

Isaac & Silas Ludlam Papers (1744—CA. 1870's)
ArMs 1973.226

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OCR by Sarah Steele, January 2008

MANUSCRIPT SECTION
LONG ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Register 3

Isaac & Silas Ludlam Papers (1744—CA. 1870's)

Accession number: 1973.226

Linear inches of shelf space occupied: .75

Number of items: 73

Source and date: donation of Ralph Ludlam, 1954.

The Isaac and Silas Ludlam Papers document the surveying activities of the Ludlams in Brooklyn between 1826 and 1839. During this period both men were frequently sought out to perform a variety of surveying chores by public officials of the Village, and later the City, of Brooklyn, and by private citizens.

Processed by: Robert Sink (Brooklyn Rediscovery)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The Ludlam Family has a long history of serving as Surveyors for the Village and City of Brooklyn. Stephen Ludlam was the first, being appointed in 1809. He was followed by his son Silas in 1834, his grandson Austin in 1880 and his greatgrandson Ralph (the donor of these papers) in 1911.

Very little is known however, about the lives of Isaac and Silas Ludlam. Isaac is listed in the New York City directory as a City Surveyor for that city, and in 1834 Silas appears in the directory with the same address as Isaac, James Street in New York City. Their family and business relationship is unknown. Silas (1806-1892) was born in New York City and began working as a surveyor in 1827. Stiles' History of the City of Brooklyn states that Silas moved to Brooklyn in 1827, but he does not appear in the Brooklyn Directory for another 20 years. According to Stiles, Silas worked exclusively in Brooklyn after 1848 and thus became an authority on old Brooklyn. The present Ludlam Place in Brooklyn is named in his honor.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Although the Ludlam collection contains 73 items from 1744 to 1880, the bulk of it consists of 69 letters received by the Ludlams between 1826 and 1839, requesting that the Ludlams provide surveying services. Approximately 25% of the letters are addressed to Isaac, three items are directed to Silas and nearly 20% are addressed to the both of them. It is impossible to determine the addressee of the rest of the letters.

The writers of these letters include many prominent citizens of nineteenth-century Brooklyn. Gabriel Furman, Richard Stanton, Fanning C. Tucker, R.V.W. Thorne and Henry Waring all served on the Village Board of Trustees or, later, on the Board of Aldermen. Joshua Sands, Joseph Sprague and Jonathon Trotter served as President of the Village or as Mayor of the City of Brooklyn. Charles Doughty was the Clerk to the Board of Trustees. Nearly 20% of the letters are clearly requests from Brooklyn officials for surveys, but undoubtedly, additional letters involve official matters without explicitly stating so. The requests from private citizens ask for surveys of land to be sold, or for maps of their land holdings, or for estimates on the amount of fill needed to grade their property. Most of these letters concern matters in Brooklyn Heights, but a few relate to the Bedford section.

COLLECTION 1973.226

Correspondence Received

- f. 1 A-B
 - James Bankard, 1833, re: a map of the property owned by Mr. Casthelas.
 - Brooklyn and Jamaica Railroad, n.d., re: the grade of Powers Street.
 - Brooklyn and Jamaica Railroad, 1835, re: the grade of Atlantic Street.

- f. 2 James B. Clarke
 - n.d., requesting a survey of Mr. Walsey's dock and property.
 - n.d., requesting a sketch of the Bedford Turnpike Road.
 - 1830, requesting that 8 lots be laid out on the Nicholas Cornel property on Bedford Road, written on the back of a note from David Tallman to JBC.
 - 1832, requesting surveys of the Carney property on Bedford Road, 2 items.

- f. 3 C-G
 - H. Carey, 1833, requesting a survey of his property and that of Mr. Lyon.
 - William R. Dean, 1831, requesting a survey of the Jay Street lots owned by Mr. B. Aymar & Co.
 - William Degraw, 1831, the Commissioners of Highways request a profile of Henry Street
 - Charles Doughty, n.d. requests a survey of property on Fulton Street.
 - Charles Doughty, 1829, requesting data on Henry Street.
 - D.B. Douglass, n.d., regarding the grade of Atlantic Street.
 - Rich. Duryee, n.d., requests that his lots be staked out.
 - G. Furman, 1835, the Street Committee requests a map of Livingston Street.
 - John Greenwood, 1834, regarding the opening of Market Street.
 - Geo. Grier, 1834, regarding the filling of his Pacific Street property.

