

Woodward Family Papers
1808-1925

Biographical Note

This collection contains the correspondence and legal papers of the Woodward family of Ashford, Connecticut and Albany, N.Y. The bulk of the material concerns Royal Woodward of Albany. Royal Woodward was the son of Abner and Eunice Woodward of Ashford. He lived from 1815 until 1882, moving to Albany in 1855 and remaining there until his death. He was a salesman for various manufacturers of silk and embroidery thread, and had many business interests and investments in the Albany area and elsewhere. Royal Woodward married Charlotte Minerva Smith in 1858. Their son, James Otis Woodward became a reporter for the Albany Evening Journal. Other significant members of Royal Woodward's family were his brothers, Joseph, Jonathan, Otis, and Ashbel Woodward. Ashbel was a prominent physician in Franklin, Connecticut. Royal also corresponded frequently with D.M. Leonard, who was married to his sister Jerusha. A half brother, Hial Woodward founded a Troy branch of the Woodward family.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains correspondence from Joseph Woodward, D.M. Leonard, and other family members which discuss the health of family members, day to day events, and finances. Royal Woodward's business papers contain numerous letters from his investor nephew, E.F. Leonard, as well as receipts and certificates relating to business and stock investments. Personal papers include essays on the subjects of perseverance and envy, and one titled "A Walk in the Woods".

The papers of Abner and Eunice Woodward include personal correspondence, receipts, documents from various estates, and Eunice Woodward's will. The Woodward family papers contain many letters and documents of Joseph Woodward and James Otis Woodward, an interesting letter from an attorney offering a mortgage of six thousand dollars for the purchase of sixty prime suburban building lots, and a short pamphlet memoir of Dr. Ashbel Woodward. Miscellaneous papers with no apparent connection to the Woodward family include an 1877 autograph book that probably belonged to a student at Schenectady's Union College.

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Box / Folder

1	1	Correspondence of Royal Woodward; 1830-1881
	2	Business Papers of Royal Woodward; 1842-1888
	3	Personal Papers of Royal Woodward; 1841-1887
	4	Abner and Eunice Woodward Papers; 1808-1841

Box / Folder

1	5	Woodward Family Papers; 1826-1925
	6	Miscellaneous Papers; 1854-1919