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Hiram Sibley

Research Guide

SCOPE

This guide is intended to direct patrons to resources about Hiram Sibley in the Rochester Central Public Library. Materials on Mr. Sibley that are available for checkout from other divisions are also listed below. Ask at the reference desk if you have any questions about a particular item. For clarification of the following information, please ask at the reference desk. For more of the library's holdings on Mr. Sibley, check with other divisions.

Note: Restrictions may apply to the use of some of these materials. Please ask the librarian if you have any questions.

INTRODUCTION

Born in 1807 in Massachusetts, Hiram Sibley came to Western New York while still a teenager. An enterprising young man, in 1828 Sibley began a machine shop in Mendon, and later started a wool carding business at Mt. Morris and Sparta, among other business ventures. He was elected sheriff of Monroe County in 1843. Mechanically gifted, Sibley became interested in the telegraph experiments being done by Samuel Morse and Stephen Vail and helped petition Congress for funds to construct a telegraph line from Washington to Baltimore. He went on to consolidate the telegraph industry, and became the first president of Western Union in 1856. In his later years, Sibley started a seed supply company where he engineered seeds that produced more robust plants. Sibley was also a philanthropist, helping to incorporate Cornell University and providing the University of Rochester with its first library building in the 1870s.

Key

L/H = Local History Division (these materials do not circulate)

BUS = Business & Social Sciences Division – 4th floor, Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building (these materials circulate and may be checked out)

HIS = Science, History, and Travel Division – 3rd floor, Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building (these materials circulate and may be checked out)

LIT = Literature and Media Division – 1st floor, Rundel Public Library Building (these materials circulate and may be checked out)

BOOKS

General Reference

- L/H
Rr920.0747
B261f
Barnes, Joseph W. *4 Score and 4 Rochester Portraits*. Rochester, N.Y.: Rochester Sesquicentennial, 1984.
- L/H
Rqr920
B615b
The Biographical Record of the City of Rochester and Monroe County, New York. New York: S. J. Clarke, 1902.
- L/H
Rr920
B813
Bragdon, George C., ed. *Notable Men of Rochester and Vicinity, XIX and XX Centuries*. [Rochester, N. Y.]: D. J. Stoddard, 1902. Also available online:
http://libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Notable_Men_of_Rochester_and_Vicinity.pdf
- L/H
Rfr 974.789
D513
Devoy, John. *Rochester and the Post Express*. Rochester, N.Y.: Post Express Printing Co., 1895.
- L/H
Grq973
A512b
v. 37
Encyclopedia of American Biography, New York. New York, Pub. under the direction of the American Historical Society.
- L/H-OS
RrS564e
Encyclopedia of Contemporary Biography of New York. (Biographical Sketch of Hon. Hiram Sibley.) New York: Atlantic Pub. and Engraving Co., 1884.
- L/H
Rr974.789
I42i
The Industries of the City of Rochester. Rochester, N.Y.: Elstner Pub. Co., 1888. Also available online:
http://libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Industries_of_the_City_of_Rochester.pdf
- L/H
Rr974.789
R676rin
Maine, Henry C., ed. *Rochester in History and Our Part In the World War*. Rochester: Wegman-Walsh Press, 1922. Also available online:
http://libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Rochester_In_History.pdf
Also in HIS
- L/H
Rr720.9747
M257L
Malo, Paul. *Landmarks of Rochester and Monroe County: A Guide to Neighborhoods and Villages*. [Syracuse, N.Y.] Syracuse University Press, 1974.
- L/H
Rrq 974.788
M379s
McIntosh, W.H. *History of Monroe County, New York*. Philadelphia: Everts, Ensign and Everts, 1877. Also available online:
http://www.libraryweb.org/books/images/McIntosh_History_of_Monroe_County.pdf
- L/H-OS
Rr974.789
M154rf
McKelvey, Blake. *Rochester the Flower City, 1855-1900*. Cambridge, Harvard Univ. Press, 1949.
Also in HIS
- L/H
Rr974.79
M154p
McKelvey, Blake. *A Panoramic History of Rochester and Monroe County, New York*. Woodland Hills, Calif.: Windsor Publications, 1979.
Also in HIS
- L/H-OS
Rr974.789
M154rg
1993
McKelvey, Blake. *Rochester on the Genesee: The Growth of a City*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1993.
Also in HIS

