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Finding aid for the Lucius Lyon papers Collection 279

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title:	Lucius Lyon papers
ID:	Collection 279
Date [inclusive]:	1755-1935
Date [bulk]:	1834-1848
Physical Description:	3 Linear Feet Four boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Lucius Lyon (1800-1851) was a prominent U.S. citizen, Grand Rapids settler and leader in Michigan statehood. This is a devised collection containing books and other manuscript materials that appear to have once belonged to Lyon. The collection also includes a representative sample of original correspondence and documents from Lyon's relationship with other important early Michigan and Grand Rapids figures. Thus is found here evidence of a financial transaction with the national political figure Lewis Cass. There is also a photograph of a bust of Cass, said to have once been owned by Lyon. Also included is an invitation from Governor Barry to meet with Lyon at the old National Hotel in Grand Rapids.

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Biographical / Historical

Lucius Lyon (1800-1851) was a prominent U.S. citizen, Grand Rapids settler and leader in Michigan statehood. As with many pioneers, he was a land surveyor, later serving as Surveyor General for Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. He was surveying in the Ohio River area in the early 1830's when he was elected as a delegate to Congress from the Territory of Michigan. Later he was a member of the convention which drafted the first Constitution of Michigan. Following that he became a U.S. Senator. He had purchased land holdings in Grand Rapids and a disagreement with Louis Campau over land boundaries resulted in the irregular street arrangements in downtown Grand Rapids that can still be seen today. Lyon is also said to have sunk the first salt well in Grand Rapids.

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Scope and Contents

Some materials which were given to the Library many years past, and which often have creation dates in the 18th or 19th century, were housed unprocessed in the archives. This material was reviewed and housed in acid free folders and boxes and brief inventories were created. Some of this "Old Collection" material is gradually being processed, usually where there is an existing general collection which fits the scope of the materials.

A general historical collection related to Grand Rapids pioneer Lucius Lyon was defined as early as 2001/2002. With the creation of Coll. 279, the Old Collection materials which appear to have come down from Lyon's estate found an archival home.

The bulk of the holdings currently in this devised collection are those Old Collection holdings which it appears that Lyon owned and used. Some of these may be related to his work as a surveyor or as a statesman, while others appear to be of general interest. Some items have annotations which seem to indicate Lyon's ownership, while other materials are simply present in the overall set. The Old Collection accession number begins with "L2." Each item is annotated with an accession number so that researchers can identify the Lyon Old Collection accession items.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Lyon?, Campbell, Grand Rapids Historical Society, L.G. Stuart, et al.

Accession numbers: Old collection L2 and various additions.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Coll. 259, GRPL Newspapers. Box 39 contain newspapers associated with, and perhaps owned and used by, Lucius Lyon.

Coll. 263, See Squiers (Squires) papers. Lyon's Article of Agreement, Apr. 21, 1843.

Lucius Lyon papers, 1770-1934 (bulk 1833-1851) at the William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Politicians -- Michigan -- Biography
- personal papers
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- 19th Century
- Lyon, Lucius

Collection Inventory

Series I. Biographical

Three papers from the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society. Annual Meeting, 1896, bound together: Formerly M9.St9

Title/Description	Instances	
1. Verdict for Michigan : how the Upper Peninsula became a part of Michigan / by L.G. Stuart. Paper read before the Michigan Political Science Association at a meeting held in Grand Rapids, Apr. 3-4, 1896. Pages. 390-403 of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society. Annual Meeting, 1896, v. 27	Box 1.5	Folder 1

2. Life of Senator Lucius Lyon / by Hon. George W. Thayer, pg. 404-412 of Annual meeting, 1896.	Box 1.5	Folder 1
3. Letters of Lucius Lyon, one of the two first United States Senators from Annual meeting, 1896, pg. 412-604. 00. [2919].1-3	Box 1.5	Folder 1

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Series II. Documents.

Deeds/Indentures

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles of Agreement, Lucius Lyon & Charles H. Carroll, by their attorney J. Almy, with William A. Richmond, in the presence of Jn. W. Pierce, Town Lot No. A1-Forty One Lyon Street. Nov. 29, 1836. Old Collection Accession No. L2:A5.1	Box 1	Folder 2
Indenture, Aug. 31, 1839. Lot No. 357, Ionia St. & part of Lot No. 550, Canal St. L2:A5.3	Box 2	
Lucius Lyon to Henry Stone, Lot 173 Grand Rapids, May 24, 1841. 1986.265	Box 2	
Indenture, June 15, 1843. East Part Lot No. 200, Kent plat. Undivided ½. With map showing property near corner of Ionia & Bridge St. L2:A5.2	Box 2	

Abstracts of Title, Kent Plat

General

These items were found with other Lyon material, but were originally Louis Campau's, and may belong in the Campau Family Collection, #214, or in a generic collection for Abstracts, not currently available.

