

DOUGLASS - HALE PAPERS

1790-1849

Nineteen Boxes

Charlotte Hegyi,
1995-1996

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DOUGLASS - HALE PAPERS

PROVENANCE

With exception of twenty-five letters (cor n-1-25) the provenance of these papers is unclear. These letters were presented to the Warren Hunting Smith Library Archives in October 1988 by Mr. Toby Jackson, Professor of History, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., Canada.

The remainder of the Collection may have been part of President Hale's papers given to Demarest library in 1942. This is reported in the Hobart Herald, 9 April 1942 with no donor mentioned. President Hale was the father-in-law of Malcolm Douglass, David Bates Douglass's son. A large collection of books was given to the library, date unknown, by Miss Edith Douglass and Mrs. Mary Douglass Rackliff, granddaughters of David Bates Douglass; the papers may have belonged to that gift. Also in the collection are the letters of Malcolm and Sarah Hale Douglass and the Little Family. These last mentioned, titled Douglass -Hale Papers A, comprise 13 boxes and are shelved after the Douglass-Papers. Perhaps in the future a date of when these papers were given will become evident.

Recent additions to the collection include biographical information and photographs (G phot file p 45j), presented by Peter Ray, a descendant of David Bates Douglass. A letter from DBD to his son Andrew, articles from the Historical Magazine about the Niagara Campaign derived from DBD's notes and given for publication by his children. A recent article about Greenwood Cemetery from the New York Times August 29, 1999 with copy of letter sent to the writer. These additions are in misc 13.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

DAVID BATES DOUGLASS, (DBD) 1790-1849

See misc -8

From notes made by Malcolm Douglass (MD) the following information provides the biographical information regarding DBD:

"David Bates Douglass, L.L.D., was born in New Jersey March 21st 1790 gave early indications of an ardent and investigating spirit. Prepared for college at Newark, N.J. and entered the sophomore class Yale College in 1810, graduated in 1813. Went forthwith to Sacketts Harbor and obtained a commission as 2nd Lieut in the Engineering Corps...(After distinguished military service) became a Professor of Mathematics at West Point in 1815. ... Resigned after 16 years with West Point having taken no small part in instituting and organizing the system... he served the Morris Canal. In 1832 was appointed Professor of Math at the University of the City of New York and occupied the position of Lecturer of Civil and Eccl Arch. Maj D. designed the present University Building. In 1833 he was appointed to make requisite surveys examinations estimates for supplying the City of New York with waters of the Croton. , , , By 1836 having planned & (?) all the plans and details of this great work, he was suspended (?) in his office, but his plans and details were retained.

In 1838 he laid out the Green-wood Cemetery.. in 1840 He was called to the Presidency of Kenyon College...In 1846 he located and laid out the Albany Rural Cemetery...In 1848 he located & laid out the Quebec Prov Cemetery in the same year he was called to the Professorship of Math. in Geneva College, Western New York.

Several months of declining health succeeded a life of great physical and mental activity & in Oct 21st of 1849 he departed to his rest."

From another document (see cor-L21) DBD's marriage to Anne Eliza Ellicott, daughter of Andrew Ellicott who was Professor of Mathematics at West Point, occurred 15 December 1815.

From a Yale College publication the following:

His widow died in Batavia, NY on July 1, 1873. Their children were four daughters and four sons, all of whom survived their parents. The two eldest sons were graduated at Kenyon College in 1837 and 1838, respectively, the third at Trinity College in 1847 and the fourth at West Point in 1852.

Biographical notes continued

Malcolm Douglass, DBD's son, married Sarah Hale, daughter of President of Geneva College (now Hobart College) Benjamin Hale.

The following dates were gleaned from the envelope addresses in the correspondence and give insight about DBD's residences.

1817	West Point
1829	Brooklyn
1830	Newark, NJ
1830	287 Chestnut St., Philadelphia
1830	Newark Hotel
1831	Dover, Morris Co, NJ
1831	Morris canal
1831	Brooklyn
1831	Philadelphia
1832	Brooklyn or New York University Clinton Hall
1832	Philadelphia City
1834	42 Concord St. Brooklyn
1835	Yonkers
1836	Washington St. Brooklyn
1844	Albany Silvan Manor laid out Greenwood Cemetery
1845	Greenwich, CT
1848	Geneva, NY
1849	died in Geneva, NY

David Bates Douglass

- * taught mathematics and engineering at West Point
in early 1800's
- 1830 * first engineer of Croton Reservoir "to supply
good clean water to New York City"
- * engineer for railroads and canals in Northeast
- * consulted about railroad for Isthmus of Panama
- * planned Greenwood Cemetery
- 1840 * became President of Kenyon College
- 1848 * came to Geneva to serve on faculty, died
there in 1849
- * son, Malcolm Douglass married Sarah, daughter of
President Hale

Scope and Contents

This collection, at present, has arranged and described the papers of David Bates Douglass (DBD). The second section of the papers include the Papers of Malcolm Douglass (son of DBD), Benjamin Hale (father-in-law of MD) and Sarah Hale (wife of MD and daughter of BH), and the Little Family. These are Douglass-Hale Papers A

These papers encompass all of DBD's professional activities, from soldier, engineer, professor, college president to architect of cemeteries. These include field notebooks, lecture notes, diplomas, designs, maps and correspondence to DBD pertaining to his professional duties with some copies of DBD's letters in his own writing.

