

ALBANY INSTITUTE
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A Guide to the
New York State Agricultural Society Records

Collection Summary

Collection Title: New York State Agricultural Society Records

Call Number: DH 566

Creator: New York State Agricultural Society

Inclusive Dates: 1792-1856

Bulk Dates: 1796-1830

Abstract: Essays on topics including terrestrial magnetism, whitewash, French agricultural techniques, dyes and paints, machines, and hatmaking, 1795-1840; and letters discussing agricultural processes, machines, and animal medicine, 1792-1810, from James Wight, John Watkins, Reuben Hopkins, Samuel Mitchell, Robert Johnston, and Andrew Billings.

Quantity: 2.5 linear inches, 1 box

Administrative Information

Custodial History: unknown

Preferred Citation: New York State Agricultural Society, DH 566. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

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Restrictions

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Index Term

Persons

Abbey, David; Billings, Andrew; Eights, James; Hopkins, Reuben; Johnston, Robert; Livingston, Robert; Mitchell, Samuel; Watkins, John; Wight, James

Organizations

New York State Agricultural Society

Subjects

Agriculture; agricultural machinery; animal husbandry; plant husbandry; animal research; agricultural industry; agricultural processing; agriculture statistics; meteorology; weather

Document Types

Letters, essays, charts

History of New York State Agricultural Society

The New York State Agricultural Society is a private, volunteer membership society formed in Albany in 1832 by James Le Ray de Chaumont, Jesse Buel, and other leading agriculturalists 'to improve the condition of agriculture, horticulture, and the household arts.' The society held the first state fair in 1841. They also lobbied for state aid for county agricultural societies and fairs, and the creation of an agricultural college. The society meets yearly to present awards, conduct business, and share a forum on agricultural trends and innovations. (from Boardman, Kathryn. *New York State Agricultural Society*. The Encyclopedia of New York State. Syracuse University Press: 2005.)

Scope and Contents of the Records

This collection contains miscellaneous items regarding the New York State Agricultural Society and their work such as growing vegetables, wheat production, and scientific essays and studies. Also included are plowing techniques, and letters of correspondence among members. Essay topics include plowing techniques, oil abundance, clover types, the drill plow, wheat, hay, hatmaking, soda nitrate, the whalebone, manganese, Asiatic Society, United States population, wood preservation, and the climate. Letter topics consist of sheep, ox sled, wintergraft, crop production, plant husbandry, manure, wheat, and the activities of the Agricultural Society. Scientific data cover a variety of topics such as weather observations, meteorological data, the ocean, chemical composition of bronze, classes of salamander, and observations of the rattlesnake.

Organization of the Records

This collection is contained in one box with 10 folders. The first three folders contain miscellaneous items and essays. Folder four contains letters written to the New York State Agricultural Society from 1792-1798, and a circular. Folder five has incoming and outgoing correspondences of the Agricultural Society and Essays. Folder six contains Incoming Correspondences and Essays on the Growth of Vegetables and a listing of Agricultural Society Members 1799-1800. Folders seven through ten contain miscellaneous letters, essays, charts and statistical data. Folder seven is from 1802-1824, eight is from 1824-1826, and nine is from 1826-1830.

Related Material

630.947 HED HIS 1933 Hedrick, U.P. A history of agriculture in the state of New York
SpC 630.06 NEW TRA Annual report of the New York State Agricultural Society for the year.-- 56th (1896).-- Albany : The Society, 1897.

SpC 630.06 NEW TRA 1844 Transactions of the New-York State Agricultural Society for the year.-- Vol. 1 (1841)-v. 34 (1883/86).-- New York : The Society, 1842-1889 (Albany, N.Y : T. Weed)

Other Finding Aids

Original Finding Aid, including Name Index listing folder and item number.
Original Finding Aid in Control File
Older list in same file

Detailed Description of the Records

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

New York State Agricultural Society

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	1. Invention of a new sleigh by Frederick Frey; with a pictorial diagram by Col. John Beardslee
1	1	2. A speech by Gov. Endicott on the destruction of the May Pole at Merry Mount(excerpts) quoted from his biography by Jacob Bailey Moore
1	1	3. An essay on terrestrial magnetism explaining its physical principles and applications in lengthy detail; includes observations on this subject by scientific scholars
1	1	4. Description of the crustacean(Genus Brong artia) and its