Title/Description	Instances	
Part of Lot 27, Lot 27 of the Village of Kent ...1833 to 1900's, Louis Campau to George M. Huntley	Box 2	
Part of Mill Lot N, Kent Plat ... 1831 to 1928. Louis Campau to Electric Railway Securities	Box 2	

Monetary Notes/Loan

Title/Description	Instances	
2 on 1 sheet, July 7, 1935. To Lewis Cass. Signed, in part, by Lucius Lyon, for \$425.00 & \$1275.00, and paid. L2:A4.1	Box 1.5	Folder 15

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Series III. Correspondence, 1843-1845.**General**

Some letters have typewritten copies with them. L2:A1.1-14

To Lucius Lyon

Title/Description	Instances	
Transcriptions. 1935 Letters from Harriet Horner(2)	Box 1.5	Folder 2

Originals (6 letters + 1 envelop)

Title/Description	Instances	
Oct. 14, 1835. From Harriett L. Horner, Washington, D.C. L2:A1.7 + 2 typed transcriptions.	Box 1	Folder 1
Jan. 1, 1839. [Wm. A.] Richmond, Grand Rapids. + original envelop. A1.6	Box 1	Folder 1
Jan. 21, 1845. D.V. Bell, Detroit. L2:A1.4	Box 1	Folder 1
Apr. 28, 1845. Seth Barton, Solicitor of the Treasury. [Mrs. James H. Campbell association, U. of Mich. Assoc.] L2:A1.5	Box 1	Folder 1
Jan. 29, 1848. Daniel C. McVean. Jared Miller, Caledonia L2:A1.3	Box 1	Folder 1
Feb. 27, 1848. T.H. Lyon, Grand Rapids. L2:A1.2	Box 1	Folder 1

From Lucius Lyon

Title/Description	Instances	
Transcriptions, 1827-1845 (14 items)	Box 1.5	Folder 3

Originals (8 letters)

Title/Description	Instances	
Sept. 6, 1837. Wm. A. Richmond. + 2 typed transcriptions L2:A1.8	Box 1.5	Folder 4
Aug. 31, 1838. H.D. Gilpin. + 2 typed transcriptions. L2:A1.10	Box 1.5	Folder 4
June 13, 1838. Wm. A. Richmond "Dear Richmond" + 2 typed transcriptions L2:A1.9	Box 1.5	Folder 4
Nov. 14, 1841. Richard Carroll. + 2 typed transcriptions. L2:A1.11	Box 1.5	Folder 4
Nov. 23, 1843. A. Roberts & Son. L2:A1.1	Box 1.5	Folder 4
Apr 27, 1844. Wm. A. Richmond. "My dear Richmond"	Box 1.5	Folder 4

March 4, 1845. Wm. A. Richmond. "My dear Sir". + 2 typed transcriptions. L2:A1.13	Box 1.5	Folder 4
Dec. 5, 1845. Judge Almy. L2:A1.14 + 2 typed transcriptions.	Box 1.5	Folder 4

To L.Lyon, From Hon. Wm. Allen in Washington, D.C., with Forward to Claude? Hamilton

Title/Description	Instances	
First mailing date, July 20, 1841	Box 1.5	Folder 5
Second mailing date, July 27, 1841	Box 1.5	Folder 5
May 5, 1841. Printed Proposal for a new periodical "The Journal of Banking" by William M. Gouge of Philadelphia. L2:A10.5	Box 1.5	Folder 5

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Series IV. Diaries

Title/Description	Instances	
1835-36. L2:A10.6 Mostly blank	Box 3	

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Series V. Ephemera.

Invitations

Title/Description	Instances	
Governor Barry will be pleased to see Mr. Lyon at the National Hotel, Feb. 20, 1843. Envelop, forwarded to William Woodridge L2:A10.8 (letter + envelop)	Box 1.5	Folder 6
Lucius Lyon Birthday Party 2009 Invitation & Display materials / created by GRPL Staff. Accompanied by biography from Biographical Directory of United States Congress.	Box 1.5	Folder 16

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Series VI. Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
Genl. Lewis Cass. Bust. With historical note by Caroline Campbell, stating that such as bust was originally(?) owned by Lucius Lyon.	Box 3	

Related Materials:

Related Materials

See also Coll. 54-24-11

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series VII. Publications.****Subseries A. Associated with Lyon's Political Work**

Title/Description	Instances	
Postmaster General to Lyon, Re establishing Sterling post office, Jan. 15 1836. L2:A10.1	Box 1.5	Folder 7

Report of the Committee on the Legislative Dept., Relative to Restrictions on Banking / Lucius Lyon, Chairman. [U.S. document]

