

ELLEN D. LARNED COLLECTION  
1744-1911

Introduction

Ellen Douglas Larned was born July 13, 1825, in Thompson, Connecticut, the daughter of George Larned, an attorney, and his second wife, Anna Spalding Gay.<sup>1</sup> She lived in Thompson until her death on January 31, 1912.<sup>2</sup> A genealogist and historian, Miss Larned wrote articles and lectured on local historical topics to state and county historical societies and at patriotic gatherings. "In 1870, she was elected the first and only woman member of the Connecticut Historical Society, a distinction which was to remain hers for the next twenty years."<sup>3</sup> In 1890 she was elected one of the society's vice presidents.

The History of Windham County was the major work of her life. She financed the publication of the first edition herself [974.61 W72Lh]. Volume I was published in 1874 and printed in Worcester, Mass. by Charles Hamilton. Volume II was published in 1880. The American Revolution Bicentennial Committee of Putnam published a bicentennial edition in 1976.

When Woodstock was preparing to celebrate its 200th anniversary in 1886, persons whose ancestors had lived in Woodstock were requested to send interesting items pertaining to these settlers to the committee. Also, much material was being collected for a history of Woodstock. Some of this material was used in an historical address delivered by Clarence Bowen in 1886 on the 200th anniversary of Woodstock's founding. All the material was eventually given to Miss Larned to edit for publication. The history was never published, however. Then in 1913 Clarence Winthrop Bowen decided to rewrite it. Miss Larned's manuscript was given to the Connecticut Historical Society. Eventually the History of Woodstock by Mr. Bowen was privately printed in 1926 [974.62 W86bo].

Another volume published by Miss Larned in 1899 was Historic Gleanings in Windham County, Connecticut [974.61 W72L].

From 1852 to 1911 Ellen Larned kept a series of weather journals and meteorological observations. In the early 1900's she wrote articles for the Hartford Courant in which she compared the weather over the years. Many people wrote to her with questions about the weather and origin of such terms as "Indian summer," etc. Another series of articles on Windham County missionaries was published in the Norwich Bulletin in 1909.

The collection includes correspondence, drafts, working papers, newspaper clippings, a few printed items, and some original early manuscripts which she evidently accumulated through the years. There is also a group of sermons and lectures written by her half-brother, William Augustus Larned, who was the son of George Larned and his first wife, Anna Dorinda Brown. William A. Larned was born June 23, 1806. He graduated from Yale in 1826. After studying theology he became

<sup>1</sup>The Larned Family, compiled by William Law Larned.

<sup>2</sup>Thompson Cemetery Inscriptions.

<sup>3</sup>History of Windham County (Bicentennial Edition).

pastor at Millbury, Mass. in 1834. He left the next year and worked at a theological institution in Troy, N.Y. In 1839 he was appointed professor of rhetoric and English literature at Yale until his death Feb. 3, 1862.<sup>4</sup>

The Larned Collection was received by the Connecticut State Library in 1912 from her niece, Mary Hamilton Hadley, who as administratrix of her estate was disposing of materials not provided for in her will.

Total: 6 ft. 8 in.

#### List of Records

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|--|------------|
| 1. Correspondence, 1866-1911:  | Boxes 1-6  |
| (a) Genealogy letters, 1869-1911, with notes, charts, etc. Arranged alphabetically by family. [Some of the letters were written by descendants of original settlers of Woodstock and give information requested for bicentennial of the town.] 1 ft. 8 in.       | Boxes 1-4  |
| (b) Historical letters and information, 1866-1908. Arranged alphabetically by subject. Many letters refer to towns in Windham County. 5 in.  | Box 5      |
| (c) Letters, 1871-1908, regarding publications of Miss Larned and others. Contains folders on <u>History of Windham County</u> [includes copyright and two letters from Pres. Rutherford B. Hayes]; Woodstock history; and <u>Historic Gleanings</u> . 1 1/2 in. | Box 6      |
| (d) Letters, 1869-1909, regarding membership in societies. (1 folder)  | Box 6      |
| (e) Letters, 1880-1911, mostly personal in content. (1 folder)   | Box 6      |
| (f) Letters, 1886-1910, notes and assorted information on weather. 3 in.   | Box 6      |
| Total: 2 ft. 6 in.   |            |
| 2. Manuscript articles, books, speeches, and working papers:   | Boxes 7-10 |
| (a) Woodstock 1630-1886 (history).   |            |
| (1) Typewritten copy. (432 p.)   | Box 7      |
| (2) Manuscript copy. (c. 435 p.)   | Box 7      |
| (3) Manuscript copy of Woodstock genealogies.  | Box 8      |
| [Note: There is also a bound, typewritten copy of Miss Larned's Woodstock history at the Connecticut Historical Society.]  |            |
| (b) Arranged manuscript articles and papers, c. 1892-1910:   | Box 9      |
| (1) Abington lecture.  |            |
| (2) A Batch of Old Magazines Opened by Chance. [1907]  |            |
| (3) Conn. and R.I. Boundary.   |            |
| (4) Cutler, Rev. Manasseh. [1908]  |            |
| (5) Daughters of the American Revolution. [Speech]   |            |
| (6) The Day We Celebrate. [1903]   |            |
| (7) Early Libraries in Windham County. [1892]  |            |
| (8) General Jardine under Fire, July 15, 1863.   |            |

<sup>4</sup>The Learned Family, compiled by William Law Learned.

