

Kathleen McInerney
Informal Finding Aid for

Haven Pugh Letter Collection

Date Range: 1808-1984

Bulk Dates: 1855-1906 (bulk dates include 1500 letters/documents)

Finding Aid created by Kathleen McInerney

Creator: Kathleen McInerney

Extent: 14 linear feet of 7 boxes

Abstract: Over 2300 Letters, documents, photos, legal, clippings that include personal correspondence; account books; diary; civil war permits, seizures, receipts, handbills; plantation records, appraisals, equipment contracts, deeds, slave deeds; bankruptcy, newspapers, legal documents relating to a case.

Language: The material is in English

Acquisition Information: These documents were given to Kathleen McInerney during the 1990's from John J. McInerney who held them from the mid-1960's, when they had been discarded by his wife's family, the Pughs.

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Cite as: Haven-Pugh Letter Collection

History: The Haven-Pugh Letter Collection was initially transcribed from about 2002-2009 into 6 volumes. From 2009 to present, additional letters and documents have been added to the transcribed set which is now digital-only, and the original documents were filed in boxes whose location is cataloged in a spreadsheet. Along with the box & section location, the spreadsheet contains the digital file name and a brief description of the document.

Scope and Content: The Haven-Pugh Letter Collection include correspondence, between family members and extended relations; business correspondence, particularly occasioned by the Civil War and subsequent legal claims. Wedding invitations, calling cards, lists, inventories etc.

The newspaper clippings include coverage of the Haven family fire; obituaries and events of significance to the family. Also Mardi Gras color fold-out newspaper specials in color (early 1900s).

Photos include Louisiana plantation photos; large mounted photos of the Haven family estate (interior and exterior) in Fort Washington, NY; servants and family members.

Young person's scrapbook (Louisiana) includes old Mardi Gras documents.

Ellen's account books, check books and other records. 1759 Bible, & scrapbook (NY).

Biographical Note: Haven-Pugh Families Background:

1. Havens: John Appleton Haven (b. 1792, d. 1865) of Portsmouth, NH married Sarah Sherburne Langdon (b. 1797, d. 1876), also of Portsmouth, N.H. The Havens, Sherburnes and Langdons were prominent Portsmouth, N.H. families. John Appleton Haven and Sarah Sherburne Langdon Haven moved to Fort Washington, N.Y., acquired some acreage and built a home. John

Appleton Haven and his brother, Joseph Woodward Haven operated a business out of NYC, Haven & Co., as commission merchants.

2. Pughs: One of Haven & Co.'s customers was a prominent Louisiana plantation owner, Thomas Pugh (b. 1796, d. 1852), married Eliza Catherine Foley. Thomas Pugh built Madewood Plantation (Napoleanville, La). David Bryan Pugh, b. 1828, a son, met and married John Appleton Haven's daughter Ellen Eustis Haven, b. 1832; they married in July 1859 and moved to Madewood for several years, thence to their own place, Energy, in Thibodaux. After David died in 1886, Ellen returned to N.Y. with her children. Children: John, Alice, Grace, Edith, Mary, Thomas, all represented in the collection.

Principal letter writers are Sarah Sherburne Langdon Haven, John Appleton Haven, Fanny (Frances A.L.) Haven, David Bryan Pugh. Fewer letters are by Ellen Eustis Haven, Ellen's children, various Pugh relations, Foley relations, and the Williams (related via Pugh and Foley). Other letters from other family members and more distant relations (from the Portsmouth and Louisiana relatives) and family friends. Woodbury Langdon (NYC and Portsmouth), a cousin, married Ellen Eustis Haven Pugh's daughter Edith prior to marrying Elizabeth Elwyn Langdon; he and Elizabeth bought and lived in the Haven family home in Fort Washington.

Legal Suit: There are letters, records, accounts, and legal documents related to suits that may have been occasioned by the Civil War (non-payment possibly a result of the War; length of statute effectively extended due to War). In the main suit, Haven & Co. were not paid by Connely, a La. plantation client. Haven, in an effort to provide his son-in-law David Bryan Pugh an opportunity to make some money, arranged for David to represent Haven & Co and handle the case in Louisiana. Letters related to the case are written by multiple lawyers, by David, by Ellen, Mr. Haven, his Louisiana agent, and related parties for Haven & Co.

Subjects:

- Plantation Life - Louisiana, LaFourche
- Slavery
- Civil War - Family split North/South
- New York - Fort Washington

Related Materials:

Digital transcriptions (no originals) of the Wyeth Collection (copyright L.J. Wyeth) are available containing about 120 letter transcriptions relating to the Haven and Eustis families from early to late 1800's.

Digital transcriptions (no originals) of about 45 letters between Ellen Eustis Haven Pugh and W. W. Pugh, which letters are held at U. Texas Austin.

Dear Nell: The True Story of the Haven Sisters Copyright © 2009 Kathleen McInerney ISBN-978-0-615-39916-4; based on, with excerpts from, the Haven-Pugh Letter Collection. Supporting web site and free epub and pdf of the book: www.havensisters.com

Catalog: Please refer to the spreadsheet catalog for details. The physical box and section of each document is listed in the catalog, Dir_After_CombineAllFolders.ods/xls/html. As of this writing the originals are personally held by Kathleen McInerney in Portland, ME.