Title/Description	Instances	
c. 1 428786 L.G. Stuart Fund May 1905. Formerly M332.L99	Box 1.5	Folder 8
c. 2 1986.169	Box 1	Folder 3
Letters of Lucius Lyon, Delegate in Congress from Michigan and Samuel F. Vinton, of the Delegation in Congress from Ohio, to the Honorable Lewis Williams, Chairman of the Committee on Territories, Respecting the Boundary Line between Ohio and Michigan. Also, the Report of Said Committee on the Subject of Admitting Michigan into the Union. Washington : Gales & Seaton, 1834. 00.[1162].1 Formerly M9.L99	Box 1.5	Folder 14
Lucius Lyon Statehood documents, 1834-1837. Formerly M9.Un3. 00.[0798].1		
1. Letters of L. Lyon & Samual Vinton re boundary ... 1834.	Box 3	
2. Communication by Lyon to U.S. Senate on Northern Boundary of Ohio, 1834.	Box 3	
3. Speech of Mr. VanderPoel, N.Y. Jan. 24, 1837.	Box 3	
4. Message from the President of the U.S., Dec. 10, 1835.	Box 3	
5. Communication to the Hon. John M. Clayton on the Michigan & Ohio Boundary, Jan. 5, 1836, from Lucius Lyon, John Norvell, Isaac E. Crary.	Box 3	
6. In Senate of the United States. 24th Congress, 1st Session. 211. Mar. 1, 1836.	Box 3	
7. Northern Boundary of Ohio, and Admission of Michigan into the Union. 24th Congress, 1st Session, Rep. No. 380. Mar. 2, 1836.	Box 3	

8. Message from the President of the United State, in relation to the Admission of Michigan into the Union. 24th Congress, 2nd Session, 36. Dec. 27, 1836.	Box 3
9. Documents, in relation to the bill to admit the State of Michigan ... 24th Congress, 2nd Session. 37. Dec. 29, 1837.	Box 3
10. Proceedings of Congress, in 1796, on the Admission of Tennessee, as a State, into the Union, upon a Footing with the Original State, a case in point, so far as regards our present position in the State of Michigan / by Authority. Detroit : Sheldon M'Knight, Printer to the State, 1835.	Box 3

Subseries B. Publications said to have been owned by Lyon

"Antiquarian Papers" Ipswich, Mass. 50 issues, 5.

Title/Description	Instances	
v. 1, no. 3, Dec. 1879 –nos. 4-11, Aug. 1880	Box 1.5	Folder 10
v. 2, no. 13, Nov. 1880-no. 26, Dec. 1881	Box 1.5	Folder 10
v. 3, no. 27, Jan. 1882-no.42, Nov. 1883	Box 1.5	Folder 10
v. 4, no. 43, Dec. 1883-no.53, Apr. 1885 L2:A10.7	Box 1.5	Folder 10
A Discourse, delivered by Henry P. Tappan at Ann Arbor, Mich, on the occasion of his Inauguration as Chancellor of the Univ. of Michigan, Dec. 21, 1852. Detroit : Advertiser Power Presses, 1852. 1986.265	Box 1.5	Folder 11

Processing Information

Processing note: If Lyon died in 1851, and there is no obvious affiliation ... then perhaps this has been misplaced with his material

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Dr. John Williams' Last Legacy, or the useful Family Herbal, for the King's Evil ... L2:A9.1 "The owner was Lucius Alexander Thayer, March 28-A.D., 1836, Episcopal Institute, Burlington, Vermont."	Box 1.5	Folder 12
Information to Persons having Business to Transact at the Patent Office, ca. 1842 1986.265	Box 1.5	Folder 13

Operations of Land Offices, 1834 and 1835.

Title/Description	Instances	
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Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury. 24th Congress, 1st Session, Doc. No. 5. Hos. Of Reps. Treas. Dept. Includes folded maps. Formerly M9.Un34. 00.[797].2	Box 2
Surveys, Illinois and Missouri. Formerly M9.Un34. 00.[797].2	Box 2
Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury. 24th Congress, 1st Session, Dec. no. 215. Formerly M9.Un34. 00.[797].2	Box 2
Public Documents printed by Order of the Senate of the United States, 1st Session of the 24th Congress, begun and held at the city of Washington, Dec. 7, 1835, in 6 vols. Washington : Gales & Seaton, 1836. Formerly M9.Un32 00. [0796].1	Box 3
Report of The Special Committee, appointed by the House of Representatives, to investigate the Proceedings etc. of the Several Boards of Internal Improvement. Detroit : Dawson & Bates, 1840. Formerly M9.Un33 00.[0795].1	Box 3
Reports of the commissioner of the General Land Office, 1836 Several folded maps included 00.[0797].1	Box 3
Tariff, or Rates of Duties Payable on goods, wares and merchandise, imported into the United States of America, on and after the First Day of January 1840 until the Thirtieth Day of June, 1842, inclusive, in conformity with the by the compromise act, also the Rates of Duties imposed by the Tariff Law of 1832, together with many important, laws, circulars, and decisions of the Treasury Department, ralting to Commerce and the Revenue ... / by E.D. Ogden, Entry Clerk, Custom House, Port of New York. New York : Brownson & Co., 1840. 00.[5113].1	Box 3

