

S0824 Rannells Family Papers, Addenda 1836-1897

36 Folders

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

Related collection: S0786 Rannells Family Papers, 1838-1914

PROVENANCE

Accession “#2009-037: Elise Rannells Todd made a second donation of family papers to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection in October 2009, expanding the written record of the lives of her great-grandfather Charles Rannells, his wife Mary Warder Rannells, and other members of their families.

BIOGRAPHY

Attorney Rannells, who arrived in St. Louis in 1841, was a prominent participant in local business and political communities during a period of exponential growth for the region. He found friends among the city’s elite, shared in its prosperity, served in the state legislature and constructed a network of legal and social connections that extended across the country.

By 1846, Rannells had also begun to invest in real estate, purchasing large tracts of land across St. Louis County. He and his wife Mary, member of a prominent Springfield, Ohio, family, built a substantial house around 1850 on a 320-acre farm in what is now the St. Louis suburb of Maplewood. They had three children who survived to adulthood: Elizabeth, Edward, and John.

Health problems cut Charles Rannells' successful career short in the mid 1860s. A court-appointed trustee handled his financial affairs on behalf of Mary Rannells and their children for the rest of Charles’ life. After Charles Rannells’ death in 1877, his son Edward (then in his early twenties), daughter Elizabeth and her husband Howard Brown continued to live in the family home with their mother, who died in 1896. Edward W. Rannells (1854-1920), also dealt in real estate and practiced law; he served as an associate judge of the St. Louis County Court. The younger brother, John W. Rannells, moved out of the St. Louis area after his marriage.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection includes approximately 1.0 cubic foot of correspondence, household receipts and other documents. Most of the business correspondence and land records included in this accession were interfiled with the first Rannells collection (S0786), which contains records of the legal and real estate careers of Charles Rannells and his son Edward.

This collection contains personal correspondence of Charles Rannells, his wife Mary Warder Rannells, his mother-in-law Ann Aston Warder, and other members of both families, along with a few family-related business records. The papers are organized into three groupings. Approximately one-half of the correspondence is that of Charles Rannells.

Business-related documents include letters and records regarding the "hiring out" of slaves apparently owned by the family, legal work done for the Philipson family of St. Louis and papers regarding the Rannells trusteeship . Personal correspondence includes letters written to his wife during an extended family visit in 1863 and a number written while he was under treatment in a sanitoriums in Pennsylvania.

The second grouping contains correspondence both to and from Mary Rannells' mother, Ann Aston Warder (1786-1871), a prominent Ohio Quaker and participant in the Underground Railroad in her community. One series of particular interest is between Warder and Joseph Philipson, a St. Louis businessman and art collector. Last are papers belonging to Mary Rannells. These include a number of letters from family and friends written before her marriage, letters she wrote to members of her family, personal expenditures in her later life and documents related to the settlement of her estate.

COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS

There are no copyright issues with this collection.

INVENTORY

FOLDER LIST

Box 1:

1. Business correspondence, slavery, 1840s
2. Records, slavery, "hiring out" of Rannells slaves
3. Legal documents, Philipson family, 1836-1844
4. Correspondence, Charles S. Rannells, miscellaneous, 1858-1864
5. Court summons, Renick guardianship, 1866-67
6. Correspondence, Charles Rannells to Mary Warder Rannells, 1863
7. Correspondence, Charles S. Rannells to Mary Warder Rannells, 1868
8. Correspondence, David Vance Rannells
9. Correspondence, Nathan Rannells
10. Correspondence, Rannells cousins
11. Correspondence, Clarkson cousins to Charles S. Rannells
12. Correspondence, Ann Aston Warder to Charles S. Rannells
13. Correspondence, Benjamin Warder to Charles S. Rannells
14. Correspondence, George Warder to Charles S. Rannells
15. Correspondence, Jeremiah Warder to Charles S. Rannells
16. Correspondence, John A. Warder to Charles S. Rannells
17. Correspondence, William Warder to Charles S. Rannells
18. Correspondence, Ann Aston Warder from family members
19. Correspondence, Ann Aston Warder to family members

Box 2:

20. Correspondence, Ann Aston Warder to Joseph Philipson & others re paintings

21. Correspondence, Joseph Philipson to Ann Aston Warder
22. Correspondence, Ann Aston Warder to friends
23. Correspondence, Ann Aston Warder with J.J. Gurney
24. Ann Aston Warder, miscellaneous papers
25. Correspondence to Mary Warder (Rannells) before marriage
26. Correspondence, Mary W. Rannells to Warder family member
27. Correspondence, Mary W. Rannells from Warder family members
28. School reports for children, 1860s and 1870s
29. Cancelled checks and receipts, Mary W. Rannells, 1883-1895
30. Cancelled checks and receipts, Mary W. Rannells, 1890s
31. Correspondence, Edward (Ned) Rannells to Mary W. Rannells
32. Records & correspondence, Mary Warder Rannells estate
33. Probate records, St. Louis County, Mary W. Rannells, 1896-97
34. Almanacs, 1874 and 1875
35. Joseph Phillipson legal work