

Goodrich Collection MSS Collection #056

Scope & Contents

This collection consists of the correspondence and journals related to two military members active in the Civil War: William B. Goodrich and Patrick (P.H.) Wells. The Goodrich papers include documents and memorabilia from Goodrich and his daughter, Stella Goodrich Russell with dates ranging from 1853-1898. The P.H. Wells papers include letters from Wells to his friend and eventual wife, Sadie and personal diaries.

The total collection consists of 63 letters, 16 journals/diaries, 18 legal, business papers and certificates, a booklet entitled "The American Nation", 17 photographs, and other miscellaneous articles and memorabilia.

Dates

1853-1898

Availability

The collection is open for research.

Biographical Note

William B. Goodrich

Born December 1, 1821 in Wilna, New York. He graduated from the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary in 1835. He served during the Mexican-American War and later attended law school in Ballston Spa before he returned north to Madrid, New York.

In 1856 Goodrich was appointed judge advocate of the 33rd regiment, New York State Militia. He became a journalist and part owner of the *St. Lawrence Plain-dealer* in August of 1856. In August 1861 Goodrich opened and headed an enlistment-roll in the Town of Canton. In September Captain Goodrich led his men to Ogdensburgh and they became the 1st Company of the 60th Regiment NYS Volunteers. He was promoted to Colonel in May of 1862 and on September 17 of that same year was killed at the battle of Antietam. He was survived by his wife Elvira (Lydia) and one daughter Stella.

Stella Goodrich, born May 1, 1854 and married Charles Russell on January 30, 1878. Charles Russell, a St. Lawrence County native and St. Lawrence University graduate, became a U.S. Senator of Kings County, New York and a prominent lawyer. Stella was an alumna of Wells College, and founder of The Portia Reading Club and Camp Goodrich (named after her father). There is no mention of children in the papers.

P.H. Wells

Patrick H. Wells was born December 16, 1837 in Ireland. During the Civil War, he was mustered in to Company D, 19th Regiment, Illinois Infantry in Chicago. After his service he worked in the Naval Office in Brooklyn as a chief bond clerk. He rekindled his friendship with Sarah (Sadie) A. Olin, daughter of William and Charlotte Olin, through his letters and they were married sometime between November 1868 and December 1869. They had four children: Minnie, May, Mary, and Sarah (Sadie). Wells resigned on or about June 28, 1890, due to illness. His family visited Madrid and Gouverneur where Sadie's parents and family lived.

Extent

3 boxes, 1.27 linear feet

Language of the Materials

English

Arrangement

Box 1

- Series 1. Correspondence
- Series 2. Legal papers
- Series 3. Business papers
- Series 4. Certificates
- Series 5. Clippings
- Series 6. Booklet
- Series 7. Miscellaneous papers
- Series 8. Photographs

Box 2

- Series 9. Diaries and journals

Box 3

- Series 10. Memorabilia

Provenance

We have, in our possession, a letter dated 1941 from Richard Ellsworth that suggests that this collection was procured from Kathryn Root of Glenbrook, Connecticut.

Processing Information

Processed by the St. Lawrence University Libraries Special Collections staff.

Repository Details

Part of the St. Lawrence University Libraries manuscript collection.

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Collection Organization

Series 1 includes correspondence of William and Stella Goodrich and P.H. Wells. There is a letter from William Goodrich to his wife. All but one of the letters to Stella are from Davis, who calls her sister. The majority of the P.H. Wells* letters are written by him to his friend and eventual wife, Sadie, but they also include a few letters to him from some of his daughters.

Series 2 holds agreements for deeds to various parcels of land made between William Goodrich and others.

Series 3 includes business documents involving insurance, documents relating to the St. Lawrence Plain Dealer, and a voucher from the U.S. Army stating that Goodrich received pay for himself and those who worked for him.

Series 4 contains the scholarship awarded to William Goodrich from the Mercantile College and marriage certificate and invitation for the wedding of Stella Goodrich to Charles Russell.

Series 5 are news clippings mostly from the St. Lawrence Plain Dealer while William Goodrich was editor.

Series 6 is a booklet titled, "The American Nation; Lives of Her Fallen and Brave Living Heros," which contains a short biography of five military men killed in action during the Civil War, including William B. Goodrich.

Series 7 contains miscellaneous documents from both Goodrich and Wells. The miscellaneous items related to Goodrich are the receipt for the cost of burial for Col. Goodrich and his wife, as well as a newspaper article titled "Patriotic Women," which features Camp Goodrich, a convalescent home for soldiers and sailors started by Stella Goodrich Russell. The miscellaneous papers of P.H. Wells are from his stint as a Sunday School teacher and include lists of members, lesson plans, and Bible notations.

Series 8 are photographs including Mr. and Mrs. William Goodrich, Stella Goodrich Russell, and some unidentified persons.

Series 9 contains journals and diaries of numerous people. There is a diary believed to be written by Lydia Goodrich, William's wife. There is a day-to-day account of Charles Russell from 1873 and also several journals with accounts of the soldiers that stayed at Camp Goodrich. 11 volumes are attributed to P.H. Wells and include address books, information about church and Sunday School, and daily accounts. The earliest, from 1866, discuss the aftermath of the war and his travels through the south.

Series 10 includes epaulets, sash, and buttons from Goodrich's uniform.

*See also MSS #126: The Sunderland collection features letters from P.H. Wells letters to Darwin Sunderland.

Related Collections

Call Number	Title
Mss. Coll. No. 002	Beach Papers
Mss. Coll. No. 006	Pryce Lewis Collection
Mss. Coll. No. 064	Conkey - Bannister - Page Family Papers **Charles Russell is related to the Conkeys through his mother, Lucia Lavilla Conkey Russell.

Mss. Coll. No. 066	George O. Newbury Letters
Mss. Coll. No. 082	William H. Carr Diary
Mss. Coll. No. 083	William H. Davies Collection
Mss. Coll. No. 084	Orson Leroy Reynolds Collection
Mss. Coll. No. 085	Civil War Diary
Mss. Coll. No. 093	Wetherell Family Papers
Mss. Coll. No. 095	Robert Gilmore Papers
Mss. Coll. No. 125	Graves Family Correspondence
Mss. Coll. No. 126	Sunderland Family Correspondence * features letters from P.H. Wells to Darwin Sunderland.
Mss. Coll. No. 129	Knapp Family Correspondence
Mss. Coll. No. 133	16 th New York Infantry Regiment Records
Mss. Coll. No. 137	George S. Parsons Correspondence
Mss. Coll. No. 138	Columbus Huntly Correspondence
Mss. Coll. No. 139	Crossman Family Papers
Mss. Coll. No. 174	Henry D. Payne Memoir
Mss. Coll. No. 191	Lewis Murray Civil War Memoir