Samuel Pennock letterbook, 1820-1880
MC.975.02.035
Finding aid prepared by Kara Flynn

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April 21, 2016
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
# Table of Contents

Summary Information ................................................................................................................................. 3
Biographical note ........................................................................................................................................... 4
Scope and Content note ................................................................................................................................. 4
Administrative Information .......................................................................................................................... 5
Controlled Access Headings ........................................................................................................................ 5
Collection Inventory ...................................................................................................................................... 7
Summary Information

Repository: Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

Creator: Pennock, Deborah Ann Yerkes, 1831-1912

Creator - Collector: Pennock, Samuel, 1816-1903

Title: Samuel Pennock letterbook

Date: 1820-1880

Extent: 0.16 Linear feet

Language: English

Preferred Citation

Samuel Pennock letterbook (MC.975.02.035), Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
Biographical note

Samuel Pennock (1816-1903) was one of the leading inventors of agricultural machinery in the United States. He was a son of Moses and Mary J. (Lamborn) Pennock, and was born in East Marlborough township, Chester county, Pennsylvania on October 8, 1816.

Samuel Pennock was reared on his father's farm, received his education in the schools of his neighborhood, and then learned the trade of carriage maker. Later he went to Wilmington and for one year was engaged with the firm of Harlan & Hollingsworth. Leaving Delaware he returned to the farm to study the agricultural machinery then in use, and soon made improvements on a rude grain drill which his father had patented. This improved drill, which he patented, contained the idea upon which all the modern grain drills are constructed. In 1859 Pennock invented and patented the 'Iron Harvester,' the first mowing machine in America that was equipped with a cutter-bar that could be raised and lowered without the driver leaving his seat. Fifteen years later, in 1873, he invented, patented, and introduced into use, the 'Pennock Road Machine,' the first practical machine in this country for the construction and repair of roads. Pennock came to Kennett Square in 1844. He was originally a Republican, but became a political independent. A Quaker and a Mason, he did not smoke or drink.

In September 1853, Pennock married Deborah A. Yerkes, a daughter of John Yerkes. They had three children: Frederick M., Charles J. and Theodore. Pennock died at Kennett Square, his family’s farm, on August 19, 1903.


Deborah Ann Yerkes Pennock (1831-1912) was the wife of Samuel Pennock and the daughter of John and Catharine Dull Yerkes. She, along with her husband, was active in the abolitionist movement, the Underground Railroad and the Progressive Friends of Pennsylvania (also known as Longwood Meeting). She was also involved in the women's suffrage movement and the cousin of Susan B. Anthony.


Scope and Content note

This collection is comprised of the single volume letterbook of Samuel Pennock. In addition to correspondence, the volume includes various other materials, including clippings, illustrations, and

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections April 2016

Use Restrictions

Standard Federal Copyright Law Applies (U.S. Title 17).

Acquisition

The Samuel Pennock letterbook was donated to Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, in 2008 by Jane Marshall Cox, accession no. 7265.

Processing Information

Processed by Kara Flynn; completed April 2016.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Correspondence.
- Letters

Personal Name(s)

- Cox, Jane Marshall
Subject(s)

- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
- Quakers
- Quakers--History
Collection Inventory

| Letterbook 1820-1880 |