

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Rawle, William (1759-1836)** **MC 2000.5**

Material: Family Papers (1786-1896)

Volume: 0.25 linear feet (1 Document Box)

Donation: Gift of Dr. Milton B. and Yale Asbell, 1976

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The Rawles were a prominent Philadelphia family that remained active in legal and social circles throughout the nineteenth century.

William Rawle was born on April 28, 1759 in Philadelphia, the son of Francis and Rebecca Rawle. He attended the Friends Academy in Philadelphia until 1778 when he moved to New York with his Loyalist family. There, Rawle began his study of law. In 1781, he went to England where he enrolled in the Middle Temple to complete his legal studies. Returning to the states in 1782, he moved back to Philadelphia where he was admitted to the bar in 1783, the same year he married Sarah Coates Burge (1761-1824). His legal career advanced fairly rapidly. He was named to the General Assembly of Pennsylvania in 1789 and went on to be the U.S. Attorney for Pennsylvania and later, Attorney for the Bank of the United States. Rawle also maintained important roles in public associations. In 1786, Rawle became a Councilor of the American Philosophical Society, and also helped to found the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. In 1792, he was named Director of the Library Company of Philadelphia after many years of dedicated service. Rawle became Vice President of the Law Academy of Philadelphia and Chancellor of the Associated Members of the Bar in Philadelphia in the 1820's. He died on April 12, 1836.

William Rawle, Jr. (1788-1858) was married to Mary Anna Tilghman. In 1840 their daughter Elizabeth married Charles Wallace Brooke, who was also a lawyer. Charles and Elizabeth Wallace Brooke had a son named William, born in 1843, who took the surname Brooke Rawle to avoid confusion with the other Williams in the family. William Brooke Rawle served as Captain of the Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry in the

Civil War and was later appointed Lt. Col. to the U.S. volunteers. He wrote about his experiences in *The Right Flank at Gettysburg* and *With Gregg in the Gettysburg Campaign*. In addition to his professional legal work, he held the positions of Secretary of the Pennsylvania Historical Society and Treasurer of the Law Association.

William Henry Rawle (1823-1889), son of William Rawle Jr., attended the University of Pennsylvania. He graduated in 1841 and was admitted to the bar in 1844. He served on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 1848 and 1850. He was eventually to become Vice Chancellor of the Law Association and (like his grandfather) Director of the Library Company of Philadelphia. In 1852, William Henry wrote *A Practical Treatise on the Law of Covenants for Title*. He also delivered lectures including *Some Contrasts in the Growth of Pennsylvania and English Law* and *The Case of the Educated Unemployed*. William served in the U. S. Civil War both as a private in an artillery unit, and then as a part of the quartermaster's corps. He married twice, both times to members of the Cadwalader family.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Rawle Family Collection is composed solely of correspondence, most of which pertains to legal matters and financial transactions revolving around the law practice of several Rawle family members, spanning the years 1786 to 1896. This correspondence is housed in one document box. The majority of the letters are organized alphabetically according to recipient into four categories; Charles W. Brooke, William Rawle, William B. Rawle, and William H. Rawle. Within these categories, the correspondence is arranged chronologically. A fifth category, Miscellaneous, contains the remaining letters organized alphabetically by author. Within the collection are letters from such important figures as Daniel Webster, George Mifflin Dallas, Tench Coxe, Jared Ingersoll, as well as members of the Biddle, Cadwalader, and Tilghman families.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2000.5

CORRESPONDENCE

Brooke, Charles Wallace – letters received

- Folder 01) Letter from Henry D. Maxwell - Dec. 22, 1834
Letter from F. Brewster - Jan. 31, 1837
Letter from F. Brewster - Apr. 11, 1837
Letter from Ovid Frazer Johnson - Aug. 11, 1839
Letter from J. Rush - Apr. 1, 1840
Letter from J. Rush - Oct. 13, 1840
Letter from George Washington Barton - Aug. 19, 1841
Letter from I. Martin - Feb. 18, 1842

BOX 1 - MC 2000.5 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Brooke, Charles Wallace - letters received (cont.)

