

ANTHON'S NOTES

A Special Collection in

The Archives and Library of the

THE STATEN ISLAND MUSEUM

75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, New York 10301

Arranged and Described by

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PROVENANCE:

The notebooks were known to Staten Island historians, especially R.M. Bayles, the 19th century County Historian, as well as the genealogist/historian, William Pelletreau, both of whom had access to them during the 19th century.

At that time Alfred de Groot, a Staten Islander, made a partial manuscript copy of them which he lent to Mr. Charles Gilbert Hine who made a type-written copy. (This copy, now bound and indexed, is also a part of this collection.)

The original notebooks disappeared from view for many years. Early in the 1920's they were given to the Institute by Mr. Stuyvesant Fish, a descendant of Peter Stuyvesant and of the author of Anthon's Notes through his mother, Marian Graves Anthon. He also gave his permission to the Institute, through a member of the Institute, Mr. John M. Shaw, for their publication in the Institute's Proceedings, which commenced in 1924 and concluded in 1932. (Acc. No. 1952, 1923)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

George C. Anthon (1734-1815) born in Salgungen, Germany. Examination for surgeon, 1750, at Eigenach; again at Amsterdam, 1754. Employed by Dutch West India Company, entered as surgeon on board the Vrow Anna to Surinam.

1757, returned to Amsterdam; bound to Surinam on board same vessel and went to Port au Prince. Underway, captured by British privateer out of New York, carried into New York and condemned.

1758, appointed assistant surgeon, General British Hospital, Albany, N.Y., Sir James Napier, head. Later appoint assistant surgeon to British Army.

1760, detached with a party that took possession of Detroit, Michigan. Remained here working as a doctor and surgeon. Taken prisoner by Kickapoo Indians and later released. Subsequently returned to Detroit as surgeon for Indians; appointed by General Haldman to be garrison surgeon.

1770, married Mariana Navarre (1737-1773) and in 1778, married Genevieve Jadot. Family eventually moved to New York (1786), after the births of four children. He became a trustee of Columbia College.

1815, at his death, his second wife had borne him twelve children of whom seven were still alive: George (1781-1865), John (1784-1863), Jane (1791-1859), Henry (1795-1861), Charles (1797-1867), William (1799-1831), Edward (1805-1830). Of these, the best-known were: John (see below); Henry who was born in New York, and became an Episcopal clergyman and rector/historian of St Marks Church; and Charles, also New York-born, became a professor of Classical languages at Columbia College in 1820 and the author of many texts and dictionaries (three examples of which are in this Collection). Of these three sons, Charles alone remained a bachelor.

John Anthon (1784-1863) born in Detroit. Attended Columbia College from which he graduated as a lawyer in 1801.

1806-09, he opened a law office in Manhattan, becoming one of the most well-known lawyers of his generation.

1810-, John married Miss Judith Hone, daughter of John Hone of New York City.

1839, he came to Staten Island to live, purchasing an estate, Aquehonga, on Grymes Hill. At least three of his sons come with him:

John Hone Anthon 1819-1874

Charles Edward Anthon 1822-1883

William Henry Anthon 1827-1875

Charles Edward Anthon is generally assumed to be the author of these Notes, although the notebooks themselves indicate that the father, John, may have started them. The varied handwriting that occurs suggests that other family members may have helped. Charles was Professor of History and Belles Lettres at the College of the City of New York, and at Annapolis, Maryland. He was also a dedicated numismatist. He continued to visit Staten Island long after Aquehonga was sold in 1854/5. He would take long walks, accumulating data for the notebooks.

SCOPE & CONTENT:

The Anthon's Notes are nine bound ledgers in which the Anthons (see biography) recorded their interviews with Staten Islanders between the years 1840 and 1865. The purpose of these interviews was to discover family reminiscences about the Revolutionary War years on Staten Island and record something about life on Staten Island during those years especially. The eventual use of these notes was to be in the compilation of a history of Staten Island.

The notes were edited and published in the Institute's Proceedings which is indexed. They appear beginning with the Volume III, Parts 1 to 4 and conclude with Volume VI, Parts 2 to 4 (1924-32). However, it must be emphasized that these are edited notes and the researcher should repair to the original manuscripts for full citation. This is eased by the use of the index in the cumulative catalog in the Institute's Archives and Library.

Some of the subjects covered are skirmishes on Staten Island during the Revolutionary War, slavery, farming and industries on the island during those and subsequent years, and addenda to local family histories.

The genealogy of the Anthon family, prepared by Charles E. Anthon and recorded in a matching ledger, was purchased in the 1960's and added to the collection. (Acc. No. LI 65-10)

Also stored with the diaries and recorded notes is the typescript of the notes copied by Charles Gilbert Hine from a copy made by Alfred de Groot.

The collection also preserves a Latin Grammar and Greek Reader by Charles Anthon as well as "Anthon's Dictionary." The obituary for Charles Edward Anthon completes the collection.

This collection comprises two cubic feet and is open, with one exception: Book D needs rebinding, and therefore limited use will be made.

ANTHON'S NOTES COLLECTION

Box Inventories:

Box 1/3

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| 1864 | Genealogy of the Anthon Family |
| 1734 | The children of George Christian Anthon |
| 1683- | Book A – Notebook of Professor Charles Anthon in
Relation to the History of Staten Island |
| 1839- | Book B - - do - |
| 1700 | Book C - - do - |
| 17 th c. | Book D - - do - |
| 18 th c. | Book E - - do - |
| 1851 | Clerk of the Common Council |
| 1655 | Narrative: Indian Massacre of 1665 |
| 1850 | Book F, G – Inquiries into the history of Staten Island |
| 1826 | Book I - - do - |
| 1860 | Book H – Researches among printed books continued in the Library of the
N-YHS and elsewhere |
| 1911 | Copy made by Charles Gilbert Hine (1850, 1851 notes) |

Box 2/3

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| 1843 | A Greek Reader by Charles Anthon |
| 1844 | Anthon's Latin Grammar |
| 1871 | Anthon's Dictionary |
| 1884 | Obituary of Charles Edward Anthon |

Box 3/3

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| 1925-1930 | Proceedings of the S.I. Institute of Arts & Sciences
Edited version of Anthon's Notes as published in the
Proceedings for those years. Vol. III; IV; V; VI. |
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