2. Manuscript articles, books, speeches, and working papers (cont.)
- (b) Arranged manuscript articles and papers (cont.)
- (9) Graves, Thomas Thatcher.
  - (10) Hampton and Chaplin.
  - (11) Hilltop Meeting Houses. [1909]
  - (12) Indian Paper. [1906]
  - (13) Johnson, Obadiah.
  - (14) A Living Link.
  - (15) Manufactures, North Windham.
  - (16) Military Experience of David L. Dodge, 1783-1793.
  - (17) 150th Birthday of Church.
  - (18) Pascal, Blaise & Jacqueline and the Port Royalists.
  - (19) Putnam, Daniel. [1910]
  - (20) Revolution, article on.
  - (21) A Revolutionary Review. [1892]
  - (22) Sketches of Early Inhabitants of Thompson.
  - (23) A Stuart in Exile.
  - (24) Sunday at Deacon Gray's, Thompson, Conn.
  - (25) Thompson Fires and Fire Engine.
  - (26) Thompson Land. [1901]
  - (27) Willett, Thomas - Sometime Mayor of Old New York.  
[This one article was not written by Miss Larned.  
Author was Helen Frances Howe.]
- Total: 5 in.
- (c) Working papers and notes on towns of Thompson, Windham, Woodstock, etc. Box 10  
[Mostly unarranged.] 5 in.
3. Original early manuscripts, 1744-1852; 1876, collected by Miss Larned: Box 11
- (a) Account book, 1846-52 (New Haven-Hamden area).
  - (b) Antimasonic meeting, Jan. 2, 1832, minutes.
  - (c) Boston Turnpike Co. vs. Pomfret, Woodstock and Thompson: Road petition, 1840. [copy]
  - (d) Bowen, Henry, N.Y., 9 letters to, 1834-42, from father, George, of Woodstock, and other members of the family.
  - (e) Bowen, Matthew, of Woodstock, note dated Jan. 17, 1782, from Simon Carpenter re cloth; and tax list for his rateable estate, 1798.
  - (f) Bowen, Stephen, deed from Rachel Burrill dated May 20, 1778, for land in Killingly.
  - (g) Bowen, William, of Woodstock, deposition re removing fence, 1812; and letter from John McClellan re road and water course on his land, dated April 28, 1834 [copy].
  - (h) Broadside: Catalogue of the Litchfield Academy, 1830. [Signature on it of R. W. Cleveland.]
  - (i) Broadside: Lucas and Putnam advertisement for dry goods, Madison, Sept. 20, 1828.
  - (j) Brooklyn, Conn.: A true list of the Polls and Rateable Estate of the Town of Brooklyn for August the 20th 1788.
  - (k) Dow, Daniel, Rev., Thompson, Conn.: Sermon n.d. [pages missing]
  - (l) Dresser, Catherine: Letter from sister Sophia. n.d.

## 3. Original early manuscripts (cont.)

- (m) Gay, Ebenezer, of Thompson, agreement with son Hezekiah re lands, 1815.
- (n) Gay, Joseph B., Thompson, Conn., appointment as notary public, May 23, 1838.
- (o) Hackett, James H.; letter to Hon. John Quincy Adams [copy] 24th July 1839.
- (p) Keith, James, Newport, letter to Simon Davis, Thompson, Conn., Aug. 25, 1832, re Revolutionary service.
- (q) Kingsley, J. L., letter to Rev. J. E. Tyler on Windham clergy, Feb. 13, 1851.
- (r) Larned, George, Thompson, Conn., letter to, from James N. Granger, July 10, 1852, inviting him to be present at commencement exercises at Brown Univ.
- (s) Larned, Henry, papers [9], 1766-1801 (receipts, minutes of meeting of South School District in Thompson - Henry Larned was moderator and also "Conductor of ox teams ... Campaign of 1781.")
- (t) Larned, Samuel, deed from Hezekiah Goff for land in Killingly, March 14, 1744/5 and order for payment from Packer Morse, March 12, 1752. Also certificate, June 6, 1775, from Simon Larned (brother) re rate bill delivered to Samuel Larned, late of Killingly.
- (u) Larned, Thaddeus, Thompson, Conn., papers (12), 1784-1814 (accounts, receipts, papers re South School District and Gloucester Turnpike Society, deeds, etc.)
- (v) Larned, William, receipt dated Jan. 27, 1816.
- (w) McLallen Farm - note giving number of acres and cost. n.d.
- (x) Nightingale, Joseph et als - note giving acreage of land.
- (y) Peake, Joseph, testimony re dam to save water - Woodstock, 1789.
- (z) Poems (5).
- (aa) Society for Promotion of Morality: Address. n.d.
- (bb) Stoddard, Ebenezer, Woodstock, Conn., letter to George Warren, Dec. 26, 1837, re voting against bill to repeal charter of Stamford bank.
- (cc) Thompson, Conn.: Book of Sabbath reflections, April 10, 1816 - June 15, 1817.
- (dd) Thompson, Conn.: Constitutions of Antislavery Society (n.d.) and Thompson Union Temperance Society ("before 1840").
- (ee) Thompson, Conn.: Notice of meeting to choose representatives in General Assembly, Sept. 12, 1818.
- (ff) Thompson, Conn.: Petition to the selectmen of Thompson re building new bridge, 1851.
- (gg) Thompson, Conn.: Sermon, July 1876.
- (hh) Waldo, Nathan, letter to Capt. James Eldredge at Stonington, March 23, 1779.
- (ii) Wilkey, Hannah, widow of Thompson, instrument dated June 25, 1791, in which she is sent to house of Capt. John Green for six months to have him oversee, advise and direct her conduct and business.
- (jj) Woodstock, Conn., letter, Jan. 28, 1822, to 1st Ecclesiastical Society from Eliphalet Lyman re dismissal; and report of North Woodstock Temperance Society, June 2, 1830.
- (kk) Wooster & Olney, Accounts, 1773-1774 (4 pages).

