

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

<p>Name of collection:</p> <p>G. & C. Merriam Company, Papers, 1818-1860</p>	<p>Location:</p> <p>Mss. boxes "G"</p>
<p>Size of collection:</p> <p>3 mss. boxes</p>	<p>N.U.C.M.C. number:</p> <p>N.A.</p> <p>SEE ALSO MICROFILM FILE</p> <p>10/15/1999 451</p>
<p>Finding aids:</p> <p>For information on G. & C. Merriam, see Charles Henry Pope, <u>Merriam Genealogy</u> (Boston: Charles H. Poe, 1906), pp. 304-08, and Moses King, ed., <u>King's Handbook of Springfield, Mass...</u>(Springfield: James D. Gill, 1884), pp. 242-43. For information on Charles Merriam, see <u>DAB</u>, vol.12, p. 552</p>	
<p>Source of collection:</p> <p>Manuscripts in Box 1 purchased from Hickory Ledge, Mystic, Conn., 1969; copy-flo of microfilm acquired from Old Sturbridge Village, 1978</p> <p>(April 7, 1982 letter to Box 1 of microfilm from Old Sturbridge Village)</p>	
<p>Collection Description:</p> <p>G. & C. Merriam Company, printers, booksellers, and publishers in Springfield, Mass., was established in 1831 by brothers George (1803-1880) and Charles (1806-1887) Merriam. The Merriam family, specifically their father, Dan (1771-1823) and his brother, Ebenezer (1777-1858) had begun printing and publishing in West Brookfield, Mass., in 1798 under the name E. Merriam and Company. After Dan's death in 1823, the name of the firm was changed to E. and [George] Merriam of West Brookfield. George's brother, Charles, joined him in the move to Springfield in 1831. Their brother, Homer (1813-), became a partner in 1856, although the name of the firm remained unchanged. The company specialized in school books, law books, Bibles, and dictionaries. In 1843 they bought the copyright for <u>Webster's Unabridged Dictionary</u>, revised it, and promoted it in large quantities. The success of this venture brought G. & C. Merriam to the public's attention and their business expanded considerably.</p> <p>This collection consists of business correspondence and account books. Much of the business correspondence is in the form of notes written on printed price lists, and book announcements from various publishers including such firms as Lea, Carey, and Blanchard, the American Sunday School Union, and Harper and Brothers. Also included are shipping receipts, bills, book orders, and advertisements for new publications.</p> <p>The collection also includes copy-flo (of microfilm) of six account books, 1818-1836, in West Brookfield and Springfield, Mass. The originals are located</p>	

cont'd.

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Manuscript Collections

Collection description (cont'd.)

G. & C. Merriam Company

at Yale University. There are three account books and one daybook, 1818-1834, dealing with the Merriams' business in West Brookfield under the names E. Merriam & Co. and E. & G. Merriam. The entries include the quantities and titles or types (e.g., almanacs, readers, ledgers, spelling books) of books purchased by each customer, printing and binding orders, and the purchase of writing supplies, such as quills, inkstands, paper, pencils, and blank bills and warrants. There were occasional sales of fabric and clothing, as well as such novelty items as brushes, razors, shaving cups, lace, thread, and paint. The volumes record the debits and credits of customers, many of whom paid in goods rather than cash.

There is also a Springfield, Mass., daybook and an account book for Merriam, Little and Co. (possibly a brother-in-law of George Merriam was a partner for a brief period of time) and G. & C. Merriam, 1831-1836, with similar entries. The Merriams' large number of customers included members of the Merriam family, Chester Kellogg (1792-1860), Elisha Hammond (1780-1851), Samuel M'Gregore Burnside (1783-1850), Isaiah Thomas, Jr. (1773-1819), G.W. Callender (-), and James Loring (1770-1850). Several companies which dealt frequently with the Merriams included Spooner and Thurston, Lewis and Reed, Mixter and Hancock, and West, Richardson and Lord.

See Contents List.

The six account books in this collection are also available on microfilm. There are two microfilm reels filed in the Microform Reading Room.

10 August 1976

add. 12 March 1979

G. & C. Merriam Company, Papers

Contents List

Box 1: Business Correspondence, 1821-1860. Also includes shipping receipts, bills, book orders, and advertisements for new publications

Box 2: Account Books, 1818-1831*

Folder 1: Daybook, June 1828-June 1831, of E. Merriam & Co. in West Brookfield, Mass.

Folder 2: Account Book, 1818-1832, of E. Merriam & Co. in West Brookfield, Mass.

Folder 3: Account Book, 1824-1831, of E. & G. Merriam and Co. in West Brookfield

Box 3: Account Books, 1828-1836*

Folder 1: Account Book, 1828-1834 (incomplete), of E. & G. Merriam and Co. in West Brookfield

Folder 2: Daybook, 1831-1833, of Merriam, Little and Co. in Springfield, Mass.

Folder 3: Account Book, 1831-1836, of G. & C. Merriam Co. in Springfield, Mass.

*Boxes 2 and 3 contain copy-flo photocopies. Original account books are at Yale University.