

Dan Spafford Giffin Collection

Dan Spafford Giffin was born in Heuvelton, NY, in 1837 and died there in 1907, in the same house in which he was born and raised. He was the son of Nathan F. Giffin, one of the first settlers in the area. During his life, Dan Giffin worked as a teacher, merchant and, for more than forty years, lawyer. He also fought as a Union soldier in the Civil War. Giffin married Mary C. Shepard, giving him a relationship to both the Shepard and Butterfield families, and had two sons and a daughter. He was also an avid writer of history and poetry.

The D.S. Giffin collection was donated to the St. Lawrence Historical Society by Florence Giffin Johnson (formerly Martin), who was Giffin's granddaughter. The collection contains a great deal of personal correspondence between Giffin, his wife, and their relatives, as well as personal pocket diaries, legal documents from Giffin's years as an attorney or relating to the family, and Giffin's historical writings. There is also some genealogical information on the Giffins, Shepards, and Butterfields, as well as family photos.

Organized by Tanya Justham
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Box 1

*Scrapbook/diary-"A Commonplace Book" writings and memorabilia of Dan S. Giffin and wife Mary

*A Story of a Pioneer Life by D. S. Giffin (1898) four soft cover and two hard cover, book of poems with a letter from Florence Giffin Johnson donating the books to the historical society.

Box 2 – folders

1. Photo Collection – two folders of family pictures – Riches, Whitneys, Giffins, Butterfields and Shepards
2. Heuvelton History – "Reminiscences of Heuvelton, St. Lawrence Co. NY" by D. S. Giffin (1903, manuscript) recollections of oldtimers in Heuvelton compiled by S. D. S.
3. Butterfield Family – genealogy and family information on the Butterfields including copies of the family bible, more information can be found in the family files
4. Shepard Family – genealogy and family information on the Butterfields including copies of the family bible, more information can be found in the family files
5. Family Correspondence – personal letters, mostly between Mary Shepard Giffin and her relatives
6. Genealogy Correspondence – letters between Florence Giffin Johnson and various Shepard, Giffin and Butterfield cousins on family history and genealogy
7. Miscellaneous – history of turmoil in China in 1900, Family deeds, original obituary for D. S. Giffin in the Ogdensburg Advance
8. Dan S. Giffin Poems – poems written (typed) by D. S. G. in later part of his life; poems are about family, death, etc

Box 3

- Pocket Diary 1859
- Pocket Diary 1861
- Pocket sized New Testament-presented to D. S. Giffin by his mother in 1854
- Pocket Diary 1862 – various newspaper clippings in pages
- Excelsior pocket diary 1901 – Elizabeth A. Russel Wood "Aunt Libby"
- Pocket Diary 1860
- Pocket Diary 1869 – Mary C. Giffin, contains temperance coin in pocket
- Class Book – grades and lessons from when D. S. Giffin taught in Ogdensburg
- Six framed pictures of the Rich family members
- A picture of Dan s. Giffin at 25

Box 4

- Miscellaneous writings – poems and writing by D. S. Giffin and discussion of 1888 Campaign

- D. S. Giffin's civil war papers, contains information on a court martial
- D. S. Giffin's very long description of the Great Italian War
- Papers on mathematical problems and discussions
- Family genealogy sheet

Box 5 – Personal Letters

- Large collection of letters between D. S. Giffin and his wife, mostly during the civil war
- Letters to D. S. Giffin while attending Union College in 1857
- Family communications of D. S. Giffin and Mary C. S. Giffin

Box 6 – Legal Documents

- Deeds and other legal papers relating to family members
- Legal documents and court documents from D. S. Giffin's cases while a practicing lawyer