- L/H
Rqr974.789
P367 Peck, William F. *Semi-Centennial History of the City of Rochester*. Syracuse, N.Y., D. Mason & co., 1884. Also available online: [http://libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Semi-centennial History of the City of Rochester.pdf](http://libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Semi-centennial_History_of_the_City_of_Rochester.pdf)
Also in HIS
- L/H
Rqr974.78
L257L Peck, William F. *Landmarks of Monroe County*. Boston: Boston History Co., 1895. Also available online: [http://libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Landmarks of Monroe County.pdf](http://libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Landmarks_of_Monroe_County.pdf)
- L/H
Rrq974.789
P367h v.2 Peck, William F. *History of Rochester and Monroe County, New York, from the Earliest Times to the Beginning of 1907*. New York, Chicago, The Pioneer publishing company, 1908.
- L/H
Rfr 920
R676r *Rochester and Monroe County, New York, Pictorial and Biographical*. New York; Chicago: Pioneer Pub. Co., 1908.
- L/H-OS
Rfr974.789
R6769r *Rochester, New York, the Flour City*. [Rochester, N.Y., The J.P. Smith printing house, 1893?].
- L/H
Rrq974.789
R813r
1994 Rosenberg-Naparsteck, Ruth. *Rochester, A Pictorial History*. Norfolk, Va.: Donning Co., 1994, c1989.
Also in HIS
- L/H
Rfr 974.789
W855v Wolfe, Andrew D. *Views of Old Rochester and the Genesee Country; From Indian Days to 1918*. Pittsford, N. Y.: Phoenix Press, for Marine Midland Trust Co. of Rochester, 1970.
Also in HIS
- L/H
Rfr920
W8552s
1971 Wolfe, Andrew D. *Saints, Sinners, and Salesmen: 1821-1971; Half a Hundred Memorable Personalities from Monroe County History*. Pittsford, N.Y.: Genesee Valley Newspapers, 1971.

Telegraph History

- BUS-ST
q384
W527a *American Telegraphy after 100 Years*. Western Union Telegraph Company Committee on Technical Publication. New York, Western union telegraph co., 1944.
- L/H-OS
Rqr654
D579i Dillon, John F. *The Western Union Telegraph Company vs. The Union Pacific Railway Company, The Kansas Pacific Railway Company and The American Union Telegraph Company*. New York: Adams, 1880.
- L/H
Rqr974.789
H673h *Historical and Descriptive Review of the Industries of Rochester, 1885*. Rochester, N.Y.: Thompson & Co., 1885.
- L/H
DESK
Rqr974.789
I42i *The Industries of the City of Rochester: A Résumé of Her Past History and Progress*. Rochester, N.Y.: Elstner Pub. Co., 1888. Also available online: [http://libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Industries of the City of Rochester.pdf](http://libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Industries_of_the_City_of_Rochester.pdf)
- BUS
302.209
L449i *Information Highways and Byways: From the Telegraph to the 21st century*. New York: IEEE Press, c1995.

- L/H
Rr654
I47r Ingersoll, Robert G. *John G. Farnsworth, Receiver of the Bankers' and Merchants' Telegraph Co. vs. Western Union Telegraph Co.: Robert G. Ingersoll's Opening Speech to the Jury, Delivered May 21st, 1886.* New York: [s.n.], 1886.
- L/H
Rr621.382
J76h Jones, Alexander. *Historical Sketch of the Electric Telegraph: Including Its Rise and Progress In the United States.* New York, G. P. Putnam, 1852.
- L/H
Rr OVERSIZE
384 O82s Oslin, George P. *The Story of Telecommunications.* Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 1992.
- L/H
Rqr654
R356t Reid, James D. *The Telegraph in America.* New York, Derby Brothers, 1879.
- LIT-ST
817
R625i Rivise, Maurice J. *Inside Western Union.* New York, Sterling Pub. Co. [1950].
- L/H
Rr384
T475w Thompson, Robert L. *Wiring a Continent.* Princeton, Princeton Univ. Press, 1947.
- L/H-OS
Rr654
W527s Western Union Telegraph Company. *Statement of Origin, Organization and Progress of the Russian-American Telegraph.* Rochester, "Evening Express" Printing Office, 1866.
- L/H
Rrq338.7613
W527w *Western Union Telegraph Company 1851-1901.* New York, James Kempster print, 1901.

