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ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # ~~43M26~~ 49M1, 56M114, 45M64, **61M75**. Location 22-k-3/5 (L); 22-1-2/6 (L) Annex

63M27 / **85M90**
Title Constable-Pierrepoint. Papers.

Approximate inclusive dates 1762-1911. Bulk dates: 1774-1840s

Date of receipt 1941, 1942

Received from Anna J. Pierrepoint and
Robert Low Pierrepoint

Volume on arrival

Number of boxes (after reboxing) ~~47~~ ab, 80 volumes, 1 *specimen*

Condition

Restrictions None.

Description The bulk of the papers are those of William Kerin Constable and his son-in-law Hezekiah Beers Pierrepoint, both of whom are representative figures in the history of post-colonial mercantile capitalism in America. In addition both men contributed significantly to the growth of New York City and to its rise to preeminence in the political economy of the nation. William Constable was born at Dublin, Ireland, in 1752. He spent his childhood in Montreal and Syracuse, N.Y. before returning to Dublin to attend Trinity College. During the War of Independence he served as aide-de-camp to Lafayette and after a brief partnership with his brother-in-law, settled in Philadelphia as a partner of James Seagrove. Following the war he moved to New York City to join Robert Morris and Gouverneur Morris in the firm to which he gave his name. The Morrises had established regular trade with China, and the new company soon expanded its operations to India and the intervening coastal countries. Lucrative trade in tea, textiles, spices, and furs, and at home, the provisioning of British troops in the West Indies, land speculations in northern New York, Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia, and Virginia, made Constable one of the wealthiest men in America. In partnership with Alexander Macomb and Daniel McCormick he acquired some 4,000,000 acres in northern New York which he tried (enlisting the aid of his friend LaFayette) to sell in Europe. It was while he was there on one such land-selling trip that the company he had formed with his brother, James, defaulted on notes James had endorsed for Nathaniel Ingraham. As a result upon his return to New York in 1801 William Constable was detained for a short period in debtor's prison. The company ceased to exist and much of his landed interests were used to liquidate the debt. He died in 1803. Hezekiah ^{Pierrepoint} was born at New Haven, Conn. in 1790. After a youthful apprenticeship as a bookseller he went to New York City in 1790 to work in the Custom House. A year later he moved to Philadelphia where he made a small fortune speculating in government debt. Three years later he returned to New York

(continued on separate sheet)

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

Temporary catalog card added entries

See attached

Accessioned by Richard Salvato

Date 3/15/83

to establish with his cousin the firm of Leffingwell and Pierrepont. The firm quickly prospered running the British blockade to deliver supplies to revolutionary France. When the seizure of vessels by both belligerents increased in number and threatened to become a serious obstacle to assured profits the firm abandoned this trade and turned to the far east. Pierrepont met his future father-in-law, William Constable, while in Europe engaged in a lawsuit over the taking by the French of the ship Confederacy during its return voyage from the Orient. This hapless pursuit convinced Pierrepont that under the prevailing conditions foreign commerce was too hazardous; and as a consequence ~~the~~ the firm was dissolved in 1800. The exploitation of real property then became his main concern. His ^{other} interests included mines in the mid-west, the development of a brewery in Brooklyn which he had bought from Philip Livingston, the sale, settlement, and improvement of his lands through contractual tenancy, schemes for canals in New York State which would enable garden produce from his up-state lands to be transported to the markets of the expanding city, the cutting and hauling of timber, ^{and} the transformation of his Brooklyn harbour-front property. These lands were extensive, and, with the lands of the Livingstons, comprised a large part of what is now Brooklyn Heights and Boerum Hill. When in 1815 Brooklyn was incorporated as a village Pierrepont persuaded the village to adopt a plan for new streets and blocks which had been prepared by a surveyor in his employ. This plan remains the basic grid structure of the present Brooklyn Heights. Pierrepont died there in 1838.