The earliest date in the collection appears on the Yale diploma from which DBD graduated in 1806. The last dates on letters of condolence sent to MD in 1849 on DBD's death in Geneva, New York.

The records are arranged in six series: correspondence, diplomas, maps, personal items, pamphlets and lecture notes.

Explanation of initials:

MAP = Maps
MC = Morris Canal
COR = Correspondence
WP = West Point
TEC = Technical Writings
KC = Kenyon College
PAC = Packets
DIP = Diplomas
MPO = Miscellaneous Personal Objects
Misc = misc 2, persona
misc 3, pamphlets
misc 4, mathematical notes
misc 5, lecture notes
misc 6, Albany Cemetery
misc 7, Battle of Niagara
misc 8, Malcolm Douglass notes and
correspondence with regard to
DBD's lectures about the War of
1812 with the intent of writing
a biography of DBD.
misc 9-12, Programs of consecration of Trinity
Church
misc 13 Biography by Peter Ray, photocopies of
field notebooks, Niagara campaign
notes, and letters

SERIES TITLES

I Correspondence

- A. New Haven-Yale
- B. West Point
- C. Croton Reservoir
- D. Morris Canal
- E. Kenyon College
- F. Cemeteries
- G. Miscellaneous

II. Diplomas

- A. Yale
- B. West Point
- C. Kenyon College

III. Maps

- A. Croton
- B. Morris Canal
- C. Frostbburg Coal region
- D. Brooklyn
- E. French Creek
- F. Eastern entrance to Long Island

IV. Personal Items

- A. Receipts, Bills, Programs, notices of library and house auction
- B. Field Notebooks
- C. Broadsides
- D. Sketches

V. Pamphlets

- A. Reports on canals, drainage, and routes
- B. Facts regarding the Niagara Campaign
- C. Petitions and announcements regarding work on canals, railways etc.

VI. Lecture Notes

- A. Niagara Campaign
- B. Engineering
- C. Architecture
- D. Cemeteries

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

1. Correspondence

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|---|
| cor a | 1828 | Sandy and Beaver Canal Co.
addressed to DBD at West Point |
| cor b | 1829-1833 | Railroads and canals near
Philadelphia, addressed to
West Point and Brooklyn |
| cor c | 1829-1832 | Penn and Ohio Railroad
1. map of French Creek Feeder and
termination of Penn RR |
| cor c | 14 | in oversize box |
| | 2. House of rep. file 223 | cor c 13 |
| cor d | 1829-1834 | letter of resignation and
newspaper article |
| cor e | 1833-1835 | largely Croton Reservoir,
includes detailed estimate of
grade work, analysis of stone
masonry |
| cor f | 1833-1836 | Croton includes, Cartwright
survey reports, card playing
men, rules for leaves and
many letters of resignation
article from Utica Observer
July 23, 1839 re Croton
reservoir |
| cor g | 1836-184? | Miscellaneous group of letters,
some of importance,
report on size and gradations
of conduit, clarification of
DBD's duties, drafts, newspaper
article regarding Westchester
county residents about land
they would have to give up
about 1841 break of damn,
letters of vindication and
justification for his work,
many confidential, printed
report of James Seymour |
| cor h | 1839-1838 | related to Green-Wood cemetery
(includes NYT August 29, 1999
article about GreenWood)
Albany cemetery, and
resignation from Greenwood and
to become President of Kenyon |

		College
cor i	1839	cemetery boundaries, letter from Trinity making DBD president of Green-Wood, large broadside to Vestry of Trinity in oversize box
cor i	7 and 8	
cor j	1835	almost entirely letters of application for employment on the Croton Reservoir
cor k	1835	lecture notes for improvement of Brooklyn
cor l	1849-50	letters occasioned by the death of DBD, General Swift, Maunsell Van Rensselaer, justice of peace document regarding Widow of DBD, monument for DBD grave at Green-Wood, good letters for biographical information
cor m		many dates and of a more personal nature
cor m 5		request for youngest son, Henry to be cadet in US Army
cor m 10-11		thank you from Albany Female Academy
cor m 19-21		fallacy of Mr. Richard's plans to carry water uphill
cor n 25		letters given to Hobart and William Smith Colleges in October 1988 having Yale significance. These date from 1815-1833.