Almanacs / Almanacks, 1755-1780, 10 items, very fragile condition. L2:A10.3

"An Astronomical Diary, or, Almanack, for the year of our Lord Christ ..."

Title/Description	Instances
1. 1755 / by Nathaniel Ames. Boston : J. Draper.	Box 3
2. 1756 / by Nathaniel Ames. Boston : J. Draper.	Box 3
3. 1757 / by Nathaniel Ames. Boston : J. Draper.	Box 3
4. 1758 / by Nathaniel Ames. Boston : J. Draper.	Box 3
5. 1761 / by Nathaniel Ames. Boston : John Draper ...	Box 3
6. 1762 / by Nathaniel Ames. Boston : John Draper ...	Box 3
7. 1764 / by Nathaniel Ames. Boston : R. & S. Draper ...	Box 3
8. 1765 / by Nathaniel Ames. Boston : R. & S. Draper ...	Box 3
9. 1770 / by Nathaniel Ames. Boster : ?	Box 3

10. "The New England Almanack, or Lady's and Gentleman's Diary ... 1780 / by Benjamin West, A.M. Providence : John Carter.	Box 3
The American Pocket Almanack for 1838. N.Y. : J. Disturnell and G.& C Carvill & Co. [Mold] L2:A10.4	Box 3
Map of Kent Co. Michigan, 1836. L2:A5.4 Folded, attached to buckram covered boards with inscribed cover title.	Box 3

Publications on Political Leaders, Bound together 920.Am3 00.[2702].1-13

Title/Description	Instances
1. Life of Henry Clay / N. Sargent. Philadelphia : R.G. Berford, 1844	Box 1.5
2. The Lives and Opinions of Benj'n Franklin Butler ... and Jesse Hoyt ... / by William L. MacKenzie. Boston : Cook & Co., 1845.	Box 1.5
3. Life of Martin Van Buren / Democratic Members of Congress. Washington, June 13, 1840. 24 p.	Box 1.5
4. Mr. Van Buren's Letter to the Committee of Elizabeth City County, Virginia. New Era Edition. 8 pg.	Box 1.5
5. Speech of Mr. J.J. Hardin of Illinois, Revising the Public Life & Political Principles of Mr. Van Buren. Delivered in the House of Representatives, March 21, 1844. 32 p.	Box 1.5
6. Farewell Address of Andrew Jackson to the People of the United State and the Inaugural Address of Martin Van Buren, President of the United States. Washington : Blair & Rives, 1837.	Box 1.5
7. Speech of the Hon. Patrick G. Goode of Ohio. In reply to Mr. Crary's attack upon General Harrison, delivered in the House of Representatives ... 1840. 16 pgs. Note: These pages are bound out of order.	Box 1.5
8. Vindication of the Revolutionary Character and Services of the Late Col. Ezekiel Polk, of Mecklenburg, N.C. Published and prepared by order of the Tennessee State Central Committee, n.d. 16 p.	Box 1.5
9. Biographical Sketches of the Democratic Candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency. James K. Polk of Tennessee. From the Democratic Review, May 1838. George M. Dallas of Pennsylvania. From the Democratic Review for February 1842.	Box 1.5
10. Sketches of the Lives of Franklin Pierce and Wm. R. King, Candidates of the Democratic Republican Party for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States. Pierce, pg. 1-32. King, page. 33-36.	Box 1.5
11. Oliver P. Morton of Indiana. Sketch of His Life and Public Service / prepared by Direction of the Indiana Republican	Box 1.5

State Central Committee. Indianapolis : Journal Co., 1876. 77

p.

12. The Life and Public Services of John Sherman / by Ben Perley Poore. Published by the Sherman Club of Cincinnati, 1880. 43 pg. Box 1.5

13. Obituary Addresses on the Occasion of the Death of the Hon. Henry Clay, a Senator of the United States from the State of Kentucky. Delivered in the Senate and in the House of Representatives of the United States, June 30, 1852, and the Funeral Sermon of the Rev. C.M. Butler, Chaplain of the Senate, July 1, 1852. Washington : Robert Armstrong, 1852. 128 pg. Box 1.5

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