The papers are separated into four groups: Constable Papers; Pierrepont Papers; William Bell Papers; and, Clarkson Family Papers. The Constable Papers contain personal and business correspondence (including letter-books) 1774-1830, of William Constable and a few letters of his wife, Ann, accounts, including cash books, journals, ledgers, memo-books, and waste-books. There are also field books of land surveys, papers relating to land speculation and development in northern New York (including Macomb's Purchase) New York City, and various frontier states, and papers compiled by his brother, James, and Hezekiah B. Pierrepont, relating to his estate, the land papers, 1762-1772, of his father, John Constable, and the letters and land papers, 1798-1807, of his brother, James, complete this section. The largest group of Pierrepont Papers is composed of the personal and business letters, 1795-1838, of Hezekiah Beers Pierrepont, letters and papers relating to French Spoliation Claims, some correspondence of his wife, Anna Maria Constable, the accounts of Leffingwell & Pierrepont, papers relating to Hezekiah Pierrepont's speculations in land, field books of land surveys; notes on the trade with China, India, Pulco Pinang, and the Malay Settlements; the account books of his father, John Pierpont; and correspondence, accounts, land papers, field and plat books of his sons, William C. Pierrepont and Henry Evelyn Pierrepont. This section also includes some letters, accounts, and legal papers of later members of the Pierrepont family. The remainder of the collection consists of the papers of the Clarkson Family, and the papers, 1806-1856, of William Bell, who was a friend and business colleague of William Constable and Hezekiah B. Pierrepont; and some accounts of Efister & Macomb, and Wells & Wagenen. The Bell Papers include letters, account books compiled on trading journeys to the Orient, land papers, accounts, letters, and legal papers relating to his estate, poems and other writings, and newsclippings.

Constable-Pierrepont Family Papers

Box No. Contents

CONSTABLE PAPERS

William Constable

Correspondence

- 1 1774-1792, May
- 2 1792, June-1793, June
- 3 1793, July-1795, August
- 4 1795, Sept.-1803; Ann W. Constable

Papers

- 5 Accounts, 1773-1803; Bd. of Treasury Papers
- 6 Wm. & James Constable Accounts, 1791-1803; letters
& papers re: Nathaniel G. Ingraham.
- 7 Wm. & James Constable shipping papers; Cruden contract
for supplying British troops, 1795-1801.
- 8 Wm. Constable shipping papers.
- 9 Constable, Rucker & Co., letters, 1785-1788, accounts
and contracts, 1784-1793.

Land & Estate Papers

- 10 District of Columbia-New York (State)
- 11 New York (City)-Vermont
- 12-13 Boylston Tract
- 14 Chassanis Tract
- 15 Macomb's Purchase; Inman Tract; Greenleaf Tract;
Watson Tract; Aaron Burr; De Wolf; Leroy de Chaumont.
- 16 Wills & Estate: Legal papers; Journal, 1815-1818, 1833,
of Emily Constable; *Hamilton opinion on Constable's will, 1803*
in ANNEX OVERSIZE Box
- 17 John Constable & James C. Constable Papers, 1762-1807

PIERREPONT PAPERS

Hezekiah Beers Pierrepont

Correspondence

- 18 1791-1817
- 19 1818-1838; n.d.

20 Business and Land Accounts

21 Land Papers

22 Estate Papers

23 Land contract, St. Lawrence County, Pierrepont, 1839-
1859; legal papers

24-27 French Spoliation Claims

28 Extracts from a diary, 1806-1818.
Biographical material.

- 28 Report prepared by Hezekiah B. Pierrepont on coal-mining at Carbondale and Honesdale, 1830.
Van Schaick's report on Delaware & Hudson Canal, 1830.
Wright's report on railway from Carbondale to Dyburg, 1826.
Meteorological observations, 1806-1808; clippings.

Family Correspondence and Papers

Anna Maria Pierrepont, letters, literary notes, will, music, & writings; William Constable Pierrepont; Anna C. Pierrepont; Henry E. Pierrepont

- 29 Anna Maria Constable Pierrepont - 2 notebooks (93M39)
John Pierpont and William C. Pierrepont Papers

Henry Evelyn Pierrepont Papers

Correspondence

- 30 1830-1843
31 1844-1852
32 1853-1888
Legal papers
33 Accounts, 1837-1889;
Land Papers, New York State
Franklin County-St. Lawrence County, Pierrepont, 1874.
34 St. Lawrence County, Pierrepont, 1875-1893-Stockholm,
1839-1847.
35 Stockholm, 1848-1859-Warren County.
West Virginia.
Tax receipts, New York State, Lewis County, 1869-1887.

- 36-37 Papers of Henry E. Pierrepont II and Ellen Low Pierrepont and family, Henry E. Pierrepont III, and Robert Low Pierrepont

WILLIAM BELL PAPERS

- 38 Correspondence, 1811-1843; accounts, 1806-1842.
39 Estate letters and papers; land papers, legal papers; poems and other writings.

