estate S. Hale Sr., 1879-1884
Fld 11	Family correspondence, 1891-1906
Fld 12	Printed material

Samuel Whitney Hale - Yankee
Thesis Manuscript by Francis Hale Whitcomb

Fld 13	Preface & history, chapters 1-3
Fld 14	Biography, tradesman & manufacturer, chapter 4
Fld 15	Railroad investor, chapter 5
Fld 16	Politician, chapter 6
Fld 17	State executive, chapter 7
Fld 18	Speculator, chapter 8
Fld 19	Declining years, chapter 9
Fld 20	Manchester & Keene Railroad notes
Fld 21	Manchester & Keene Railroad notes
Fld 22	Ashuelot Railroad notes

CARDS MADE FOR THE CATALOG:

Whitcomb, Francis Hale
Deeds
Wills
Railroads-Manchester & Keene
Railroads-Ashuelot
Politics, NH,
Mining
Keene Chair Company
Hale, Samuel (d. 1879)
Occ-Governor

see also 1991-021 (M)