

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

<p>Name of collection:</p> <p>Atwater, Caleb, Letters and Drawings, 1818-1835</p>	<p>Location:</p> <p>Manuscript Boxes "A"  <i>↑</i>  <i>Over-size Mss. Box</i></p>
<p>Size of collection:</p> <p>1 manuscript box---64 letters and drawings and engravings.</p>	<p>N.U.C. number:</p> <p>MS 75-1882 replaces 62-3291</p>
<p>Finding Aids:</p> <p>American Antiquarian Society <u>Proceedings</u>, Oct. 1867, p.2ff., Atwater's obituary;</p> <p>American Antiquarian Society <u>Transactions</u>, I(1820), pp.105-313, Caleb Atwater, "Description of the Antiquities discovered in the State of Ohio and other Western States."</p> <p>A collection description prepared by William S. Piper in 1939 is available.</p>	
<p>Source of collection:</p> <p>Caleb Atwater, 1818-1835.</p>	<p>Copies available:</p> <p>No</p>
<p>Collection Description:</p> <p>This collection consists of letters of Caleb Atwater to Rejoice Newton, Isaiah Thomas, and the American Antiquarian Society. The correspondence covers the period 1818 to 1821 and concerns Atwater's research on Indian antiquities in Ohio until a dispute over the terms of his agreement with the society induced his withdrawal. With the correspondence are original maps and plans of the country investigated, a catalogue of relics which Atwater presented the society, various notes and memoranda, and a collection of extracts of Atwater's letters in the hand of Isaiah Thomas. The first volume of <u>American Antiquarian Transactions</u>, 1820, contains an exhaustive report illustrated by maps and drawings of the result of Atwater's explorations. Some of the original drawings and engravings are found in this collection.</p> <p>Atwater's correspondence has been catalogued.</p>	

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"CALEB ATWATER LETTERS AND DRAWINGS"

The collection consists of the letters of Caleb Atwater of Circleville Ohio, to Rejoice Newton, Isaiah Thomas and the American Antiquarian Society. The first letter was addressed to Newton as secretary of the Society in 1818 calling attention to the discovery of ancient mounds, fortifications and other traces of early inhabitants of the Ohio country and the suggestion that the Society might interest itself in helping finance research work. The correspondence from then on is with Isaiah Thomas, president of the Society, and covers details of the financing and prosecution of the work, and an agreement as to publication of the findings of Atwater. There are 52 letters to Thomas, 1819-1821, the series ending with Atwater's withdrawal from all connection with the Society owing to a dispute over terms under which he worked. In 1835 he again wrote to the "President" offering to continue the research. With the correspondence are original maps and plans of the country investigated, a catalogue of relics which Atwater had presented the Society, various notes and memoranda and a collection of extracts from Atwater's letters in the hand of Thomas. The first volume of the "Transactions" published by the Society contains an exhaustive report illustrated by maps and drawings of the result of Atwater's explorations.