

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION
ACCESSION SHEET

Annex
4-e-4(L)

Accession # 86 M 56

Location

Title Abner Lord Ely. Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1835-81; 1955. Bulk dates: 1848-71

Date of receipt May 14, 1986

Received from Mrs. Richard E. Nevius

Volume on arrival 1 carton

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 2 AB 1 lin ft.

Condition Good

Restrictions None

Description (SEE SEPARATE SHEETS)

Special Formats Photographs Maps Audio Tapes Films Graphics
 Artifacts Machine-readable records
 Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries (SEE SEPARATE SHEET)

Accessioned by

T. G. Finson

Date

7/10/86

ACCESSION SHEET

86 M 56
Abner Lord Ely. Papers

Description

Abner Lord Ely (1805-71) was born in South Salem, Westchester Co., New York to Mary Lord (1764-1841) and John Ely (1763-1827), a Protestant clergyman. His great grandfather, Richard Ely (1610-90) of Plymouth, England, emigrated to America in the latter part of the 17th century. Little is known of his early life excepting that he must have been raised in modest circumstances and according to the precepts of Christian piety. By 1833 Ely had become established in New York City as a dry goods merchant at 259 Pearl Street specializing in the silk trade. In 1836 he founded with his brother Horace the firm Abner L. Ely & Co. at 65 Maiden Lane which, two years later, was dissolved probably as a result of the Panic of 1837. Concomitantly with his dry goods business Ely increasingly engaged in the practice of serving as a commission agent and as a manager of real estate investments in the city for numerous private investors among whom John B. Lesieur (died 1876), a wealthy Virginian who lived for most of his life in Paris, France. By 1854 the dry goods business had been discontinued in favor of real estate management. In that year Ely established with his nephew Horace S. Ely (1832-1904), the son of his brother, Seth Ely, the firm of Horace S. Ely & Co. The firm remained prominent in real estate management in New York for over one hundred years. Ely was married in 1829 to

ACCESSION SHEET

86 M 56

Abner Lord Ely. Papers

- 2 -

Rhoda Mead who died in 1849. In 1851 he married Elida Burns. By his first wife he had a son, ^{Abner} who died young and three daughters, Sophia, Harriet and Emily. He had one daughter, Elsie Patrick, by his second wife.

The bulk of the papers consist of Ely's general correspondence (1832-71) and family correspondence (1838-50) both of which consist of letters received. The general correspondence reflects Ely's activities as dry goods merchant, commission agent, and real estate agent in New York City. There is some correspondence of a more general nature relative to political and church affairs including letters from a student at Princeton Theological Seminary who solicited a position as interim pastor at Ely's congregation, the Brick Presbyterian Church. Ely's principal correspondent is John B. Lesieur who wrote approximately 125 letters (1832-71) to Ely from Paris which contain interesting comments on political events in France and in Europe, his attendance at the French court, the Revolution of 1848, the Franco-Prussian War, American politics, social and family affairs, as well as ^{on} his extensive real estate investments in New York which were managed by Ely. Included is a set (incomplete) of typed transcript of this correspondence. The family correspondence includes letters from Ely's nephews and cousins, his brothers-in-law, Solomon, Richard and Thomas Mead, his sister-in-law, Laura Mead, and his brother John. The correspondence from John

ACCESSION SHEET

86 M 56

Abner Lord Ely. Papers

-3-

Ely ^{/a lawyer,} who wrote from Washington, D.C. and from Boston concerns cases involving mercantile law being tried (in part) before the U.S. Supreme Court. The correspondence from his cousin, Seth M. Ely who resided at Ripley, New York concerns shipments of butter and cheese for the New York market.

Included also is a mortgage, an indenture, and a copy of an obituary of Ely; and a few legal and financial papers of other members of the Ely family including Horace S. Ely, his nephew, and John Ely, his brother. There is also present a printed pamphlet entitled History of Horace S. Ely & Company of New York (privately printed, 1955) by Richard Ely Nevius (1907 -), a lineal descendant of Abner Lord Ely, together with research notes which Nevius made for his history.

ABNER LORD ELY
PAPERS

Container List

Container No.

- 1 General Correspondence
 Family Correspondence

 - 2 Mortgage, indenture and obituary of Ely
 Papers of other members of the Ely Family
 History of Horace S. Ely & Co. by R.E. Nevius
 and research notes for the history
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THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Accession # 87 M 40

Location

04-e-4(L)

Title Abner Lord Ely. Additional papers.

Approximate inclusive dates 1835-89

Date of receipt ca. June 15, 1987

Received from Scott Petersen

Volume on arrival 1 pkg.

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 3 folders (3")

Condition Good

Restrictions N/A

Description

These additional papers consist of bills and receipts, invoices, rent records, and letters (4 items) of Abner L. Ely and of Abner L. Ely & Co. pertaining to the management of real properties in New York City. Some of the papers reflect Ely as agent for Rutsen Suckley. Included is a cash book (1830-34) of George Suckley in account with the Manhattan Company.

Container No.

2

Additional papers (87 M 40)

Special Formats Photographs Maps Audio Tapes Films Graphics
 Artifacts Machine-readable records
 Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries

Accessioned by

John Spinson

Date

6/22/87