40 CLARKSON FAMILY PAPERS

- 41 Volumes 9-11, 13-26
42 Volumes 39, 44, 45, 53-61
43 Volumes 62-64, 69-75
44 Volumes, 81, 82, 85, 89-92, 94-95, 102, 108-112
(See list of volumes for description of contents)

Volumes

No.

William Constable Letter-books

- 1 1782-1790
2 1790-1791
3 1793-1794
4 1794-1797
5 1797-1812; 1820; 1830 (after 1803 continued by executors)

William Constable Account Books

- 6 Constable, Rucker & Co., 1786-1787, Ledger B (Oversize)
7 William Constable & Co., 1790-1791, Waste Book
8 Cash book kept at London, 1792, Jan. 5-1795, Apr. 8, and at New York from 1795, June 3 -1797, June 1
9 Cash and memoranda book kept at London, 1792-1794 (in box 41)
10 Cash book kept at London, 1792, Jan. 3-1792, Dec. 2, 1794 (in box 41)
11 Journal and Memoranda book kept at London, 1792-1794 (in box 41)
12 Ledger kept at London, 1792, Jan. 5-1797, June 1
13 Journal and Ledger kept at London and New York, 1794, June 10-1797, June 1 (in box 41)
14 Waste book kept at Bristol, Eng. and New York, 1794-1797 (in box 41)
15 Journal and memoranda book kept by Constable and his executors, 1797-1807 (in box 41)
16 Memoranda book, 1799-1801 (contains copies of letters from 1801, Aug. 3-1802, Nov. 15 (in box 41)
17 Bank book of William Constable of account with Manhattan Co., 1802-1803. Continued by James Constable, executor (in box 41)

William Constable Field Books

- 18 1796, Benjamin Wright remarks on 13 towns in M^{rs}comb's purchase.
1796, Remarks on Boylston 13 towns, surveyed in 1796
19 1797, Benjamin Wright survey of towns No. 1 & 2 (Turin, Lewis Co., New York (in box 41)
20 1797, Benjamin Wright's survey of town No. 13, Boylston's Tract (in box 41)
21 1800, Joseph Beman's survey of west part of Stockholm (N.Y.) for William and James Constable (in box 41)
22 1801, Benjamin Wright's survey of part of Town No. 5 on Black River (in box 41)
23 1804-1805, survey of Township No. 4, Boylston Tract (in box 41)
24 1805, survey of Township No. 3, Boylston Tract (in box 41)
25 1805, Benjamin Wright, Plat book of Montague, Township No. 3, Boylston, Tract, Lewis Co. (in box 41)
26 n.d., description of towns in tracts 1, 2, 3 (in box 41)

William Constable Estate

- 27 Journal with inventory kept by James Constable, 1803-1807; by Hezekiah Pierrepont to 1819
28 Description of lands in northern New York state, 1803-1807 in hand of James Constable with later entries by Hezekiah Pierrepont and Henry E. Pierrepont.

No.

William Constable Estate

29 Ledger, 1803-1820, in hand of James Constable & Hezekiah B. Pierrepont

William & James Constable Account Books

30 1791, Aug.-1793, Apr.
31 1793, Apr.-1796, Aug.
32 1796, Aug.-1799, June
33 1799, Aug. 1801, March

William & James Constable Account Books

34 Accounts current, 1791-1799
35 Blott, 1796-1800
36 Cash Book, 1791-1797
37 Petty Cash Book, 1793-1797
38 Cash Book, 1797-1801
39 Petty Cash book, 1801-04 (in box 42)
40 Journal, 1791-99
41 " 1799-1802
42 Ledger, 1791-1802
43 Waste Book, 1791-1801
44 Index of accounts (in box 42)

