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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Barden Family Papers
Date: 1842-1934
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0824
Creator: Barden, Henry, 1806-1871
Barden, William Wallace, 1843-1932
Extent: 3 Cubic feet (8 boxes)
Language: English
Summary: Business correspondence of homeopathic physicians Henry Barden and his son, William Wallace Barden, of Penn Yan, New York and Barden Family correspondence.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Collection purchased at auction from R.M. Smythe Company, New York, New York.

Processing Information
The collection was processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, 2018.

Preferred Citation
Barden Family Papers, 1820s-1930s, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access
The collection is open for research.

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Biographical Note

Henry Barden (1806-1871) graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, in 1833, and began practice in Benton, New York, locating finally in Penn Yan about 1840. Henry Barden married Caroline Purdy and they had two children, Helen J. (nee Barden) Van Wyck (1840-1915) and William Wallace Barden.

William Wallace Barden (1843-1932) was born in Penn Yan, New York. He graduated from Philadelphia University Homeopathic Medical College and Schools of Pharmacy, Dentistry and Chemistry in 1869.
Scope and Contents

The collection consists of business correspondence of homeopathic physicians Henry Barden and his son, William Wallace Barden, of Penn Yan, New York. The collection also contains personal correspondence to and from extended family members in New York State and the Midwest, specifically Michigan. The business correspondence contains orders for products, requests for medical advice, and testimonials from satisfied customers. Many of the order envelopes are annotated by Barden. Materials are both handwritten and typescript.

Arrangement

A rough arrangement was imposed by Sarah Markham prior to auction by R.M. Smythe Company, Inc., circa 2000. The collection is divided into two series. The contents of Series 1: Family Correspondence are arranged alphabetically by surname of the individual to whom the correspondence was addressed. Series 2: Business Correspondence is arranged chronologically. The original arrangement was retained. The letters were removed from their associated envelopes and flattened, but remain together.

Series 1: Family Correspondence, 1842-1934
Series 2: Business Correspondence, 1856-1892

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
- Alternative medicine
- Homeopathy
- Patent medicines

Types of Materials:
- Business records -- 19th century
- Business records -- 20th century
- Correspondence -- 19th century
- Correspondence -- 20th century
- Family papers
- Photographs -- 1890-1900
Container Listing

Series 1: Family Correspondence, 1842-1934

Box 1, Folder 1  
Caroline Barden, 1889-1891

Box 1, Folder 2  
Henry Barden, 1842-1874

Box 1, Folder 3  
Henry Barden (writings), 1869

Box 1, Folder 4-5  
To Helen Barden Van Wyck from Wallace W. Barden, 1888-1911

Box 1, Folder 6  
James P. Barden and Wallace W. Barden, 1855-1873

Box 1, Folder 7  
To Wallace Barden from Helen Barden Van Wyck, 1870-1902

Box 1, Folder 8  
To Wallace Barden from various Barden cousins, 1872-1878  
Notes: Includes: James P. Barden, Uncle Otis Barden, William M. Barden and M.M. Holladay.

Box 1, Folder 9  
To Wallace W. Barden from Henry Barden and Caroline Barden, 1866-1870

Box 1, Folder 10  
To William W. Barden from Wallace Barden, 1860-1883

Box 2, Folder 1-3  
To the Barden Family about Michigan land, 1868-1885  
Notes: Correspondence relates to land in Allegan County, Michigan and Otsego, Michigan belonging to the Barden family. Topics include: rent, timber cutting, and trading farms.

Box 2, Folder 4  
To William W. Barden about Michigan land, 1868-1885

Box 2, Folder 5  
Barden Family (miscellaneous documents), 1842-1890  
Notes: Includes: correspondence with Betsy Barden, Sally Barden, Susan Barden, Henry Barden, and deeds.

Box 2, Folder 6-9  
To Wallace W. Barden, 1869-1921

Box 3, Folder 1-6  
To Helen Barden Van Wyck, 1884-1915  
Notes: Includes photographs (Lake Colby and Saranac Lake, New York, 1896) and a small notebook.

Box 3, Folder 7  
To Maria Loomis, 1862-1869

Box 3, Folder 8  
To William H. "Will" Loomis from Wallace Barden, 1866-1893

Box 3, Folder 9-10  
To William Loomis, 1866-1874
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 1-2</th>
<th>To William Loomis, 1866-1874</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 3-4</td>
<td>To William Loomis from Helen Barden Van Wyck, 1864-1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 5</td>
<td>To Van Wyck Loomis, 1864-1893</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Box 4, Folder 6-8| To Susan H. Pursy Means and George Sherwood Means, 1880-1934  
Notes: Includes index cards documenting medical services rendered. |
| Box 5, Folder 1  | To Ceresa Sloan from William Loomis, 1870s  
Notes: Letters document courtship between Sloan and Loomis. |
### Series 2: Business Correspondence, 1856-1892

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1856-1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 3-4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1869-1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 5-8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1871-1872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 1-2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 4-6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 7-8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1877</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1879</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1881</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1882</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1883</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1884</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, 1888-1889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 9-11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Orders, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence and invoices to agents (Barden's Condensed Family Medicines), 1863-1871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Suppliers and shipping companies, 1870-1892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Testimonials, 1863-1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Empty envelopes, 1864-1885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Empty envelopes, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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