Miscellaneous

- L/H-OS
Rr635.969
S564c Hiram Sibley and Co's. Seed Catalogue. Rochester, N.Y.: Union and Advertiser.
- L/H-OS
Rqr560 R676un Sibley, Hiram. *Notice of the Megatherium Cuvieri, the Giant Fossil Ground-sloth of South America.* Presented to the University of Rochester [Rochester, 1864].
- L/H
Rqr384
T926d Tunick, Irve. *The Du Pont Company Presents the Cavalcade of America Starring Raymond Massey in Wire to the West* (Hiram Sibley and Western Union). [Wilmington, Del.] : E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., 1949. Radio program transcript.

Genealogy and Census Data

- L/H
Gr974.43
B463h Benedict, William A. *History of the Town of Sutton, Massachusetts: From 1704 to 1876.* Worcester, Pub. for the Town by Sanford and Co., 1878.
- L/H
GrOVERSIZE
S557s v.2 Boyer, Carl, ed. *Ship Passenger Lists.* Newhall, Calif.: Boyer, 1977-.
- L/H-OS
Rr929.2
S564c Chappell, Josephine G. [Hiram Sibley Lineage]. [190-?].

L/H Family records researched by Genealogy Round Table of Monroe County. Sibley Folder.
Family Records
File Cabinet
R-S

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Clipping Files

RVF Biography – Men – Sibley, Hiram
RVF Biography – Men – Sibley Family

ONLINE RESOURCES

Family History of Emily Sibley Watson. <http://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/246285/Family-History-of-Emily-Sibley-Watson/>

RocWiki. Hiram Sibley. http://rocwiki.org/Hiram_Sibley

University of Rochester Department of Rare Books, Special Collections and Preservation. Hiram Sibley Family Papers. <http://www.lib.rochester.edu/index.cfm?PAGE=1138>

Fire at Rochester. The Big Sibley Seed Building Goes Up in Smoke. *New York Times*, January 13, 1892. http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?_r=1&res=9E0DE5DF1F39E233A25750C1A9679C94639ED7CF

A Chicago Warehouse Burned; A Loss Of \$175,000--Hiram Sibley & Co. the Chief Sufferers. *New York Times*, May 26, 1884. <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=9C07EED8173FE533A25755C2A9639C94659FD7CF>

PAMPHLET FILES

RVF2 Biography – Sibley, Hiram
RVF2 Nurseries – Hiram Sibley & Co.

PERIODICALS

L/H-IS *The Blazed Trail*. [New York, Western Union Telegraph Co.], 1929-1940. Scattered PERIODICAL issues 1932-1940.

L/H-IS *Dots and Dashes*. New York, Western Union Telegraph Co. Scattered issues PERIODICAL 1926-1943.

Note: *Rochester History* is available both online and in the Local History Division's public area.

Rochester History (vol.7, no. 3, 1945). "Evidences of Culture in Early Rochester."
http://www.libraryweb.org/~rochhist/v7_1945/v7i3.pdf

Rochester History (vol. 21, no. 3, 1959). "Some Former Rochesterians of National Distinction."
http://www.libraryweb.org/~rochhist/v21_1959/v21i3.pdf

Rochester History (vol. 8, no. 4, 1946). "When Science Was On Trial in Rochester: 1850-1890."
http://www.libraryweb.org/~rochhist/v8_1946/v8i4.pdf

PHOTOGRAPHS

- RPF1 Portraits – Sibley Family
RPF2 Portraits – Sibley
RPF2 Industries – Nurseries

SCRAPBOOKS

- L/H-SS *Scrapbooks of Biographies of Men.* [Rochester, N.Y.: The Library, 19--].
Rfr920
R676P v.9
Sa-Sla
- L/H-SS Sibley, Hiram. *Scrapbook.* [1844-1886]. Scrapbooks of clippings, correspondence,
Rrq384.1097 business cards, photographs, etc. compiled by Hiram Sibley. Includes information
S564s v.1-3 about the Western Union Telegraph Company and his term as Monroe Country
 Sheriff.
- L/H-SS *Western Union Telegraph Company: A Scrapbook of Newspaper Clippings.*
Rrq384.109 1881-1883.
W527w
- L/H-SS *Western Union Telegraph Co. in Rochester.* [1924-1927]. Scrapbook of articles on
RVF the founding of the Western Union Telegraph Co. and its founder Hiram Sibley.
Western Union