



National Watch and Clock Museum

Library and Research Center

p: 717.684.8261 • f: 717.684.0878 • nawcc.org

NAWCC, Inc. • 514 Poplar St. • Columbia PA 17512-2130

Erastus Hodges Collection, circa 1990s

Overview/Collection Description

- **Title:** Erastus Hodges Collection
- **Dates:** circa 1990s
- **Creator:** Theodore B. Hodges
- **Call Number:** MG 358
- **Language:** English
- **Extent:** 1.5 linear feet in 3 boxes

Conditions of Access

- **Restrictions:** These records are open to researchers for personal or scholarly research. Most of the records in the collection are available for photocopy, depending on the preservation needs of the material as well as other variables not specified here. Researchers, however, are responsible for obtaining copyright permission to use materials and documents. These records are part of the permanent collection in the archives of the Library & Research Center of the National Watch and Clock Museum and researchers are required to comply with the Archive Rules when using the collection.

Administrative Information

- **Preferred Citation:** *Erastus Hodges Collection, circa 1990s*. Library & Research Center, National Watch & Clock Museum, NAWCC.
- **Processing Information:** This collection was processed and partially described before May 2016. During the summer of 2016, the collection was revisited and the archival description was expanded. It is unclear if the order of the collection present at the time

of the revision accurately reflected the original order. The order in which the collection was found in 2016 has been maintained as it is presented here.

- **Archivist and Date Processed.** Finding aid compiled by Kate Van Riper, Archivist at the Library and Research Center, National Watch and Clock Museum, Summer 2016

Subjects & Related Materials

- Erastus Hodges
- William Franklin Hodges
- Carrington & Carpenter

Biographical Sketch

- **Biographical History:** Erastus Hodges was a merchant living in the town of Torrington Connecticut from his birth in 1781 until his death in 1847. Mr. Hodges engaged in many economic activities during his lifetime including but not limited to manufacturing, distribution of cheese, clocks, and base metals as well as other mercantile activities. He was preceded by Dr. Elkanah Hodges and had four brothers and two sisters. He was married in 1809 to Laura Loomis and again after her death in 1839 to Sila Bissel. He had six children all to his first wife between the years of 1810 through 1827.

Content & Structure

- **Scope & Content:** This collection represents the remaining papers and effects of Erastus Hodges, his children, remaining family and business partners in the form of photocopies. The collection was assembled by Theodore B. Hodges, Erastus's great-great grandson. The collection was then used to write his book on behalf of the NAWCC. The book titled "Erastus Hodges" remains in the collection of the NAWCC and is a fascinating look into the life of early clock peddlers in America. The collection contains photocopies of ledgers, receipts, and letter concerning both business and family matters. The businesses of the Hodges which are covered include their clock business, cheese, base metals, and other mercantile pursuits

Container ListSeries I: Receipts, Contracts, & Inventories

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|--|
| 1 | 1 | Brass Mill Inventory—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 2 | Brass (1828-1848)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 3 | Brass, Cheese, & Miscellaneous (1839)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 4 | Cotton Factory (1812-1836)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 5 | Receipts 1 (1798-1817 & 1860)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 6 | Receipts 2 (1810-1843)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 7 | New Haven Merchant Ships (1812-1842)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 8 | Milford, PA (1810-1840)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 9 | Phoenix Bank (1818-1848)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 10 | Clock Contracts (1825-1839)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 11 | Accounts & Bills (1809-1846)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 12 | Money Lending Notes & Requests (1807-1818)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 13 | Probate Receipts; Justice of the Peace; Testimonies (1812-1855)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 14 | Miscellaneous (1824-1854 & 1909)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |

Series II: Correspondence*Subseries A: Family Correspondence*

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|---|
| 1 | 15 | To Rebecca Hodges; To Willard Hodges (1798-1806)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 16 | Erastus Chapter III (1798-1806)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 17 | WM Franklin Hodges (1809-1849)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 18 | Erastus Miscellaneous Information (1803-1847)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 19 | Levi, Roxy, Laura, Sila (1829-1878)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 20 | Levi Hodges (1849-1859)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| 2 | 1 | Edwin (1840-1859)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 2 | Willard (1808-1866)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 3 | William Franklin Hodges (1818)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 4 | Correspondence to Erastus from his brother, Henry Elkanah Hodges (1825-1842)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|--|
| 2 | 5 | Elkanah H. Hodges (1840-1859)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |

Subseries B: Other Correspondence

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|---|
| 2 | 6 | George Carr; Addison Palmer Benton (1827-1848)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 7 | Aaron Smith (1826)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 8 | James Wadsworth (1830-1833)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 9 | Macy & Wadsworth (1833-1839)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 10 | Brig Edward (1814-1817)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 11 | N. Carrington; D. Carpenter (1808-1814)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 12 | N. Carrington; E. Balderston (1816)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 13 | Philo Smith, Brass Peddler (1826-1844)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 14 | Carrington – 2 (1816-1829)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 15 | Letters Dated 1808-1812—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 16 | Lewis (1815-1833)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 17 | Unknown (1812 & not dated)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 18 | Savannah (1819-1829)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 19 | Timothy Gillette (1816-1857)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 20 | Carrington & Carpenter (1812-1817)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 21 | Calvin Butter (1825-1828)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 22 | Vernon, NY (1829-1849)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 23 | Abel Wetmore, NY—Photocopies, circa 1990s |

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|--|
| 3 | 1 | Vernon, NY (1810-1828)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 2 | David Norton Galva (1839-1859)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 3 | Norris North (1825-1829)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 4 | Clock Making Brace (1821-1832)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 5 | Clock Collection (1831-1888)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 6 | Hopkins & Alfred (1832)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 7 | Alpha Hart (1827-1828)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 8 | Austin, Bissel & Gillette, Horace (1835-1839)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 9 | albert Wheeler (1809-1839)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 10 | Other Peddlers, (1827-1839)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |

Series III: Cheese

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|---|
| 3 | 11 | Cheese Problems & Competitors (1812-1844)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 12 | Cheese, Baltimore (1800-1870)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 13 | Cheese, New Haven (1800-1870)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 14 | Cheese, New York (1800-1820)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 15 | Cheese, New York (1821-1840)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 16 | Cheese, New York (1841-1870)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 17 | Cheese, Philadelphia (1811-1826)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 18 | Cheese, Caleb Hathaway (Philadelphia), (1816-1822)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 19 | Cheese, Caleb Hathaway (1816-1822)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 20 | Cheese, Richmond (1820-1878)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 21 | Cheese, Richmond (1833-1862)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 22 | Richmond-Cheese (1826-1831)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |
| | 23 | Richmond-Cheese (1813-1835)—Photocopies, circa 1990s |