



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

Manuscript Finding Aid

Title: The Southport Savings Bank. Records
Collection #: Ms B76
Dates: 1854-1977
Size of Collection: 2 linear ft (2 boxes, 19 oversize volumes)
Accession Number: L96.42 (L96 Nov 84)
Donor: Derby Anderson
Restrictions: None
Processed by: Barbara E Austen
Date: November 1996

Biographical/ historical note:

Derby Anderson's father, Nils, purchased the Southport Savings Bank building on Main Street in Southport in 1981; Derby is currently (1997) renovating the building and uses it for his law office. While cleaning out the building, he discovered these materials and donated them to the Historical Society.

The Southport Savings Bank was the creation of 52 prominent men in the village of Southport. They obtained a charter from the Connecticut General Assembly and elected officers. The first president was Frederick Marquand; vice presidents were William Wakeman, Edwin Sherwood, and Augustus Jennings; the secretary/treasurer was Francis D. Perry. Elected as trustees were Joseph Alvord, George Bulkley, O. H. Perry, Moses Bulkley, Ebenezer Jesup, Simon Sherwood, William Bulkley, Allen Nichols, Jonathan Godfrey, Samuel A. Nichols, Williams Bibbins, and John Gould.

The bank opened for business on September 25, 1854 in part of the National Bank

building. The trustees authorized construction of a building on Main Street in 1863, and two years later the bank moved into its own quarters. The structure boasted two vaults and an electric burglar alarm. On July 1, 1955, the bank merged with Bridgeport-People's Savings Bank.

The Improvement Association of Fairfield and Vicinity, a membership organization, formed in 1912 for the purposes of eradicating mosquitoes by eliminating breeding grounds and educating the public about the pests. The organization evidently foundered around 1920 and was reorganized in 1922. Charles B. Jennings was the treasurer of the organization as well as Secretary/ Treasurer of the Southport Savings Bank. The Improvement Association worked closely with the Fairfield health department and its head, Dr. Valery Havard.

Scope and content note:

The collection is arranged in two sub-groups to represent the organizations whose records are included. Sub-group I encompasses the records of the Southport Savings Bank, 1854-1977. Series A consists of legal records, including copies of the Act of Incorporation, 1854, with an 1931 amendment; by-laws and revisions, 1914, 1950, and a record of the vote of the Board, 1911; lists of officers and trustees; minutes of the Executive Board, 1955-1966; and deeds, 1860, 1869.

Depositors' records, 1877-1955, which include descriptions such as "employed at", or "son of," are organized chronologically in Series B. An earlier volume, from 1854-1875, is in Ms B47, Bank Books. Collateral loan records, 1957-1975, are arranged in Series C. Series D consists of a classification of accounts, 1940-1949; statements of condition, 1912, 1945-1954; bills and receipts, 1854-1895, including bills for the telegraph burglar alarm, safes, and other building materials; tax deposits and dividends, 1867-1868; canceled checks, 1865-1879; and blank stationary and forms, n.d. Correspondence, 1854-1966, is arranged chronologically in Series E.

Materials collected and written for the 100th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the bank are arranged in Series F. These include historic and contemporary photographs of the bank, its displays for the celebration, and historic sites and events in Southport; press releases; newspaper clippings; and historical publications, 1954. Series G consists of assorted materials, including HABS drawings of the bank building, 1966; publicity about decorating the Christmas tree outside the bank, 1965-1977; and various printed items.

The records of the Improvement Association of Fairfield and Vicinity, are arranged in Sub-group II. They include a manuscript working copy of the constitution, and correspondence, 1922, concerning the duties of treasurer; the treasurer's account book, 1912-1932; a check book, 1922-1940; labor accounts and an inventory of tools stored in someone's barn, 1917-1924; minutes and treasurer's reports, 1914, 1922; correspondence, primarily concerning the payment of bills, 1914-1916; and bills and receipts, 1917-1925.

