

## **Archival Box #2 – Aldrich Family Collection**

### **Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Aldrich Family Collection

**Dates:** 1820-1937

**Accession Number:** #1595, FIC1839, FIC1840

**Donor:** Mrs. Robert Aldrich (#1595)

**Date of Acquisition:** 2009 (#1595), 2024 (FIC1839, FIC1840)

**Extent:** 10.5 linear inches

**Language:** English

**Location:** 205 Second Storage Room, Archival Box #2.1-2.2

### **Biographical/Historical Note**

Scott Aldrich was born in Smithfield, RI in 1801, the youngest of six sons and raised by Quaker parents. He apprenticed as a journeyman shoemaker and worked in that profession for two years, before turning to a more lucrative career in real estate. In 1823, he married his first wife, Eliza White. The couple packed all their early possessions into a covered, horse-drawn wagon and removed to Evans, Erie County, NY. The couple purchased a 100-acre farm, beginning Scott's career as a dealer in real estate. Much of the Village of Hamburg, NY was laid out on the Aldrich farm, and it is said Scott Aldrich laid out many of the village's streets. Aldrich remained in Hamburg until 1857, when he moved to Chautauqua County to continue his business of land speculation.

Scott Aldrich's name is familiar on the Erie and Chautauqua County Assessment Rolls. The largest amount of land he owned at any one time was 2,800 acres. In Chautauqua County, Aldrich purchased land in the Sheridan/Forestville vicinity and Fredonia. His land holdings in Fredonia included Sunset Hill, now bounded by Lambert, Curtis, and Day Streets. However, he traded this property for a grape farm on West Main Road. He soon returned to the village and built a house on the corner of Lambert and Day Street, where he resided until his death in 1885. At the time of his death, he still had 1,300 acres in his possession. This land was divided into equal shares for his 13 remaining children.

Married three times, Scott was the father of 17 children. His three wives, Eliza, Anna, and Lydia are buried with him in Forest Hill Cemetery. He was remembered fondly for the way he conducted his business, his obituary stating "He will be remembered kindly by many who in their early struggles for the possession of a home, experienced his generous and forbearing treatment."

### **Scope and Content**

This collection is primarily comprised of personal and business correspondence addressed to Scott Aldrich, with receipts and property records related to his business in land speculation. Also included are documents and photographs pertaining to Scott Aldrich's descendant, Nathan E. Aldrich.

## **Arrangement**

The collection has been divided into eight series. All items within each folder are arranged chronologically.

## **Access Points**

Scott Aldrich (1801-1885), Simon Sayles Aldrich (1794-1879), Seth Aldrich (1827-1914), Nathan E. Aldrich (1897-1949)

## **Administrative Information**

This collection is open to researchers. Please contact the Darwin R. Barker Historical Museum's Archivist with your request or to schedule a visit. No further accruals are expected.

## **Collection Overview**

### Series 1: Correspondence

- Folder 1.1: 1820s Correspondence
- Folder 1.2: 1830s Correspondence
- Folder 1.3: 1840s Correspondence
- Folder 1.4: 1850s Correspondence
- Folder 1.5: 1860s Correspondence
- Folder 1.6: 1870s Correspondence
- Folder 1.7: 1880s Correspondence
- Folder 1.8: Envelopes

### Series 2: Financial Records

- Folder 2.1: Receipts

### Series 3: Legal Records

- Folder 3.1: Property Deeds and Rentals
- Folder 3.2: Land Surveys and Building Plans
- Folder 3.3: Indenture of Apprenticeship

### Series 4: Educational Records

- Folder 4.1: Nathan E. Aldrich Educational Records

### Series 5: Military Records

- Folder 5.1: Nathan E. Aldrich Military Records

### Series 6: Aldrich Family Photographs

- Folder 6.1: Aldrich Family Portraits
- Folder 6.2: Nathan E. Aldrich School Photographs

### Series 7: Aldrich Family Reunions

- Folder 7.1: Minutes of the Reunions of the Scott Aldrich Family and Descendants (1897-1937)

Series 8: Miscellaneous

Folder 8.1: Advertisements

Folder 8.2: Poetry

Folder 8.3: Notes