Hezekiah Beers pierrepont Letter Books

45 1795, 12 May-Sept. 8 (in box 42)
46 1800, Dec.-1810, Oct. *mfm Pool 2*

Hezekiah Beers Pierrepont Account Books

47 Bills receivable & payable, 1800-15
48 Cash book, 1800, Nov. 1804, Dec.; petty cash, 1801-1804
49 Cash book, 1805, Apr. -1808, March
50 Cash book, 1808, April-1813, March; petty cash, 1808-1811
51 Cash book, 1813, March-1821, Dec.
52 Cash book, 1822, Jan.-1838, Aug.
53 Journal of Leffingwell & Pierrepont kept at London & ^Nantes, France, 1794-1796
(in box 42)
54 Journal, 1800, Nov.-1810, June
55 Journal, 1806, Jan.-1808, May (in box 42)
56 Journal, 1808, June-1809, Dec. (in box 42)
57 Journal, 1810, Jan.-Oct. (in box 42)
58 Journal, 1810, July-1818, March
59 Journal, 1810, Oct.-1812, Apr. (in box 42)
60 Journal, accounts of St. Lawrence Turnpike Road Co., 1810-1818 (in box 42)
61 Journal, 1812, May-1813, Nov. (in box 42)
62 Journal, 1813, Dec.-1815, Feb. (in box 43)
63 Journal 1817, June-1818, July (in box 43)
64 Journal, 1818-1838, Aug.
65 Ledger of Leffingwell & Pierrepont kept at London & Nantes, France,
1794, June-1795, Dec.

Volumes

No.

Hezekiah Beers Pierrepont Account Books

- 66 Ledger, 1801-1810
- 67 Ledger, 1804-1837
- 68 Ledger, 1810-1825
- 69 Ledger of St. Lawrence Turnpike Road Co., 1810-1820 (in box 43)
- 70 Memo of transactions on visits to lands in New York counties, 1820-1823.
- 71 Names of settlers & conditions of settlement (in box 43)
- 71 Receipt book kept at New York & Brooklyn, 1801-1819 (in box 43)

Hezekiah Beers Pierrepont Field Books

- 72 Hadley, Benj. Copy of a resurvey of Orwell, Township No. 11, 1830-1830 (in box 43)
- 73 Deed book, 1806. A survey of part of De Witt (in box 43)

Hezekiah B. Pierrepont Miscellany

- 74 Notes on the trade of China made at Canton, 1796 & corrected at London, 1798, with references to the ship Confederacy. Notes on the commerce of the Isle de France and Bourbon, Bombay, Pulco Pinang and the Malay Settlements, 1796 (in box 43)
- 75 ibid. with marginal notes in hand of Pierrepont (in box 43)

Hezekiah B. Pierrepont Estate

- 76 Letter-book, 1838, Aug-1839, Feb.
- 77 Cash book, 1838, Aug.-1855, May
- 78 Journal, 1838, Aug.-1852, Dec., with inventory of estate
- 79 Journal of transactions of executors, balance sheet, valuation of estate, 1838-1848
- 80 Ledger, 1838, Aug.-1855, May

William Constable Pierrepont

- 81 Cash book, 1829-1838 (in box 44)
- 82 Plat book of township No. 13, Boylston Tract, Lewis County, N.Y., 1839, Aug. (in box 44)

Account books of John Pierpont, supercargo of the ship Semiramis, owned by Hezekiah B. Pierrepont, et al., on voyage from New York to Manila and Canton *located in vols. 83-87*

- 83 Cash book, 1801, Feb.-1802, Dec.
- 84 Cash book, 1801, May-1805, Nov.
- 85 Cashbook, 1801, Apr.-1803, Nov. (in box 44)
- 86 Invoices & accounts, 1801, Sept.-1805, July
- 87 Journal & ledger, 1801, May-1805, June

- 88 Henry E. Pierrepont Letter Book, 1839, march 26-1843, April 20

Volumes

No.

Henry E. Pierrepont Account Books

- 89 *indent* 1815-1839, account book of settlers in Martinsburgh, Lewis County, N.Y. (in box 44)
- 90 1820-1839, accounts of sales of land in Stockholm, St. Lawrence County (in box 44)
- 91 1827-1839, accounts with settlers in Dickinson No. 7, Franklin County, N.Y. (in box 44)
- 92 1827-1840. Flora, Lewis County, N.Y. (in box 44)
- 93 1834-1848; 1850-1851. Journal of transactions on annual visits to lands in Lewis, St. Lawrence and Franklin counties
- 94 1838-1849. Sales of wild lands in Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin counties (in box 44)
- 95 1838-1855, accounts with Sanford & Foster land agents in St. Lawrence County
- 96 1839-1852, settlers' accounts, West Turin, township No. 13
- 97 1839-1853. List of conveyances of land in Lewis, St. Lawrence & Franklin counties (in box 44)
- 98 1839-1856, land book for Stockholm, St. Lawrence County
- 99 1845-1861. Ledger as executor of estate of Hezekiah B. Pierrepont
- 100 Cash book of estate of Hezekiah B. Pierrepont
- 101 1849-1853. Account with agent at Osceola, Lewis County
- 102 1849-1853. List of sales of land in St. Lawrence, Franklin, and Oswego counties (in box 44)
- 103 1849-1855. Account with agent at West Turin, Lewis County

