

WELLS COLLEGE
ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Ella Wells Stone Collection of Henry Wells' Papers

Quantity: 1 linear foot

Containers: 1 Archival Box

Processed: May 11, 2010

By: Charles Aiken

Finding Aid: May 11, 2010

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INTRODUCTION

Biographical Note:

Henry Wells was born in 1805 in Thetford, Vermont and moved to Central New York as a child. Wells started his own business as an express agent during the Erie Canal in the 1830's, where he began to expand mail service to Western New York. In 1850, Henry Wells formed the American Express Co. and became its first president. During this time, Wells moved his residence to Aurora, New York, building his estate at Glen Park. Wells later formed a partnership with E.B. Morgan to establish Wells Fargo & Co., the first transcontinental postal service. Wells retired from both Wells Fargo in 1867 and the presidency of American Express in 1868. In 1868, Henry Wells founded Wells College in Aurora, New York. Wells established his college after deciding not to accept the offer by Ezra Cornell to build a women's seminary on the Cornell University campus. Henry Wells died in Scotland in 1878 and was reburied in Aurora, New York.

Related Material:

Arms, George. The Story of Henry Wells: Expressman and College Founder. Fredericksburg, Virginia: The American Historical Company, Inc., 1941.

Arms, George. The Story of Henry Wells: Expressman and College Founder. Fredericksburg, Virginia: Americana Illustrated, Somerville, New Jersey: The American Historical Company, Inc., 1941.

Authors Unknown. Founder's Day, 1868-1990.

Authors Unknown. Genealogical Documents of the Family of Henry Wells, 2004.

Authors Unknown. Miscellaneous Documents of Henry Wells, 1852-1868.

Authors Unknown. References of Henry Wells, 1932-1945.

Authors Unknown. Print Files for the Family History of Henry Wells, 1871-1959.

~~Author Unknown. General Catalogue of the Officers and Students with Historical Sketches of~~

~~The Ella Wells Stone Collection of Henry Wells' Papers~~

The Founder, Henry Wells, and the Hon. Edwin Barber Morgan of Wells College., Aurora, N.Y. 1868-1894.

Authors Unknown. Henry Wells Folder., 1867-1958.

Holland, Alex. Letters to Henry Wells., July 1860.

Hollcroft, Temple Rice. A Brief History of Aurora, N.Y. Ovid, N.Y.: W.E. Morrison & Co., 1976.

Hollcroft, Temple R. Henry Wells Biographical Documents. 1936-1960.

Hollcroft, Temple R. They would not let Wells Fargo fail. Temple R. Hollcroft, Union Springs, N.Y.: Tallcot Bookshop, 1996.

Morgan, E.B. Bounded Correspondence between E.B. Morgan and Henry Wells., 1944-1945.

Morgan, E.B. Letters From Wells to Morgan., 1946-1948.

"Press Tributes to Henry Wells." Editorial. Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. 15 December 1878.

Sprague, Edward P. History of Wells College; with sketches of the lives of Mr. Henry Wells and Hon. Edwin B. Morgan: a paper read before the Cayuga County Historical Society, December 13, 1892 / by Rev. Edward P. Sprague, Auburn, NY: 1892.

Sprague, Edward P. History of Wells College with Sketches of the Lives of Mr. Henry Wells and Hon. Edwin B. Morgan., Auburn, N.Y.: Cayuga County Historical Society, 1892.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

Scope and Content Note:

The Ella Wells Stone Collection of Henry Wells' Papers focuses mainly on the biographical aspect of his rise as the famous founder of the American Express Company, co-founder of the Wells Fargo Express Mail and Banking Service, and most notably, founder of Wells College in Aurora, New York. The finding aid also covers intimate family documents as recorded by children, great, great-great-grandchildren, and historians of Henry Wells.