		unique characteristics by James Eights
1	1	5. Preservation of fences and outhouses through the whitewashing process
1	1	6. The purpose and duties of the New York State Agricultural Society expressed in an official letter to the Legislature of the state of New York
1	2	7. Description of plowing and pasturing techniques by M. DeChanler, Mayor of Lyons, France
1	2	8. An essay on Gallium Tinctorium, a vegetable substance used as a red dye for wood
1	2	9. A comparison and contrast of plowing methods used by American and European farmers
1	2	10. An essay on the decay of woods and forests with a focus on nutritional problems leading to their ruination
1	2	11. A treatise on the economic advantages of clearing bushes and shrubs
1	2	12. An essay on the abundance of oil and lead for painting
1	3	13. An essay on the use of hops through history and its agricultural preparation
1	3	14. An essay on the cultivation of Esparette and Luzerne, two types of clover
1	3	15-16. An essay on the domestication of the elk and the wolf, and a lengthy essay on manure, both by Robert Livingston
1	3	17. A structural analysis of a trashing machine owned by James Tod
1	3	18. An essay on the advantages and disadvantages of a drill plow
1	4	19. 1792 May 15- Questions about the Sheep drawn up by John Sinclair (Circular)
1	4	20. 1792 Nov. 20- Letter from Ebenezer Belknap on the value of the mulberry tree for silk products
1	4	21. 1794 Oct. 13- Letter from John Porteus to Samuel Mitchell concerning an improved ox sled
1	4	22. 1795 Feb. 23- Letter from James Wight concerning an improved thrashing machine
1	4	23. 1798 Jan. 7- Letter from John Watkins on the physical characteristics of wintergraft and also containing thoughts on the wild pea
1	4	24. 1796 Mar. 2- Letter from Reuben Hopkins to Robert Livingston explaining the protection of crops
1	5	25-26. 1796 Mar. 19 and 1798 Mar. 7- A Letter to and from Samuel Mitchell concerning plant husbandry and the Chrysalis milkweed dated respectively
1	5	27. 1799 Jan. 30- Letter from Robert Johnston about the location of marle, a substance used in manure preparation
1	5	28. 1799 Feb. 27- An article on the effects of oxygeneim in the acceleration of seed germination from the <u>Journal de Physique</u>

1	5	29. 1799 Feb. 27- Comments and explanations on the growth of wheat through nitrate
1	5	30. 1799 Mar. 9- An essay on the cultivation of the poppy plant and the Palma Christi by Dr. Recketson
1	6	31. 1799 Nov. 22- A letter from Andrew Billings concerning the death of his horse from worms known as bots
1	6	32. 1800 Jan. A folio letter from John Lowell about activities of the New York State Agricultural Society
1	6	33. 1800 Jan. 20- Unusual specimens of wheat from Sicily
1	6	34. 1800 Mar. 19- The fattening of swines and hogs and the planting of lettuce between rows of potatoes
1	6	35. 1800 Apr. 2- Differences in the volume of iron manufacturing in various American cities
1	6	36. 1801- A full listing of the Agricultural Society's members
1	7	37. 1802 Feb 24- An essay on winter and summer blends of wheat
1	7	38. 1802 Mar. 27- An essay on growing hay through the use of slat
1	7	39. 1810 May 1- A letter from K.K. Van Rensselaer to David Abbey requesting payment of rent
1	7	40. 1810 May 17- Letter to Mr. Poindexter written anonymously; seeks payment of debt owed by David Abbey
1	7	41. 1814 Feb. 17- Promotion of the useful arts and the Treasury Report by Charles Cooper
1	7	42. 1824 Jul. 24- The process of hatmaking through an explanation of the furs and chemicals
1	8	43. The origin of soda nitrate's usage
1	8	44. 1825 Mar. 2- The use of whalebone in the prevention and evaporation of spirits
1	8	45. 1825 Mar 2- An essay on Manganese
1	8	46. 1825 Apr. 27- Various compass types in Boston (1672-1800)
1	8	47. [excluded]
1	8	48. 1826 Feb. 15- Translation of a report to the French Institute of Cuirer by M.H. Webster
1	9	49. 1826 Apr. 19- The establishment and importance of the Asiatic Society
1	9	50. 1827 Jan. 1- Meteorological Table with statistical data on weather for 1826
1	9	51. 1828 Mar. 26- Scenic observations about the ocean's appearance by Thomas Ingalls
1	9	52. 1827 Apr. 25- The chemical composition of Bronze and its various chemical forms explained by James Eights
1	9	53. 1829 Dec. 31- Themometrical Observations in the South Atlantic made by James Eights
1	9	54. 1830 Jun. 7- Various classes of the salamander
1	10	55. 1840- Comparative statistics on the population of the United

States – 1800-1840 by W.H. Fondey

1	10	56. 1856- Methods of extracting bituminous coal and comments on its supply in Tioga Co., Pa by Richard Taylor
1	10	57. 1840- Feb. 20- Observations on the rattlesnake and its effects on farm animals by Dr. Jewell
1	10	58. The preservation of wood and the propagation of trees
1	10	59. 1795 Mar. 6- An essay on climate by Noah Webster
1	10	60. 1797 Apr. 28- An essay on raising potatoes by Noah Webster