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Guide to the Aaron Nickerson Collection 1839-1860



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.NICKERSONA
Title	Nickerson, Aaron. Collection
Date	1839-1860
Size	0.25 linear feet (1 box)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract Aaron Nickerson was a settler who moved to Texas from the northern states shortly after the Texas Revolution and the creation of the Republic of Texas (1836-1845). The collection includes letters he sent to Lizzie Swartwout, a Michigan woman from 1839 to 1860.

Information on Use

Access

The collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Nickerson, Aaron. Correspondence, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library.

Biographical Note

Little is known of the author of the letters in this collection, Aaron Nickerson. From the contents of the collection, he moved to La Grange, Texas, from a northern state (possibly Michigan) in 1839. The Texas Revolution had ended in 1836, and many settlers were moving to the state as it emerged as an independent republic. Lizzie, Aaron's correspondent in this collection, lived in Jackson, Michigan, though information on her life is sparse as well. The letters in the collection range from 1839 to 1860, covering almost all of Texas' shift from independent republic to state, including the Mexican-American war (1846-1847).

Scope Note

The Aaron Nickerson Collection contains four letters written by Aaron Nickerson to Lizzie Swartwout. The letters largely concern Aaron's move to La Grange, Texas and his life in his new home. Of particular interest in the letters are mention of an itinerant phrenologist and Nickerson's contracting of typhoid fever. Nickerson also writes of his concern for Lizzie's health

should she come to join him in Texas. Judging from the tone of the letters and the salutations, Lizzie was very close with Nickerson, perhaps his wife. Two of the letters are dated from 1839, and the remaining three are dated in 1860. Also included in the collection are four envelopes addressed to Swartwout. All letters are arranged chronologically.

The collection was previously part of the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection.

Related Resources

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/scrc/findingaids/topics>

Subject Headings

- Nickerson, Aaron, fl. 19th cent.
- Swartwout, Lizzie, fl. 19th cent.
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- Typhoid fever -- United States -- History -- 19th century
- Phrenology -- United States -- History -- 19th century
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- La Grange (Tex.) -- History -- 19th century
- Texas -- Social life and customs
- Texas -- History -- 1810-1821 -- Sources
-

INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder 1

Correspondence, 1839-1860

- Letter from Aaron Nickerson to Lizzie Swartwout, December 3, 1839
- Letter from Aaron Nickerson to Lizzie Swartwout, December 25, 1839
- Letter from Aaron Nickerson to Lizzie Swartwout, February 28 – March 1, 1860
- Letter from Aaron Nickerson to Lizzie Swartwout, August 29, 1860
- Envelopes for letters to Lizzie Swartwout, 1839-1860