- f. 4 Hamilton H. Jackson
 - 1826, information on Jackson Street.
 - 1833, regarding the Glass Company property.
 - 1839, regarding maps for the meadows.
 - 1839, requests for a meeting, 2 items.

- f. 5 K-L
 - D. Kimberly, 1833, requests a survey and map for the widening of Fulton Street for the Commissioners of Estimate and Assessment.
 - D. Leavitt, n.d., regarding a profile of Columbia Street.
 - D. Leavitt, 1826 or 1827, a request by the Street Committee for a survey of Willow and Washington Streets.

- f. 6 Pierrepont Family
 - H. B. Pierpont, 1829, payment of services.
 - H. B. Pierpont, 1831, regarding Pierrepont Street.

Henry E. Pierrepont, 1831, requesting a profile of Pierrepont Street.
Henry E. Pierrepont, 1831, regarding the staking of Mr. Casthilaz' property.

f. 7 P-R

Pine & Van Antwerp, 1834, regarding a profile of Clinton Avenue.
Wm. Peters, 1839, requesting a survey of the property at Plymouth and Little Streets.
Robert Pettit, 1835, regarding the grade of Atlantic Street.
J. Rapelye, n.d., regarding the profile of Clinton Street.
J. Rapelye, n.d., requesting a survey of Ralph Patchem's property.
J. Rapelye, 1831, requesting a survey of Henry Street for Charles Hoyt.
Philip Reid, 1836, regarding property on Degraw Street.

f. 8 Sands Family

A. L. Sands, 1832, memo regarding the bulkheads.
A. L. Sands, 1833, regarding a survey of Water Street.
Joshua Sands, n.d., requesting a survey of the land for a new market and also a profile of Middagh Street.
Joshua Sands, nd., regarding the staking out of the Pineapple Street improvements.
Joshua Sands, 1826, and n.d., regarding a profile of Water Street, 2 items
Joshua Sands, 1827, regarding the property on Front and York Streets.
Joshua Sands, 1831, regarding a copy of the Navy Yard map for Mr. Stevens.
Samuel B. M. Sands, n.d., regarding an unidentified map and the placement of stakes.
Samuel B. M. Sands, n.d., regarding the division of property on Middagh St

f.9 S

J. Sprague, 1829, requesting the placement of stakes for the paving of Henry Street.
Richard Stanton, 1829, requesting a meeting with the Street Committee regarding Pearl Street.
Richard Stanton, 1829, requesting a meeting.
Richard Stanton, 1831, regarding the dimensions of the Stanton property.
G. Suckley, 1827, regarding charges for filling in property.
R. Sukely, 1827, regarding property on Brooklyn Heights.

f. 10 Strong and Butler Property Owners

1833, request for a survey, signed by 13 owners.

f. 11 Fanning C. Tucker

1829, Street Committee requests for meetings, 2 items.
1830, regarding complaints about the High Street survey, 2 items.
1830, introduction to R. Thorne.
1830, Street Committee requests to establish the southern line of the Village, 2 items.

f. 12 T—Z

R. V. W. Thorne, 1830, the Street Committee requests a meeting.

R. V. W. Thorne, 1831, regarding the staking out of Jay Street.

Adam Tredwell, n.d., requesting the staking out of property at Remsen and Henry Streets.

Jon. Trotter, n.d., requesting some maps.

Tucker and Carter, 1831 and 1832, regarding the boundary of the ropewalk, 2 items.

Adrian Vanderveer, 1834, regarding Parmentiers' Garden.

Henry Waring, 1829, the Street Committee requests a meeting to lay out the curb for Pearl Street.

f. 13 Miscellaneous

Copy of the survey of the East Line done in 1744 by "H.W."

Affadavit by Jacob Parchen concerning Market Street opening, 1834.

Subpoena to Maurice Wakeman, 1839.

Note on the boundary of the property sold by Sam'l Jackson to Henry Waring.

Copy of an early map of Brooklyn, printed ca. 1870's.