



Fairfield Museum and History Center Library
370 Beach Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Manuscript Finding Aid

Title: Fairfield County Agricultural Society. Records

Collection #: Ms B90

Dates: 1840-1851

Size of Collection: .5 linear ft (1 box, 2 oversize items)

Accession Number: L1997.25

Donor: David S. Huntington

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Barbara Austen

Date: June 1997

Biographical/ historical note:

The Fairfield County Agricultural Society was founded in August 1840 at a meeting in the County Court House in Fairfield. It was part of a state-wide effort to increase and improve agriculture under the auspices of the General Assembly. An annual fair, held in various towns, gave county farmers a chance to exhibit their produce and livestock, win premiums, and learn the latest techniques. Membership was open to any resident of Fairfield County, and only members could enter the annual competition. In 1867 the Society purchased land in Norwalk for a permanent fairground. In 1875 the Society was reorganized under a charter from the Legislature as a joint stock company. The final disposition of the organization is unknown.

Scope and content note:

The collection is organized into two series representing administration of the society and annual fairs/exhibitions, respectively. Administrative records consist of

several copies of the Society's constitution, with signatures of the members and their dues payment, 1840-1841; member and subscription lists, 1843; minutes of meetings and a series of resolutions, 1843-1844; correspondence between various members and officers, including Phineas T. Barnum, 1840-1850; treasurers' records, 1843-1849; and bills and receipts, 1843-1849, including bills for labor during annual fairs and for printing premiums, etc.

Annual fair records consist of premium lists, n.d.; committee reports and premium lists, 1843-1846, 1850; pay vouchers for premiums due, 1843; statements and certificates attesting to competition entries, 1841, 1849, 1851; and bills, receipts and other records from the 1844 cattle show.

Series A. Administrative Records, 1840-1850

Series B. Annual Fair Records, 1841-1851

FAIRFIELD COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
Records, 1840-1851

Series A. Administrative Records, 1840-1850

- Folder 1. Constitution, 1840
- Folder 2. Membership and subscription lists, 1843
- Folder 3. Minutes, 1843-1844
- Folder 4. Correspondence, 1840
- Folder 5. Correspondence, 1841
- Folder 6. Correspondence, 1842
- Folder 7. Correspondence, 1843
- Folder 8. Correspondence, 1844-1850
- Folder 9. Treasurers' records, 1843-1849
- Folder 10. Bills and receipts, 1843-1846
- Folder 11. Bills and receipts, 1847-1849

Series B. Annual Fair Records, 1841-1851

- Folder 1. Premium lists, 1846-1848
- Folder 2. Committee reports and premium lists, 1843
- Folder 3. Committee reports, 1844
- Folder 4. Premium lists, 1844
- Folder 5. Committee reports, 1845
- Folder 6. Committee reports, 1846
- Folder 7. Committee reports, 1850
- Folder 8. Payment vouchers, 1843
- Folder 9. Certificates of authenticity, 1841, 1849
- Folder 10. Statements and certificates of authenticity, 1851

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Subject headings:

Agricultural exhibitions--Conn.--Fairfield County
Agriculture--Conn.--Fairfield County--Societies, etc.
Fairs

Barnum, Phineas Taylor, 1810-1891