Guide to the Spicer Family Papers, 1809-1913

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Note
History --History, United States (excluding California) --History, New YorkGeographical (By Place) --United States (excluding California) --New York
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Collection number: BANC MSS Z-Z 135

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Spicer Family Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1809-1913
Collection Number: BANC MSS Z-Z 135
Creator: Spicer family
Extent: Number of containers: 3 boxes
Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Abstract: Miscellaneous business and personal papers, correspondence, letter books, and clippings, mostly relating to Brigadier General Peter W. Spicer (?-1834) and his son, John W. Spicer. An important part of the collection consists of correspondence and letters of recommendation assembled by General Spicer in his efforts to secure a federal appointment from President Andrew Jackson. A number of items, including warrants, commissions, and gold epaulets, relate to John W. Spicer's connection with the 7th Regiment of the New York National Guard. Papers relating to property owned in Illinois and Massachusetts also included.

Languages Represented: English

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Spicer family papers, BANC MSS Z-Z 135, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Scope and Content
The Spicer family papers were given to The Bancroft Library by John Spicer Smith in 1953. Covering the period 1816-1887, they consist primarily of papers of Peter W. Spicer, a New York merchant and Brigadier General in the New York State Artillery, who eventually became a land office examiner in Illinois; and papers of his son, John W. Spicer. Most of Peter Spicer's papers relate to his efforts to secure a federal appointment from President Andrew Jackson and to his service in the New York State Artillery. John Spicer's papers relate primarily to his service in the New York State National Guard and to property owned in Illinois and Massachusetts.

Box 1
Papers of Peter W. Spicer
Letters written by him, 1831-1833 and n.d.
Additional Note
Mainly copies, arranged chronologically, written to President Andrew Jackson and others concerning his attempt to secure a federal appointment.

Letters written to him and on his behalf
Additional Note
Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization. Many are copies of letters of recommendation written to President Jackson, members of his cabinet and other prominent men concerning Spicer's attempt to secure a federal appointment. A copybook of letters of recommendation, mainly duplicate copies, is included. A partial list of correspondents follows the key to arrangement.

Letter written by Elizabeth Spicer, Feb. 7, 1834 [Mrs. Peter W. Spicer]
Additional Note
Copy, relating to receipt of salary due P. W. Spicer for service as land agent in Illinois.

Letter written to Elizabeth Spicer
Additional Note
Concerning payment of salary due Spicer for service as land agent in Illinois.

Papers relating to service with New York State Artillery, ca. 1816-1827.
Additional Note
Include appointment papers as Ensign, and Captain, and brigade orders issued while Brigadier General.

Legal papers
Additional Note
Copies of deeds and other items relating mainly to property in Alton, Illinois

Personalia
Additional Note
Includes copy of marriage license.

Miscellany
Papers of John W. Spicer

Boxes 2-3
Box 2

Letters written by him, 1853-1885.
Additional Note
Copies, arranged chronologically. Letter, Dec. 25, 1863, transmits resignation from the New York State Militia.

Letters written to Spicer
Additional Note
Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization. Some letters relate to property in Illinois and Massachusetts. A partial list of correspondents follows the key to arrangement.

Letters written by Nellie F. Spicer, n.d. [Mrs. John W. Spicer]
Additional Note
Copies.

Letters written to Nellie F. Spicer
Additional Note
Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization; relating to family business.

Papers re New York State National Guard. ca. 1849-1879.
Additional Note
Appointment papers, company rolls, by-laws, etc.

Diary, 1868
Additional Note
Also contains household accounts, 1892-1893, kept by Mrs. Spicer.

Box 3

Financial records
Additional Note
Include invoices, property tax receipts and miscellaneous receipts.

Miscellany
Additional Note
Includes wedding announcement for daughter, Edith May.

Clippings
Branch, John, 1782-1863
Letter, Sept 24, 1829.
Brooks, James Gordon, 1801-1841
Letter, Mar 31, 1829. Signed also by James Lawson.
Cambreleng, Churchill Caldom, 1786-1862
7 letters, 1829-1833. Letter of recommendation (copy), Apr. 14, 1829, written to President Jackson.
Dix, John Adams, 1798-1879
Letter, Apr 29, 1831.
Donelson, Andrew Jackson, 1800-1871
Letter, Jan 28, 1830.
Gouverneur, Samuel L.
2 letters, 1829. Letters of recommendation (copies); not addressed to Spicer.
Johnson, Jeromus, 1775-1846
2 letters, 1829. Letters of recommendation (copies); not addressed to Spicer.
Kane, Elias Kent, 1794-1835
Letter, July 31, 1833.
Lawson, James, 1799-1880
See Brooks, James Gordon
McLane, Louis, 1786-1857
   2 letters, 1833. Letter, Apr. 13, (copy) written to Elijah Hayward.
Morse, Charles W.
   13 letters, 1872-1887. Written to John W. Spicer (Box 2).
Noah, Mordecai Manuel, 1785-1851
   2 letters, 1829. Letter, June 18, (copy) is written to S. D. Ingham.
Reed, Whitmore & Davis
   Letter, Apr 1, 1830.
Society of Tammany
   2 letters, 1857-1858. Written to John W. Spicer (Box 2).
Swartwout, Samuel, 1783-1856
   2 letters, 1829. Letters of recommendation (copies); not addressed to Spicer.
Upshur, John Henry, 1823-1917
   Letter, Oct 3, 1883. Written to John W. Spicer (Box 2).
Van Buren, Martin, 1782-1862
   4 letters, 1829-1833. Letters of recommendation (copies); not addressed to Spicer.
Wetmore, Prosper Montgomery, 1798-1876
   8 letters, 1827-1833 and n.d. Letter of recommendation (copy), Apr. 6, 1833, written
to President Jackson.
White, Campbell Patrick, 1787-1859
   3 letters, 1829-1831. Letter of recommendation (copy), Apr. 6, 1829, written to
President Jackson.