

Maine Historical Society

Collection 2485
Alden, Deering & Longfellow Papers
1857-1923

Accession: 1996.521

Processed: May 2010 by Nellie Hankins, MHS Volunteer

Access: Unrestricted

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Size: .5 linear feet

Biographical Notes:

Anne Longfellow, sister of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, was born in Portland in 1810. In 1832 she married George Washington Pierce, a lawyer who had worked with her father and was a classmate of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow at Bowdoin College. He died three years later. Anne bequeathed the Wadsworth-Longfellow House in Portland to the Maine Historical Society. She died in Portland in 1901. Mary Longfellow, sister of Anne Longfellow Pierce and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, was born in Portland in 1816. In 1839 she married James Greenleaf, a Dartmouth graduate and commission merchant, who worked in the cotton industry in New Orleans. Mrs. Greenleaf died in 1902 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Nathaniel Deering was a Portland businessman, born in 1791. He was a Harvard graduate, writer, and lawyer, who married Anna Margaret Holwell in 1824. They had nine children, seven of whom survived infancy. He died in Portland in 1881. George A. and Charles F. Alden are the children of Darius and Bethiah Alden of Augusta, Maine. Darius was a hatter. The two boys were born ca. 1848 and 1849. During his life, George lived in Maine and Massachusetts, working for a railroad. He and his wife Mary had two children, Jennie and Payson.

Scope and Content:

The collection is made up of correspondence and documents relating primarily to the Alden and Deering families, but also containing postcards and envelopes addressed to or sent from Maine residents in the second half of the 19th century, especially Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and his family members. Highlights of the correspondence include letters written to George Alden from his brother Charles between 1900 and 1902, and requests sent to the Virgin City Stamp Company. The collection also contains Nathaniel Deering's insurance documents, a small stamp collection, and other related papers.

Provenance: Gift of Bert Babcock.

Coll. 2485

Inventory

Box 1 of 1:

Folder 1: Empty envelopes addressed to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Anne L. Pierce, James Greenleaf, and others, 1857-1893 and undated.

Folder 2: Six pamphlets and an envelope for liberty loans, undated.

Folder 3: Postcards, some blank, others addressed to Maine residents, 1891-1918 and undated.

Folder 4: Page of a list of Bowdoin Alumni, undated.

Folder 5: Obituaries and newspaper clippings for Mrs. Mary L. Greenleaf, copied from scrapbook.

Folder 6: Stamp collection (including books and loose stamps) ca. 1864-1900 and undated, and two German monetary notes from 1910 and 1923.

Folder 7: Postcards, brochures, receipts, newspaper clippings, and other items related to stamps and the Virgin Stamp Company, 1894-1925 and undated.

Folder 8: Correspondence from C.F. Alden to his brother George, 1900-1902 and undated.

Folder 9: Bills, receipts, and business correspondence of George Alden, 1892-1900.

Folder 10: Insurance policies taken out by Nathaniel Deering, 1852-1868.

Folder 11: Red Cross certificate and calling card belonging to Henry Deering, 1917 and undated.

Folder 12: Deering / Noyes/ Holwell correspondence, ca. 1890s.

Folder 13: Miscellaneous ephemera, including Christmas cards, advertisement orders for Ye Squirrel Tattler, blank Bank of Portland checks, a P.O. box receipt, stanzas from a poem by Nathaniel Deering, a page of a handwritten contract, and a newspaper clipping, 1898-1913 and undated.