- Folder 02) Letter from Ferdinand W. Hubbell - Jan. 24, 1843
- Letter from J. Wharton - Nov. 25, 1843
- Letter from William Maxwell Evarts - July 1, 1845
- Letter from Daniel Webster - Jan. 29, 1846
- Letter from G. Wharton - Jan. 13, 1846
- Letter from George Mifflin Dallas - June 2, 1847
- Letter from G. Wharton - Feb. 22, 1849

Rawle, William - letters received

- Folder 03) Letter from Edward Penington - Nov. 25, 1786
- Letter from J. Warden - Feb. 27, 1789
- Letter from Wilcocks - Dec. 28, 1789
- Letter from John Donaldson - Mar. 11, 1790
- Letter from Thomas Clifford - June 7, 1792
- Letter from Jared Ingersoll - June 29, 1795
- Letter from W. Nicholson - Nov. 17, 1798
- Letter from John Wilkes - Apr. 6, 1804
- Letter from Tench Coxe - Aug. 26, 1806
- Letter from Benjamin R. Morgan - Oct. 28, 1807
- Folder 04) Letter from Benjamin R. Morgan - Feb. 10, 1808
- Letter from Unknown - Oct. 26, 1811
- Letter from Joseph Reed Ingersoll - May 24, 1814
- Letter from James Lyle - Sep. 8, 1817
- Letter from W. Meredith - Jan. 17, 1818
- Letter from J. Wallace - June 7, 1819
- Letter from Charles Wilkes - Aug. 29, 1821
- Letter from John Sergeant - Sep. 27, 1821
- Letter from John Ross - Oct. 24, 1821
- Letter from J. Purdon - Sep. 30, 1822
- Letter from Unknown - July 13, 1823
- Folder 05) Letter from Edward Duncan Ingraham - Aug. 13, 1824
- Letter from Unknown - Oct. 1, 1824
- Letter from Unknown - Nov. 9, 1829
- Letter from Benjamin R. Morgan - Dec. 9, 1829
- Letter from John Coates - Mar. 27, 1830
- Letter from Unknown - Feb. 26, 1831
- Letter from Joel Jones - Feb. 7, 1833
- Letter from Unknown - 1833
- Letter from Samuel Burge Rawle - Mar. 10, 1853
- Letter from Unknown - Feb. 17, 1855
- Letter from Ann Rawle - Dec. 11, 1858
- Letter from W. Meredith - Undated

BOX 1 – MC 2000.5 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Rawle, William Brooke - letters received

- Folder 06) Letter from A. Keasby - Sep. 28, 1864
Letter from William Todd Helmuth - Oct. 12, 1872
Letter from Theodore Lyman - Dec. 3, 1874
Letter from John Smith Futhey - June 21, 1877
Letter from John William Wallace - Mar. 27, 1878
Letter from George Bancroft - June 14, 1878
Letter from Eli Kirk Price - Oct. 10, 1879
Letter from Thomas C. Amory - Jan. 27, 1880
Letter from Chapman Biddle - Mar. 16, 1880
Letter from Charles Gilpin - Dec. 1, 1881
Letter from J. Hamilton - May 23, 1881
Letter from George W. Biddle - June 15, 1881
- Folder 07) Letter from John Innes Hare - Feb. 25, 1882
Letter from John Codman Ropes - May 30, 1883
Letter from John Codman Ropes - June 1, 1883
Letter from John Codman Ropes - June 21, 1883
Letter from Henry Flanders - Oct. 2, 1884
Letter from John Cortlandt Parker - May 20, 1885
Letter from Samuel C. Perkins - Feb. 21, 1887
Letter from Edward Hopper - Mar. 6, 1887
Letter from W. Ashman - Mar. 7, 1887
Letter from John Graver Johnson - Mar. 7, 1887
Letter from Samuel Maynard - Mar. 7, 1887
- Folder 08) Letter from Aubrey H. Smith - Mar. 10, 1887
Letter from J. Darling - Mar. 12, 1887
Letter from James Tyndale Mitchell - June 7, 1887
Letter from James Tyndale Mitchell - June 29, 1887
Letter from James Tyndale Mitchell - Jan. 18, 1888
Letter from Issac Norris - Mar. 10, 1888
Letter from Francis Wharton - Nov. 3, 1888
Letter from William Ernst - Jan. 4, 1889
Letter from Joseph B. Townsend - Feb. 25, 1889
Letter from Wayne Macveagh - Apr. 22, 1889
Letter from Wayne Macveagh - Apr. 26, 1889
- Folder 09) Letter from J. Spencer - Nov. 22, 1890
Letter from S. Page - Nov. 22, 1890
Letter from William White - Nov. 23, 1890
Letter from James Tyndale Mitchell - Nov. 24, 1890
Letter from C. Brown - Sep. 30, 1891
Letter from Hampton Carson - Nov. 2, 1891
Letter from Samuel C. Perkins - Mar. 23, 1892
Letter from Bois Penrose - Oct. 23, 1894

BOX 1 – MC 2000.5 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Rawle, William Brooke - letters received (cont.)