II. DIPLOMAS

dip-1	Yale University	1813
dip-2	Yale University	1816
dip-3	West Point	promotion to Lieutenant 1814 signed: James Madison
dip-4	West Point	meritorious services during 1819 Siege of Fort Erie; signed: James Madison
dip-5	West Point	Promotion to Captain 1819 signed: James Monroe
dip-6	West Point	assigned to Professor of Mathematics 1820
dip-7	West Point	assigned to Professor of Engineering 1823
dip-8	West Point	assigned to Professor of Philosophy 1815
dip-9	West Point	assigned to Professor of Engineering;

signed: J.C. Calhoun sec. of War

dip-10 West Point assigned to Professor of
Mathematics signed: J.C. Calhoun
dip-11 Kenyon College C.E. Douglass 1837
dip-12 Kenyon College form only

III. MAPS

in oversize box

map-3 French Creek
map-4 Frostburg Coal region
17 items with same call number
map-5a Eastern entrance to Long Island
map 5b with correspondence and DBD's notes 1817
map-6a
map- 7 James Seymour plan for Croton reservoir
map-8 Cartwright map Westchester and Putnam
Moses Hale Douglass
Two De Veaux College diplomas
Harvard College diploma
New Hampshire College Certificate
Membership certificate in American Aberdeen
-Angus Breeders' Association
Lithograph of rolling-Dam Brook
poor condition
Drawing by Sarah Hale Douglass c.1849
Document showing a contribution to the Washington
Monument
Four photographs depicting MHD at De Veaux and
New Hampshire Colleges

IV. PERSONAL ITEMS

- misc-2
1. Biography
 2. poems
 3. writing found in DBD portable desk
 4. receipt for clothing sold to Moses Douglass
 5. Green-Wood Cemetery memorandum
 6. receipts for optical, mathematical, philosophical, nautical instruments from Liverpool with letter and notes
 7. jottings form Kenyon College society
 8. 2 engravings of a house with space for notes, Atkinson Family, very beautiful
 9. shipping notice from New York-Ohio line for two boxes and carpet September 1843
 10. notice of auction of household items at President's house, 3 May 1844
 11. list of Ellicott memoranda
 12. newspaper article regarding Andrew Ellicott 19 March 1902
 13. drawings of shells 1820
 14. envelope with notes

V. PAMPHLETS

- misc-3
- Remarks of John M. Reed on the termination of the Columbia and Philadelphia railroad 1830
Facts related to the Campaign on the Niagara
DBD's report on the Drainage and Graduation of Brooklyn
- misc -4
- Mathematical Notes
List of models for US Military Academy
List of models of Grecian and Roman Architecture
latitude and notes on the Black rock ferry
Notes on mathematical instruments

VI. LECTURE NOTES

- misc-5
- Notes for lecture at New York University course in architecture and civil engineering, includes two tickets, astronomy, correspondence and letters of appointment
- misc-6
- Albany Cemetery
- misc-7
- Battle of Niagara
notes for lectures and boundary survey
- misc-8
- Notes and correspondence written by MD with regard to DBD's lectures about war 1812.
It seems that MD was preparing in the 1850's a biography of DBD
- misc-9-12
- Programs for consecration of Trinity Church in New York City with invitation
- misc-13
- Published Niagara Campaign notes

misc-14 Biographical information
 Green-wood cemetery information
 Photocopies of field notebooks and some letters
 list of newspaper articles

CONTAINER LIST

BOX

1 6 Maps-Croton Aqueduct
2 MC 1-642;WP 1-171; Tec 2-35; Pac b 11-17
3 PC 1-171
4 KC 1-642
5 Pub 8-12;24-29
6 Cor a 1-4 - h 1-28
7 Cor i 1-40; j 1-121;k 1-18;l 1-40
8 Pub 4-7;30-37; mpo 1-3
9 Mpo 4-9
10 Mpo 10-31
11 Pc 6-130; Mc 60-183;;WP 3-75;97-159;
Tec 1-26;Pub 1
12 PAC a-f
13 Map 4,5,6;KC m1-171;LEC a -1,2,3;COR m1-23;
corn1-25.
14 Misc 2-13
15 KC 1-485
16 KC 486-646
17 DIP 1-12
18 JNP 1-37
19 Oversize Box
Wp 5-137;TEC 9,10,11;MAP 2,3,4,5a,5b,6a,6b,;
7,8; COR c14; COR l21,i8,i7,e19,e5
20 Oversize Box newspapers & misc. (see list
21 inside box)

