



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Alpheus Sherman papers

1804-circa 1844

MssCol 23359

Processed by Susan P. Waide, 2020.

Summary

Creator: Sherman, Alpheus, 1779 or 1780-1866

Title: Alpheus Sherman papers

Date: 1804-circa 1844

Size: .21 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by James A. Sherman and Celeste S. Sherman, 2015.

Abstract: Alpheus Sherman (1779 or 1780-1866) was a New York City lawyer, judge, and politician. During the War of 1812 he served as a captain in the 41st U.S. Infantry Regiment under the command of Colonel Robert Bogardus, stationed at Sandy Hook, New Jersey and in Brooklyn, New York. The Alpheus Sherman papers, 1804-circa 1844, consist of a numbered series of correspondence and documents, including letters dating from his service in the War of 1812 during the years 1813-1815, and unnumbered documents pertaining to veterans' claims for military bounty lands, 1815-1817, with a printed speech given by Sherman in 1832. The bulk of the correspondence is personal, chiefly Sherman's letters to his wife Hester in New York City during his military service and his time in Albany as a State assemblyman and senator, mentioning his various activities. Correspondents include Cornelius S. Van Winkle, Congressman Silas Wright, Jr., Colonel Robert Bogardus, and other Sherman family members.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Alpheus Sherman papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Susan P. Waide, 2020.

Creator History

Alpheus Sherman (1779 or 1780-1866) was a New York City lawyer, judge, and politician. During the War of 1812 he served as a captain in the 41st U.S. Infantry Regiment under the command of Colonel

Robert Bogardus, stationed at Sandy Hook, New Jersey and in Brooklyn, New York. Sherman was born in Rochester, Plymouth County, Massachusetts and graduated from Columbia College in New York City in 1803, where he established his law practice. He married Hester Utt (1789-1875) in 1807, and they resided with their family in Manhattan. Prior to the War of 1812 Sherman served as an officer in the New York State Militia in the City. During the course of his career Sherman held the appointments of Attorney to the Corporation of the City of New York, Public Administrator, and justice of the City's Marine Court, and held elected terms in the Common Council as assistant alderman and alderman, and in the New York State Legislature as assemblyman (1826-1828) and senator (1830-1833). Sherman, a member of the Tammany Society, associated with the "Bucktail" faction of the Democratic-Republican party and the "Albany Regency" led by Martin Van Buren, but by the late 1830s he had left the Jacksonian Democrats and joined the Whig Party. When his appointment to the Marine Court ended in 1845, he retired from public life with the onset of blindness, and moved to Rockland County. Alpheus Sherman died in Spring Valley on January 12, 1866.

Scope and Content Note

The Alpheus Sherman papers, 1804-circa 1844, consist of a numbered series of correspondence and documents, including letters dating from his service in the War of 1812 during the years 1813-1815; and unnumbered documents pertaining to veterans' claims for military bounty lands, 1815-1817, with a printed speech given by Sherman in 1832. The bulk of the correspondence is personal, chiefly Sherman's letters to his wife Hester in New York City during his military service and his time in Albany as a State assemblyman and senator, mentioning his various activities. He describes conditions and incidents at the fortifications at Sandy Hook, New Jersey, at Camp in [New] Utrecht and at Fort Greene in Brooklyn, New York, and relays a soldier's poem about the Sandy Hook mosquitos. Also present are letters written by Hester and Alpheus Sherman to their son James A. Sherman (1816-1890) in 1832, as well as letters received by Alpheus Sherman from his brother Nathaniel Sherman, 1812; his brother-in-law Cornelius S. Van Winkle, sharing his opinion of the Embargo, 1808; and Congressman Silas Wright, Jr., regarding political matters, 1828. Sherman's copy of his letter to Colonel Robert Bogardus, 1814 is also found. Miscellaneous numbered items include certificates of appointments, a muster roll of the 41st U.S. Infantry, and a land conveyance. Unnumbered documents regarding War of 1812 military bounty lands concern the claims of eight veterans for whom Sherman acted as agent; some of the names appear on the muster roll.

Key Terms

Subjects

Bounties, military -- United States
Public lands -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Certificates
Conveyances
Correspondence
Military records
Muster rolls
Poems
Speeches (documents)

Occupations

Jurists.
Lawyers.
Politicians.
Soldiers.

Geographic Names

New York (State) -- History -- War of 1812
New York (State) -- Politics and government -- 19th century
Sandy Hook (N.J.) -- History, Military

Names

Bogardus, Robert, 1771-1841
Sherman, Alpheus, 1779 or 1780-1866 -- Correspondence
Sherman, Alpheus, 1779 or 1780-1866
Sherman, Hester Utt, 1789-1875
Van Winkle, Cornelius S., 1785-1843
Wright, Silas, 1795-1847
Sherman family
United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 41st (1813-1815)

Container List

Numbered documents

Documents were numbered for an inventory compiled by the Sherman family in the 1950s. Gaps in numbers represent items not included in the donation.