Total: 5 inches.

4. Papers of William Augustus Larned, c. 1825-1846. Boxes 12-14  
 Contain mostly sermons, lectures, and course materials.  
 A very few letters (1827, 1828 & 1833) are included.  
 [Arrangement is chronological when dates are given.]  
 1 ft. 8 in.
5. Newspaper clippings, c. 1859-1911. Box 15  
 Refer to Connecticut towns and their inhabitants; famous  
 people; and the weather.  
 [Partially arranged. Some of Miss Larned's columns are  
 included.] 5 inches.
6. Printed materials, c. 1821-1910. Box 16
- (a) Advertisements for books, etc. c. 1905.
  - (b) Articles re missionaries, 1821-1822.
  - (c) Map: "New Roxbury, Mass. now Woodstock, Conn." 1886.
  - (d) Pamphlets and periodicals:
    - (1) Ashford Baptist Association, minutes 1852,  
1855, 1862, 1864. (4 v.)
    - (2) Century discourse in commemoration of the  
Constitution of the First Baptist Church  
in Woodstock, Conn. ... Nov. 11, 1866:
    - (3) The Missionary Herald, April 1894.
    - (4) The Monthly Record, Thompson, Conn.  
May 1899 - Jan. 1900. (3 v.)
    - (5) Quinabaug Historical Society Leaflet Vol. 1,  
No. 6, [1895]. "Early Indian Trails  
through Tantiusque."
    - (6) Self-Support Attained. A Report for 1898 of  
the Theological Seminary, Classes for Women  
and Day Schools.
    - (7) Woman's Work for Woman. October 1898.
    - (8) Woodstock Academy Gleaner. July 1895.
  - (e) Programs, announcements, invitations, c. 1851-1910.
- Total: 2 1/2 inches.

Reference Restrictions

None:

Related Materials

## Manuscripts:

Larned, Ellen D.

Album. Poems. [920 L3221a]

Album of newspaper clippings, chiefly Windham county. 2 v.  
[974.61 fw72Ln]Album of newspaper clippings concerning weather. [920 L3221wa] *oversize*  
Cash account. Refers to History of Windham County. 1 v.  
[920 L3221c]

Cook book. [920 L3221co]

The gambler, a drama in five acts. 71 p. [920 L3221g]

Genealogical notes. 2 v. [929.1 L32n]

Historic scrap-book. 5 v. [920. fL3221ah]

Historical &amp; genealogical notebook. [920. L3221nh]

Journal [1854-1910]. [920 L3221j]

Meteorological observations [1852-1908]. 4 v. [920. L3221m]

Miscellaneous scrap-book. [920 L3221am]

Notebook [1876-1904]. 4 v. [920 L3221n]

Old cemetery inscriptions copied by Ellen D. Larned,  
[974.62 fw86Li] and [974.62 w86LiW]

Plate of engraved portrait. [920. L326p]

Portrait album. 2 v. [920. L3221ap]

Scrapbook of newspaper clippings. [Lucius Barnes Barbour Genealogical  
Collection No. 154] Includes Ellen D. Larned's historical column.  
[RG 74:36 No.154]

Weather journal. [1852-1911] 10 v. [920 L3221w]

Larned, William Augustus.

Note book. [1822-1831] 3 v. [920. L3251n]

## Books:

Larned, Ellen D.

Historic Gleanings in Windham County, Conn. 1899. [974.61 W72L]History of Windham County, Conn. Printed by C. Hamilton, 1874-80.  
[Also Bicentennial Edition] [974.61 W72Lh]

For additional printed materials by Ellen D. Larned, see main card catalog.