

Jacob W. Elseffer Collection

Finding Aid produced March 20, 2018

Repository

Historic Red Hook
7562 North Broadway
Red Hook, NY 12571

Title

Jacob W. Elseffer Collection

Accession Number

2018.005

Processed By

Unknown

Creator(s)

Jacob W. Elseffer

Extent

Three document boxes, 1.25 linear feet total

Dates [bulk]

1845-1893

Dates [inclusive]

1845-1893

Conditions Governing Access

No restrictions

Languages

English

Scope and Content

The collection consists of three document boxes, two with three ledgers each, one with papers including correspondence, photographs, accounts and receipts, legal papers and misc pamphlets and flyers.

Biographical/Historical Note

Jacob W. Elseffer was a lawyer in Red Hook in the 19th century. His large gracious home stood where the former CVS drug store (and A&P supermarket before that) was located on North Broadway across from the post office. Born September 6, 1822, he died in 1907 at age 85, at that time the oldest practicing attorney in the county. He apprenticed with Judge Rowley of Upper Red Hook instead of going to college, and was admitted to the bar in 1845. He was the organizer of the First National Bank of Red Hook and was elected President. He also served as a director and attorney for the bank. As attorney and solicitor, he regularly appeared before the Dutchess County Supreme Court. Elseffer was a Democrat in politics and a member of the fraternity of F & AM, and was made a member of the Monumental Lodge No. 374 at the first meeting in April 1866. He was master of the Lodge in 1860 and through his efforts the Lodge,

which had not been thriving, was moved to Tivoli and became prosperous. At the time of his death he was the oldest Lodge member and Senior Past Master.

Provenance

The Elseffer property was sold after his death and the house and antique shop behind it (Anderson Wagon House Antiques) were torn down in the 1960s. Maynard Ham and his father saved what they could,. The documents were bound together in bundles. Maynard Ham brought the papers were brought to EBHS in 1998.

The ledgers were lent to the Rhinebeck Historical Society in 1975 by Robert Wolfert of Rhinebeck. In 1976 he noted that the ledgers should be donated to RHS and if a historical society was formed in Red Hook, that they be donated to that organization.

Subject Headings

Lawyers, Monumental Lodge, First National Bank, Dutchess County Supreme Court

Copyright Notice

Courtesy of Historic Red Hook

Related Materials

- Photographs of his house on North Broadway are in the Historic Houses Collection – 2015.008. 150, 151, 154, 156, 167, 171
- Genealogy folder 'Elseffer' in Genealogy drawer.

Container List

2018.005.010 - Box 1 of 3 – See attached Collection List.

(includes unidentified tintype portraits as well as photos of houses on Fraleigh Street, Red Hook Post Office dedication and Max's Memphis BBQ restaurant (2018.005.001-.009)

2018.005.011 - Box 2 of 3 – Three ledgers:

1) Cardboard bound - Register No. 1 – 1845-1856 - 192 pages
– Elseffer cases listed - Attorney & Solicitor, Dutchess County
Supreme Court

2) Leather bound Register # 2 - 1856-1864 – 269 pages

3) Leather bound Register # 4 – 1874-1876, index, 82 written pages, and three at back with clippings, obits.

2018.005.012 - Box 3 of 3

1) Leather bound Ledger - 1857-1876, index, 156 pages

2) Cardboard bound Checkbook – stubs for 1864-65 Red Hook
NY Bank of Rhinebeck – bland checks

3) Leather bound Daybook # 3 – 1863-1872, 266 pages