Organization and Arrangement:

The papers are organized into 9 series

Series Descriptions:

Series 1, Index of Folders to The Ella Wells Stone Collection of Henry Wells' Papers

Series 2, Envelopes from Ella Wells

Series 3, Undecipherable Letters from Ella Wells, 1870's-1880's

Series 4, Posters of History: Launching of the S.S. Henry Wells

Series 5, Letter of Foreign Introduction from William H. Seward, 1866

Series 6, Correspondence between Henry Wells and Ezra Cornell

Series 7, Photos of Henry Wells

Series 8, Masonic Documents of Henry Wells

Series 9, Founders' Day Documents

Series 10, Photocopy of The Story of Henry Wells: Expressman and College Founder

The Ella Wells Stone Collection of Henry Wells' Papers

Box Folder Dates Description

Series 1: Index of Folders of Ella Stone's Collection of Henry Wells' Papers

1	1	1954-1967	Introduction of Annotated Bibliography of the Collection
1	2	1901, 1959-61	Temple Hollcroft's collection of Byron Franklin Stone, Jr.
1	3	1878-2003	Newspaper Clippings
1	4	1946-1962	Byron Franklin Stone Jr.'s correspondence to Temple Hollcroft
1	5	1946-1962	Temple Hollcroft correspondence to Byron Franklin Stone, Jr.
1	6	1959	Miscellaneous Papers of Henry Wells and B. F. Stone, Jr.
1	7	1872-1961	Photographs of the Wells Family
1	8	1871-1874	Transcripts of correspondence ^{from} Henry Wells to family
1	9	1866-1879	Henry Wells correspondence, photographs
1	10	1872-1878	Henry Wells correspondence, originals and transcribed ^{transcriptions}
1	11	1878-1891	Correspondence to Mary Prentice Wells (wife)
1	12	1878-1891	Correspondence to Mary Prentice Wells (wife), originals and transcriptions
1	13	1871-1874	Journal of Henry Wells ^{of} letters regarding his health (written By Ella Wells Stone)
1	14	1870-1959	Temple Hollcroft papers and letters
1	15	Late 1800's	Wells' family miscellaneous material

The Ella Wells Stone Collection of Henry Wells' Papers

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
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Series 2: Envelopes from Ella Wells

1	1	Late 1800's	Envelopes
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The Ella Wells Stone Collection of Henry Wells' Papers

Box Folder Dates Description

Series 3: Correspondence from Ella Wells

1	1	1870's-1880's	Correspondence from Ella Wells
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The Ella Wells Stone Collection of Henry Wells' Papers

Box Folder Dates Description

Series 4: Posters of History: Launching of the S.S. Henry Wells

1	1	1880's	Launching of ^{the} S.S. Henry Wells ^
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The Ella Wells Stone Collection of Henry Wells' Papers

Box Folder Dates Description

Series 5: Letter of Introduction from William Seward

1	1	1866	Foreign Introduction letter from William H. Seward
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The Ella Wells Stone Collection of Henry Wells' Papers

Box Folder Dates Description

Series 6: Correspondence between Henry Wells and Ezra Cornell

1	1	1866	Correspondence between Henry Wells and Ezra Cornell
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The Ella Wells Stone Collection of Henry Wells' Papers

Box Folder Dates Description

Series 7: Photos of Henry Wells

1	1	n.d.	Photographs of Henry Wells
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The Ella Wells Stone Collection of Henry Wells' Papers

Box Folder Dates Description

Series 8: Masonic Documents

1	1	1854-1941	Masonic Records of Henry Wells
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The Ella Wells Stone Collection of Henry Wells' Papers

Box Folder Dates Description

Series 9: Founders' Day Documents

1	1	1873-1894	Founders' Day Invitations
1	2	1870-1872	Founders' Day Programs
1	3	1868-1870	Founders' Day Memories
1	4	1871-1968	Founders' Day of Faculty and Students

The Ella Wells Stone Collection of Henry Wells' Papers

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1941	Photocopy of <u>Henry Wells: Expressman and College Founder</u>