

Finding aid for the Crosby Family papers Collection 064

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

February 1988

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Crosby family papers
Date [inclusive]	1814-1915
Extent	0.21 Linear feet One box
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Crosby family papers consist mainly of letters written by members of the extended Crosby family. They describe the life, social conditions, farming, weather, religion and family matters in towns in New York, Connecticut, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan, including Grand Rapids. Some of the letters describe pioneer conditions, especially the illnesses and difficulties encountered by those settling in frontier communities in Michigan and Ohio.</p>

Genealogy

For the benefit of the researcher, the following is a partial genealogy of the Crosby family, based on the limited information found in the correspondence:

Celia ? m. Mr. Crosby

children:

1. Stephen

2. Simeon

3. Elijah

children: 1. Betsey m. Mr. Fletcher

4. Caleb B. m. Lucy ?

Children: 1. S.

5. Susan (1792-) m. Mr. Barber

children: 1. Lydia

6. Hannah P. m. Andrew Penniman

7. Charles (-1839) m. Abigail Fairbanks

children:

1. Jane (-1847)

2. Abigail (-1844?) m. Dennis ?

3. Rachel (-1895-6) m. Mr. Wakefield

4. Susan (1823-1897) m. Alexander Blake (1812-1891)

children: 1. Ophelia (1847-1940)

5. Hannah E. m. John Thayer

children: Andrew

Biographical/Historical note

Susan Crosby Barber and her mother Celia Crosby lived in Thompson, Connecticut. The Jason Fairbanks family lived in Watertown, New York. Andrew and Hannah P. Crosby Penniman moved from Thompson, Connecticut to Bloomingburgh, Ohio circa 1837. Charles and Abigail Fairbanks Crosby moved from Thompson, Connecticut to Fredonia, New York in 1837, to Rawsonville, Ypsilanti, Michigan in 1839, to Bloomingburgh, Ohio ca. 1843, then to Morenci, Michigan ca. 1845. John and Hannah Crosby Thayer moved from Bloomingburgh, Ohio to New Carlisle, Clark County, Indiana in 1847, then to Cambridge City, Indiana in 1847. Alexander and Susan Crosby Blake moved from Medina, Michigan to Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1861.

Scope and Contents note

The collection contains correspondence among Crosby family members, including relatives outside the immediate family. The earlier letters (1830-1850) are primarily from those members in Michigan and Ohio to their relatives back home in Connecticut. They describe the difficulties of life on the frontier with particular attention given to illness. There is also mention of farming, weather and religious meetings. Some later letters (1860s) mention the Civil War and the Crosby family's involvement in it. The latest letters (1890-1910) make mention of a Fairbanks family genealogy, which is not in the collection. Also included are estate receipts from the Samuel Fairbanks estate (1829-1835), various invitations and announcements, some poetry and other assorted papers.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department February 1988

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Ophelia Blake?, accession number 00.040, i.e. 1980.040

Controlled Access Headings

Family Name(s)

- Crosby

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Frontier and pioneer life -- Michigan
- Frontier and pioneer life -- Ohio

Series I. Correspondence to, 1824-1915, n.d.

Collection Inventory

Series I. Correspondence to, 1824-1915, n.d.

Scope and Contents note

Family correspondence describing daily occurrences and family matters. Arranged alphabetically by receiver.

	Box	Folder
Susan Barber, 1831-1847, n.d.	1	1
James Bates, 1844	1	2
Ophelia Blake, 1895-1915, n.d.	1	3
Susan Crosby Blake, 1874, 1893	1	4
Abigail Crosby, 1838-1862	1	5
Caleb B. Crosby, 1824-1839	1	6
Celia Crosby, 1825-1841	1	7
Charles Crosby, 1837, 1838	1	8

Series II. Invitations and Announcements, 1866- 1914, n.d.

Miscellaneous, 1856, 1898, n.d.	1	9
Series II. Invitations and Announcements, 1866- 1914, n.d.		
Scope and Contents note		
Invitations and announcements from various social functions.		
	Box	Folder
Miscellaneous invitations and announcements from social functions, 1866-1914, n.d.	1	10
Series III. Financial Records, 1827-1908, n.d.		
Scope and Contents note		
Estate receipts and assorted bills, receipts and statements.		
	Box	Folder
Estate Receipts, 1829-1835	1	11
Miscellaneous receipts and statements, 1827-1908, n.d.	1	12
Series IV. Miscellaneous, 1814-1908, n.d.		
Scope and Contents note		
Poetry, music, calling cards, request to build toll gate, newspaper article on Miss Sophia Youell.		
	Box	Folder

Series IV. Miscellaneous, 1814-1908, n.d.

Miscellaneous, 1814-1908, n.d.

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