

ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the
Edwards Family Papers
1830-1879

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Edwards Family Papers

Call Number: DC 561

Creator: Isaac Edwards

Inclusive Dates: 1830-1879

Bulk Dates: 1830-1879

Abstract: none

Quantity: 1 box, 7 folders

Administrative Information

Custodial History: Unknown

Preferred Citation: Edwards Family Papers, 1830-1879, DC 561, Albany Institute of History and Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

Accession #: unknown

Accession Date: unknown

Processing Information:

Final Processing and Finding Aid By/Date: Updated November 2003 by Heather Harrington

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: none

Restrictions on Use: none

Index Term

Persons: Edwards family; Edwards, Isaac; Edwards, Anna James; Terrell, William; Plank, Mary Ann; Ames, Ezra;

Organizations: 43rd Regiment N.Y.S.V.

Subjects: temperance; political activity; woman-diaries; autographs; family history; Civil War; Scrapbooks; Albany New York—local history;

Places: Albany New York;

Document Types: Photographs; scrapbooks;

Biography/History of the Edwards Family

The Edwards Family is related through marriage to Ezra Ames. Ezra Ames' daughter Marcia married Rev. William James, and they had three daughters. One daughter, Anna (1826-1907) married Isaac Edwards (1819-1879). Isaac was the son of John Edwards and grandson of Isaac Edwards (1764-1848). Anna and Isaac had six children of which three survived. None of the three survivors ever married. They had two daughters and a son. The daughters were Elizabeth S. Edwards (1868-1921), and Katherine James Edwards (1857-1907). Their son was Henry Ames Edwards (1859-1921).

Isaac Edwards was born in South Corinth, New York. He was the descendant of early Welsh settlers. As a child, he attended Waterford Academy, and later studied law in Albany under his uncle James Edwards. Upon entering the bar, he became a professor at Albany Law School. He would later serve on the Albany Board of Public Instruction. He was one of the original incorporators of the National Savings Bank. He started life as a Presbyterian, but later became a devout member of the Congregational Church.

Henry Ames Edwards, Isaac's son attended Albany Boys' Academy and received private tutoring in Keene, New Hampshire. Like his father, he too became a lawyer and attended Albany Law School, in the Class of 1888. He was greatly interested in the Albany Fire Department and served on the Board of Deacons of the Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Scope and Contents of the Records

The collection contains photographs of the Edwards, essays and news clippings kept by Isaac Edwards, albums belonging to different Ames and Edwards family members and friends; and items dating to the Civil War dealing with Albany businesses and people during the War. Their connection to the Edwards family is unclear.

Organization of the Records

The collection is organized into 7 folders. The first folder contains photographs of the Edwards family. The second folder contains essays and clippings of speeches given by Isaac Edwards in 1840-1855 as printed in the *Albany Express*, *Mechanic's Mirror*, and *The Son of Temperance and Rechabite*. Folder three contains the memorial for Isaac Edwards. Folder four contains an album that belonged to a the niece of Ezra Ames. Folder five contains an album belonging Mary Ann Plank, her connection with the Edwards family cannot be determined. Folder six contains a diary, presumed to that of Anna James Edwards before her marriage to Isaac. Folder seven contains the scrapbook, envelopes and scrip relating the Civil War, but apparently not to the Edwards family.

Related Material

The **Cortelyou Papers, MG 86**, which contain the research done on Ezra Ames by Mrs. Cortelyou.

New York State Men, 920.0747 NYSM Ind contains biographies and photographs of Isaac and Henry Ames Edwards.

In Memoriam, Isaac Edwards, LL.D. The Board of Public Instruction. Albany, 1879.
The Call number is: **SpC 92 EDW IN 1879**

Detailed Description of the Collection

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

Series Title

Folder #	Item #	Title / Description
1	1	Photograph of Henry Ames Edwards
1	2	Photograph of unknown woman
1	3	Photograph of Isaac Edwards
1	4	Edwards Family Portrait of Mrs. Isaac Edwards and three children
1	5	Unidentified Male Portrait
2	1	<i>Pieces and Fragments</i> , Essays and speeches of Isaac Edwards, 1840-1855
3	1	Memorial to Isaac Edwards on his death in 1879
4	1	Album belonging to Caroline Spencer, daughter of Ezra Ames' half sister Polly
5	1	Album belonging to Mary Ann Plank
6	1	Diary of unknown female resident of Albany in 1850s. Probably written by Anna James before she married Isaac.
7	1	Scrapbook of William H. Terrell's service in Civil War
7	2	Mailing Envelopes, 49 special covers, many of which refer to the Civil War.
7	3	Scrip, 4 samples of scrip issued in Albany during the Civil War from various authorities.