

Finding Aid for the Sluman S. Bailey papers Collection 085

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

October 1988

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Bailey, Sluman S, 1821-1907
Title	Sluman S. Bailey papers
Date [inclusive]	1842-1907, n.d.
Extent	1.13 Linear feet Four boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Sluman S. Bailey (1821-1907) was a native of Somerset New York and later lived in Paris Township, Kent County, Michigan. He began writing journals in 1842, at 21 years old. His family moved to Michigan in 1846 and purchased a farm in Paris Township, Kent County. Bailey was one of the founders of the Kent County Agricultural Society. The journals cover his day-to-day activities, most notably when he was Sheriff of Grand Rapids and an Internal Revenue collector. His journals also cover the Chicago, Grand Haven and Manistee fires of October 1871. One journal, 1896-1897 was written by S.S. Bailey's daughter, Alice Bailey, about life on the family farm on the outskirts of the city of Grand Rapids.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

Sluman S. Bailey (14 December 1821-4 March 1907), a native of Somerset, New York, began writing his journals in 1842. In 1844 he married Delia Starbuck. The family moved to Michigan in 1846. Bailey purchased a farm in Paris Township, Kent County. The family lived on the farm until Bailey became Kent County Sheriff and they moved to Grand Rapids, but kept the Paris Township farm. Farming was one of his great interests in life and they returned to the country often.

Bailey was one of the founders of the Kent County Agricultural Society. He and his wife were also instrumental in organizing a Congregational Church in Paris Township. As well as his political interests, his business interests were varied, he was trustee in the organization of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank and an incorporator of the Grand Rapids Electric Light and Power Company.

Bailey had four children, Herman, Charles, Alice, and Clarabelle. Charles died in 1867, and Alice in 1897.

For more biographical information, refer to History of Kent County, Michigan, by C.C. Chapman or Memorials of the Grand river Valley, by Franklin Everett.

Scope and Contents note

The collection is arranged into two series, and chronologically within each series.

Series one consists of the original journals and papers dealing with Bailey's life. Some of the major points of interest are his professional life in Grand Rapids; his personal life, such as the death of his son in 1867 and his interest in farming; and his paper titled "Good Roads" which deals with developing good county roads.

Series Two consists of duplicate photocopies of the manuscripts.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Mrs. Stewart O. Darling, June 1979. Accession number 1979.019 or 00.019.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- diaries

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Kent County (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Agriculture -- Michigan -- Kent County
- Sheriffs -- Michigan -- Kent County

Series I. Manuscript Material, 1842-1906

Collection Inventory

Series I. Manuscript Material, 1842-1906

Conditions Governing Access note

Due to the fragile condition of the original materials in the collection, researchers should use the photocopies of the journal in Box 4 instead of the originals, where available.

	Box	Folder
Journal, 1842-1844	1	1
Journal, 1845-1849	1	2
Assignment order, 1858	1	3
Pages from journal, June 1865	1	4
Correspondence, 1866	1	5
Pages from journal, February 1867	1	6
Pages from journal, March 1867	1	7
Pages from journal, December 1-3, [1867]	1	8

Series I. Manuscript Material, 1842-1906

Pages from journal, 1867	1	9
Miscellaneous papers, n.d.	1	10
Good Roads n.d. Photocopies only.	1	11
News clippings, 1874-1907, n.d. Photocopies only	1	12
Journal, 1846-1855	2	1
Journal, 1859-1862, 1867-1871	2	2
Journal, 1862-1865	2	3
Journal and ledger, September 1865-January 1867	2	4
Journal, July 1865-January 1867	2	5
Journal, 1871-1873	3	1
Journal, 1873-1876	3	2
Journal, 1876-1880	3	3
Journal, 1896-1897, written by Alice Bailey	3	4
Journal, 1903-1904	3	5

Series II. Duplicate Copies of Manuscript, 1842-1868

Journal, 1905-1906	3	6
Series II. Duplicate Copies of Manuscript, 1842-1868		
	Box	Folder
Journals of Sluman S Bailey, Summary, n.d.	1	13
The following items were formerly: M92.B155		
	Box	Folder
Journal, 1842-1844	4	[1]
Journal, 1844-1849	4	[2]
1855-1859	4	[3]
1859-1862, 1867	4	[4]
1865-1868	4	[5]