- Folder 09) Letter from William Brantly Hanna - Oct. 29, 1894
- Letter from Charles C. Binney - Feb. 28, 1895
- Letter from Frederick Carroll Brewster - Mar. 24, 1896
- Letter from Henry Martyn Hoyt - Feb. 23
- Letter from L. Cleemans - Undated
- Letters from Unknown - Undated

Rawle, William Henry - letters received

- Folder 10) Letter from Unknown - Feb. 14, 1852
- Letter from J. Biddle - Sep. 14, 1852
- Letter from William Sergeant - Apr. 19, 1853
- Letter from Edward Tilghman - July 31, 1853
- Letter from Joseph Martin - Mar. 27, 1854
- Letter from J. Thomas - Dec. 18, 1856
- Letter from Oswald Thompson - Mar. 10, 1857
- Letter from A. Fitler - May 26, 1857
- Letter from J. Wharton - Aug. 22, 1860
- Letter from J. Carpenter - Dec. 12, 1861
- Letter from Frederick Carroll Brewster - Feb. 19, 1862
- Folder 11) Letter from Cadwalader - Feb. 9, 1863
- Letter from John Meredith Read - Apr. 28, 1864
- Letter from James Armstrong - Nov. 28, 1864
- Letter from George Tucker Bispham - Jan. 30, 1867
- Letter from George W. Biddle - Dec. 1868
- Letter from George Sharswood - May 20, 1870
- Letter from Elizabeth W. Tilghman - Jan. 10, 1872
- Letter from Edward Tilghman - Apr. 17, 1876
- Letter from Theodore Cuyler - Dec. 25, 1875
- Letter from Eli Kirk Price - Nov. 17, 1880
- Letter from Francis Wharton - Mar. 3, 1881
- Folder 12) Letter from George W. Biddle - June 6, 1881
- Letter from George W. Biddle - Mar. 28, 1882
- Letter from George Sharswood - Mar. 31, 1883
- Letter from Unknown - Aug. 6, 1883
- Letter from John Chipman Gray - Apr. 22, 1884
- Letter from George W. Biddle - June 25, 1884
- Note from the Department of Justice - Oct. 31, 1887
- Letter from James Bradley Thayer - Oct. 31, 1887
- Letter from Francis Wharton - July 17, 1888
- Letter from Unknown - Mar. 23, 1890
- Letter from Henry Wharton - Undated

BOX 1 – MC 2000.5 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Miscellaneous - letters sent

- Folder 13) Letter from T. C. Amory to Unknown - June 26, 1869
Letter from H. Binney, Jr. to E. Mifflin - Feb. 23, 1869
Letter from F. C. Brightly to E. Hopper - Jan. 20, 1855
Letter from C. W. Brooke to D. Webster - Jan. 29, 1846
Letter from J. Campbell to S. H. Brooke - Mar. 20, 1877
Letter from P. Canhan to W. Rollbrook - Jan. 22, 1868
Letter from J. A. Clay to A. I. Fish - Mar. 1, 1879
Letter from T. Coxe to B. R. Morgan - May 2, 1821
Letter from T. Duncan to T. Cadwalader - Aug. 11, 1817
Letter from G. Emlen to C. Gilpin - June 3, 1843
Letter from J. Goodman to W. Craige - Nov. 1, 1851
- Folder 14) Letter from H. L. Hodge to S. H. Brooke - July 17, 1868
Letter from E. H. to Mr. Biddle - Feb. 1, 1854
Letter from E. D. Ingraham to J. C. Lowber - June 1830
Letter from E. D. Ingraham to J. P. Browne - Apr. 3, 1832
Letter from J. C. Lowber to R. Brooke - Aug. 17, 1821
Letter from R. May to R. Brooke - Nov. 29, 1802
Letter from U. Mercur to F. Rawle - Feb. 2, 1885
Letter from P. Morris to S. H. Brooke - May 15, 1876
Letter from A. Outerbridge to W. Wiltbank - Feb. 11, 1886
Letter from J. Scott to Mrs. Rawle - Mar. 9, 1855
Letter from J. Shee to C. Swift - Apr. 21, 1786
Letter from J. Thomas to J. Cadwalader - Mar. 18, 1856

This collection register was prepared by Amy McKinzie, May 2000.