- b. 1 f. 1 Letter from Hester Sherman at New York to James A. Sherman at Albany
1830s
1
- b. 1 f. 1 Letter from Nathaniel Sherman at New Brunswick to Alpheus Sherman at
New York 1812 March 9
4
Nathaniel Sherman (d. 1813) was an officer in the 6th U.S. Infantry Regiment.
The letter concerns Nathaniel Sherman's recruiting duties in New Brunswick, N.J., and his
personal financial affairs.
- b. 1 f. 1 Letter from Alpheus Sherman at Sandy Hook to Hester Sherman at New
York [1814] May 20
5
- b. 1 f. 1 Letter from Alpheus Sherman at Camp at Utrecht to Hester Sherman at
New York 1814 June 14
6
- b. 1 f. 1 State of New York certification of election of Alpheus Sherman and others
as State Senators 1829 December 4
8
Certified copy signed by A.C. Flagg, Secretary of State.
- b. 1 f. 1 Poem entitled "To the musquetoos at Sandy Hook" 1814
9
Poem in six stanzas (2 pages on 1 sheet), endorsed "Written by a soldier of the 41 Reg U.S.
Inf[an]. Document was enclosed with and explained in Alpheus Sherman's letter of June 4, 1814
to Hester Sherman (item 13).
- b. 1 f. 1 Letter from Alpheus Sherman at Sandy Hook to Hester Sherman at New
York 1814 May 9
10
- b. 1 f. 1 Letter from Alpheus Sherman at Albany to Hester Sherman at New York
1831 January 7
12
- b. 1 f. 1 Letter from Alpheus Sherman at Sandy Hook to Hester Sherman at New
York 1814 June 4
13
- b. 1 f. 1 Muster roll of Captain Alpheus Sherman's company, 41st U.S. Infantry
Regiment 1815 May 2
14
For the period March 9-May 2, 1815, signed at Fort Greene.
- b. 1 f. 1 Invoice from John B. Thorp to Alpheus Sherman for military uniform 1814 July
7
15
- b. 1 f. 2 Letter from Alpheus Sherman at Fort Greene to Hester Sherman at New
York 1815 February 7
16
- b. 1 f. 2 Letter from Alpheus Sherman at Albany to James A. Sherman at New York
1832 April 19
18
- b. 1 f. 2 Certificate of appointment of John Laycock as Paymaster of Pierre Van
Cortlandt's regiment of militia, Westchester County 1806 March 28
20

Numbered documents (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 2 Indenture between Effee Waldron and Benjamin Durling for lease of land
1821 July 30
21
- b. 1 f. 2 Record of James A. Sherman's admission as attorney and counsellor-at-law
in New York courts circa 1834-circa 1844
22
Copy of Clerk of the New York State Supreme Court's minutes for November 21, 1834; glued
note as to admission to Court of Common Pleas on July 19, 1844.
- b. 1 f. 2 Letter from Silas Wright Jr. at Washington, D.C. to Alpheus Sherman 1828
March 25
24
- b. 1 f. 2 Letter from Hester Sherman at New York to James A. Sherman at Albany
[1832]
25
Date supplied on document.
- b. 1 f. 2 Appointment of Alpheus Sherman as Captain in the 42nd U.S. Infantry
Regiment 1813 August 2
26
Appointment is to the 42nd Regiment; Sherman was transferred and served in the 41st
Regiment.
- b. 1 f. 2 Letter from Cornelius S. Van Winkle at Middletown to Alpheus Sherman at
New York 1808 October 27
27
- b. 1 f. 2 Letter from Alpheus Sherman at Sandy Hook to Hester Sherman at New
York 1814 June 9
28
- b. 1 f. 2 Letter from Alpheus Sherman at Albany to Hester Sherman at New York
1827 September 18
29
- b. 1 f. 2 Letter from Alpheus Sherman at Albany to Hester Sherman [at New York]
1826 February 10
30
- b. 1 f. 2 Letter from [J.?] Hammond at New York to Alpheus Sherman and Thomas
Smith at New York 1804 June 26
31
- b. 1 f. 2 Letter from Captain Alpheus Sherman at New York to Colonel Robert
Bogardus at Albany 1814 March 20
32
- b. 1 f. 2 Letter from Nathaniel Cutting at Washington, D.C. to Captain Alpheus
Sherman at New York 1816 August 19
34
Cutting writes from the War Department's Section of Bounty Lands regarding paper work and
discharges submitted by Sherman supporting soldiers' claims for military bounty lands. See
also claim documentation in Unnumbered documents.

Unnumbered documents

- b. 1 f. 3 Thomas Carrol power of attorney to John Lee regarding a land warrant 1816
July 20
Document is in the name of Thomas Carrol, signed Thomas Carroll; witnessed by Alpheus
Sherman.
- b. 1 f. 3 Moses Clendennin certificate of discharge from 41st U.S. Infantry Regiment
1815 May 26
- b. 1 f. 3 War Department notice of issuance of Land Warrant 6933 to Thomas
Durland circa 1816 October 7

Unnumbered documents (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 3 **Edward Gideven certificate of discharge from 41st U.S. Infantry Regiment**
[1815] May 26
Portion of document missing, year supplied from another certificate, same date. Official copy as per note by Alpheus Sherman on verso regarding Edward Gidoven (as spelled by Sherman), Land Warrant 1760.
- b. 1 f. 3 **Jeremiah Hillers power of attorney to Alpheus Sherman** 1817 January 23
- b. 1 f. 3 **Jacob Pitts power of attorney to Alpheus Sherman regarding Land Warrant**
1758 1816 March 7
- b. 1 f. 3 **War Department notice of issuance of Land Warrant 6090 to Daniel Knapp**
circa 1816 July 30
- b. 1 f. 3 **Peter [Welp?] power of attorney to Alpheus Sherman regarding Land**
Warrant 5553 1817 February 28
See list of names in muster roll (item 14), number 76 for [Whelp?], Peter. The lettering of the surname Wells (number 75) is not similar.
- b. 1 f. 4 **Speech given January 28, 1832 by Alpheus Sherman in the New York State**
Senate 1832 (Disbound printed speech, 8 pages. Portion of pages 3-4 missing.)
Concerning the vote on renewing the charter of the Bank of the United States.