SOUTHPORT SAVINGS BANK
Records, 1854-1977

Box 1

Sub-Group I. Southport Savings Bank Records, 1854-1977

Series A. Legal Records, 1854-1966

- Folder 1. Act of incorporation, 1854; amendment, 1931
- Folder 2. By-laws, 1914, 1950; vote of board, 1911
- Folder 3. Lists of board members and officers, 1949-1950
- Folder 4. Minutes of executive board, 1955-1966
- Folder 5. Deeds, 1860, 1869, 1952

Series B. Depositors' Records, 1877-1955

- Volume 1. Records of "First Deposit," 1877-1901
- Volume 2. " " " " 1902-1924
- Volume 3. " " " " 1924-1955

Series C. Loan Records, 1957-1975

- Volume 1-16. Collateral loan records, 1957-1975

Series D. Accounts, statements, bills and receipts, 1854-1954

- Folder 1. Classification of accounts, 1940-1954
- Folder 2. Statements of condition, 1912, 1945-1954
- Folder 3. Bills and receipts, 1854-1856, 1864
- Folder 4. " " " 1867
- Folder 5. " " " 1868-1869
- Folder 6. " " " 1874-1895
- Folder 7. Tax deposits and dividends, 1867-1868
- Folder 8. Canceled checks, 1864-1865, related to new building
- Folder 9-10. Canceled checks, 1865-1900
- Folder 11. Blank stationery and forms, n.d.

Series E. Correspondence, 1854-1966

- Folder 1. 1854-1859
- Folder 2. 1860-1867
- Folder 3. 1869
- Folder 4. 1870-1873
- Folder 5. 1874-1875
- Folder 6. 1876-1877
- Folder 7. 1878-1886
- Folder 8. 1887-1894
- Folder 9. 1904-1956, 1966

SOUTHPORT SAVINGS BANK
Records, 1854-1977

Box 1 (cont.)

Sub-group I (cont.).

- Series F. 100th Anniversary Materials, 1954
- Folder 1. Historical data, 1954
 - Folder 2. Biographical notes, 1954
 - Folder 3. Press releases, 1954
 - Folder 4. Information and data compiled for booklet, 1954

Box 2

- Folder 5-7. Photographs gathered for booklet, 1954
- Folder 8. Booklets, 1954
- Folder 9. Publicity and events photographs, 1954
- Folder 10. News clippings, 1954
- Folder 11-12. Photographs of Southport scenes

- Series G. Assorted materials, 1862, 1899, 1965-1977
- Folder 1. HABS architectural drawings, 1966
 - Folder 2. Publicity about decorating the Christmas tree, 1965-1977
 - Folder 3. Letter of administration, 1862; Oaklawn Cemetery Assoc. pamphlet, 1899

Sub-group II. Improvement Association of Fairfield and Vicinity Records, 1912-1940

- Folder 1. Constitution and correspondence, 1922
- Folder 2. Treasurer's account book, 1912-1932
- Folder 3. Items removed from treasurer's account
- Folder 4. Check book, 1922-1940
- Folder 5-6. Labor accounts, 1917-1924
- Folder 7. Membership information, n.d.
- Folder 8. Motions and treasurer's reports, 1917, 1922
- Folder 9-10. Correspondence, 1914-1924
- Folder 11-13. Bills and receipts, 1917-1925

SOUTHPORT SAVINGS BANK
Records, 1854-1977

Subject headings:

Account books--Conn.--Fairfield
Bank accounts--Conn.--Southport
Bank buildings--Conn.--Southport
Banks and banking--Conn.--Southport
Insect pests--Control--Conn.--Fairfield
Manual labor--Conn.--Fairfield
Mosquitoes--Control--Conn.--Fairfield
Public health--Conn.--Fairfield
Salt-marshes--Conn.--Fairfield
Southport (Conn.)--History--1849-1877
Southport (Conn.)--History--1898-

Havard, Valery, d. ca. 1930
Improvement Association of Fairfield & Vicinity, Inc. (Fairfield, Conn.)
Jennings, Charles Bulkley, 1865-1950
Marquand, Frederick, 1799-1882
Perry, Oliver Henry, 1815-1882