Henry E. Pierrepont deed, field & plat books

- 104 Plat book of township No. 4, Martinsburgh, 1820, with map
- 105 1832. Scratch book with notes on Macomb's purchase and William Constable's estate
- 106 1839-1853. Deeds executed in Lewis, Franklin & St. Lawrence counties
- 107 1839-1888. Deeds in northern counties executed by Henry E. Pierrepont
- 108 1841. Field book of town No. 10 in Great Tract No. 1, Franklin County (in box 44)
- 109 *ibid* (in box 44)
- 110 Plat book of Martinsburgh, Lewis County, n.d. (in box 44)
- 111 Plat book of Stockholm, S. Lawrence County (in box 45)
- 112 Plat book of Turin, Lewis County, n.d. (in box 45)

Pfister & Macomb

- 113 Waste book, 1794-1800
- 114 Journal, 1794-1798
- 115 Receipt book, 1796-1798

Wells & Van Wagenen

- 116 Account book, 1838-1859
- 117 Accounts, 1848-1858

Addenda

- 118 Deed book, William Constable, Hezekiah B. Pierrepont, Edward Ellice, n.d.
- 119 Music books, piano & voice technique, music scores, etc. (6 vols)

Volumes

Hezekiah B. Pierrepont account books & notebooks

- 120 Accounts with Bank of New York et al, 1782-1790 (in box 45)
121 Account book with Bank of North America, 1790, Oct.-1791, Oct. (in box 45)
122 Journal of certificates of stock funded & transferred on books of U.S. Treasury, 1790, Nov.-1791, May (in box 45)
123 Memorandum book, 1794-1801? (in box 45)
124 Notebook, shipping memoranda, chronology of trip to London, 1797, June-Oct. (in box 45)
125 Bank book in account with Bank of New York, 1814, Dec.-1816, Dec. (in box 45)
126 Bank book in account with Bank of New York, 1819, Oct.-1822, Nov. (in box 45)

127-132 Anna Maria Pierrepont (wife of Hesekiah B. Pierrepont, cash books, household expenses, 1842-1859

133-134 Anna Maria Pierrepont (daughter of William Constable Pierrepont), Cash book, household expenses, 1853, Jan.-1877, Jan.

135 John Jay Pierrepont, notebook, n.d. (in box 45)

136 Henry E. Pierrepont II, Letter press copy book

137 Pierrepont Brothers, merchant's receipt book, 1886, May-1888, May

Unidentified

138 Day book, 1877, Dec.-1890, Dec.

139 Cash book, 1891, Jan.-1901, Sept.

140 Cash book, 1901, Oct.-1914, Dec.

141 Notebook of travel expenses in Europe, c.1905 (in box 45)

142 Cash book, 1934, Jan.-1938, June

143 Journal, 1803-1806, James Constable (in box 17)

144 Oversize slipcase containing maps and surveys of New York state, Canada, and various Constable and Pierrepont lands

William Bell Account Books

1789-1790, account book of ship America on voyage from New York to India and China and return for William Constable & Co., Alexander Maccomb, William Edgar, et al (in box 8)

1790-1791, account book of the ship Washington on voyage from New York to India & China and return for William Constable & Co. (in box 8)

1799, account book of the ship Mary on voyage from New York to Canton and return for John McVickar, et al (in box 38)

1802, account book of the Ship Swift on voyage from New York to the Isle of France and return for Gouverneur & Kemble (in box 38)

1803, account book of the ship Devotion on voyage from New York to Canton and return for Gouverneur & Kemble (in box 38)

1805, account book of ship Eliza on voyage from New York to Canton for John Titus, T. Pearsall & Son, P. Schermerhorn & Son and J.T. Glover (in box 38)

1806, account book of Eliza on voyage from New York to Canton for same owners as above (in box 38)

Volumes

1809, account book of Canton on voyage New York to Canton for same owners as above (in box 38)

1809-1816 Account of William Bell on board Canton and William & John (in box 38)

1816, Ledger of William Bell on William & John; accounts with Chinese and New York merchants, J.J. Astor, Gouverneur, Le Roy Bayard, et al (in box 38)

1816-1818, account book of William & John, on voyage New York to Canton; account with J.J. Astor (in box 38)

The following material is now on a master negative film

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Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 30, 31, 46 and box 11