

Guide to the Jonas B. Aiken Papers, 1856-1902

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Jonas B. Aiken Papers, 1856-1902

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<https://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

2023.060

Author of Finding Aid:

Sandra L. Wheeler

Creator:

Aiken, Jonas B., 1833-1903

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

2 boxes ; 0.83 linear feet

Abstract:

The Jonas B. Aiken Papers consist of six bound volumes of financial records, 1856-1882; one of outgoing correspondence, 1899-1902; and three small note pad/memo books (one blank), 1858, 1882. There is no family correspondence.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Jonas B. Aiken Papers were given to the New Hampshire Historical Society by Richard Candee in 2023.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Sandra L. Wheeler in September 2024. The finding aid was written by Sandra L. Wheeler in September 2024. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Jonas B. Aiken Papers, 2023.060. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH.
Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Jonas B. Aiken (1833-1903) was the second of five sons born to Herrick Aiken (1797-1866) and Ann Bradley Aiken (1810-1870). The family lived in Franklin, NH, where Herrick had manufacturing interests in knitting mills that made socks. Jonas worked in his father's machine shop as a boy and helped develop a knitting machine used in the family mills. He was injured when young and lost much of his hearing and one eye, but had a successful career as an inventor (of, among other things, a breech loading cannon) and real estate investor in the middle west (to which he traveled extensively) and Florida. Towards the end of his life, he had an estate in Manatee, FL, (now a suburb of Bradenton), where he tried to raise orange trees and invested in other local property. In New Hampshire, for a time he owned and ran the Sawyer Hotel on Webster Lake in Franklin.

Jonas married first, in 1860, Helen Scribner (1844-1865); their only child, Alice, was born and died in 1865. His second wife, married in 1870, was Adaline G. Proctor (1842-1919). They had

Mary Louise (1867-1935), Charles Wilson (1869-1936), and George Proctor (1873-1876), who drowned in a pond on the Webster Lake property. Jonas died in Jacksonville, FL, in 1903; his wife Adaline died in Franklin after an automobile accident in 1919.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Jonas B. Aiken Papers consist of six large and three small bound volumes of financial records and another bound volume of correspondence. The financial records are from the years 1858 to 1882, while the correspondence is from 1899 to 1902.

The financial records list expenditures and income from buying and selling textile and knitting machines, machine parts such as needles, repair of machinery, and other supplies. Many non-specific items such as “sundries” and “labor” are also recorded, as well as entries for family accounts such as the estate of H. Aiken and rent for Walter Aiken.

The correspondence consists of carbons of outgoing letters written by Aiken in a “Stylograph Rapid Letter Copying Book” to business associates, attorneys, and employees about buying and selling real estate, the status of loans and investments, and work to be done on his properties in both New Hampshire and Florida. Because he evidently had long-standing relationships with these men, he sometimes includes personal reflections and news – for example, he reports surgery on an open wound on his face, feeling old and the loss of energy, worries about his daughter, and the failure of his orange trees in Florida.

Not present: ephemera, personal correspondence, photographs.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are arranged alphabetically by type.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 1	Correspondence, outgoing, bound volume, 1899-1902
Folder 2	Expense/memo books, 1858, 1882, undated
Folder 3	Financial records, bound volume, 1856-1863
Folder 4	Financial records, bound volume, 1856-1867

Box 2

Folder 1	Financial records, bound volume, 1862-1869
Folder 2	Financial records, bound volume, 1866-1870
Folder 3	Financial records, bound volume, 1866-1870
Folder 4	Financial records, bound volume, 1867-1882

Subject Terms

People:

Aiken, Jonas B., 1833-1903

Subjects:

Account books
Business
Land investments
Manufacturing industries
Textile factories
Textile machinery

Locations:

Franklin, NH
Manatee, FL

Occupations:

Businessmen
Inventors

Related Materials

Archives

Aiken Family Papers, 2009.014
Charles W. Aiken Papers, 2015.082

Library

Aiken, Herrick. *Aiken Genealogy*. Franklin, NH: [s.n.], 1924. Call number: 929.2 A291g