

Haverford College Library
Special Collections

Finding Aid for the SMITH FAMILY PAPERS, 1821-1893

Collection No. 1149

2 document boxes (0.5 linear feet)

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Gift of Robert and Eliza Smith, 1986 and 1987.

RESTRICTIONS

No restrictions

ABSTRACT

The papers of two 19th-century Smith family members, Seth Smith and Edward Smith, the former a teacher and astronomer, the latter a medical doctor. Seth Smith was likely a Quaker.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Seth Smith (1785?-1861?) was a teacher at a Philadelphia School. His astronomical calculations were requested for publication in L. Johnson and Company's Almanac in 1845. Smith was a member of the Mechanical Institute and was married to Mary Ann (Martha) Dowling in 1813. The reason Smith's vital dates are in question is that they are not confirmed as the match for this particular Seth Smith, though they are likely.

The Mechanical Institute was founded in 1821 to inquire into the laws and application of mechanics and the establishment of a library. Although not specifically a Quaker organization, members included: Isaiah Lukens, William Mason, Rufus Tyler, Coleman Sellers, James Rush and Seth Smith, Secretary.

Edward Smith was an M.D.

(Information from: Internal evidence and Quaker periodicals)

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Smith, Edward
Smith, Seth.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

Papers include financial accounts, including those of Edward Smith, M.D., 1851-54; legal papers including deeds for land in Moorestown and Gloucester County, N.J., 1880 and 1893; Seth Smith's papers dealing with astronomy, 1840s; minutes of the Mechanical Institute (of Philadelphia) 1821-25; and the death mask of Seth Smith.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Box I:

Financial Accounts, 1 folder:

Stall rents. Notebook, 1853-54. [Includes rent from Benjamin Smith]

Account of pupils at Friends Public School, 1841-42.

Tuition record of Overseers of the Public School. 1 p., 18--.

William Coxe's Legacy. To Seth Smith. For tuition of listed boys. 2 mo. 20th 1842.

See also Edward Smith's account book listed below.

Legal papers, 1 folder:

Investments to be made by Commissioners of the District of Spring Garden, 1850. (ca. 20 items).

Deed for land in Moorestown, N.J., purchased by Bartram Kaign. 1880.

Survey of land for heirs of Joseph Stokes et al in Burlington, N.J., 1841. Signed by Burr Woolman (with seal).

Deed for land in Gloucester County, N.J., 1893.

Examples of forms used by Court of Common Pleas and U.S. District Court, 1831.

Seth Smith's papers dealing with astronomy, 1 folder:

Astronomical calculations [prepared by Seth Smith]. 1848 (ca. 50 items).

Rough notes for astronomical calculations [by Seth Smith] and notes on physics (ca. 50 items).

Four letters to Seth Smith, 1840's. [re use of astronomical work for almanac].

Miscellaneous, I folder:

Two letters to Seth Smith from son Thomas L. Smith, 1835-1839.

Example: receipt of Philadelphia merchant, 1875.

Example: report card of personality traits of Smith family members, ca. 1840's.

Box 2:

Clay or plaster death mask of Seth Smith created ca. 1861.

Wrapped and standing on shelf:

Account book of Edward Smith, M.D., 1851-54, including "Bills for medical attendance in 1852-54."

Bound volume of minutes and constitution of Mechanical Institute (of Philadelphia). 1821-25. Names of members include: Isaiah Lukens, William Mason, David H. Mason, Rufus Tyler, Matthew W. Baldwin, Joseph Sexton, James Gordon, William Kneap, and Seth Smith, secretary.

Also in this volume are accounts of West Chester doctor, Edward Smith, listing patients, prescriptions and fees.