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COLLECTION GUIDE
MISCELLANEOUS MANUSCRIPT FILE

American Party, Winchester Council Records
Collection Number: 887 THL MMF

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS: Collection is open to all researchers.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE: Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Processed by Buffy Knappenberger. Last updated August 2023.

EXTENT: 2 folders

CREATOR: American Party, Winchester Council.

DATE: 1854-1855

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Miscellaneous Manuscript Files (MMF) are small collections typically containing only a folder or two of materials. This collection contains the minutes of Winchester's branch of the American Party from 1854-1855 and three printed publications explaining the positions and objectives of the group.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: The American Party of the 1850s has its roots in a movement known as the "Know Nothings" from the 1840s. The "Know Nothings" believed in an anti-immigrant and anti-Roman Catholic platform. They saw the rise of German and Irish immigrants into America as a threat to the economic and political security of native-born Protestant Americans. Their name comes from the fact that when outsiders would ask questions about the secret society, the members would respond, "I know nothing." The movement grew and eventually the group became the American Party, nominating candidates from local positions like mayor all the way up to president in 1856. The party's platform called for restrictions on immigration and denying suffrage to immigrants.

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Acquired as gift.

CONTAINER LIST:

Folder 1

American Party, Winchester Council Minutes, 1854-1855

Folder 2

American Party of Virginia. *Bases Principles of the American Party of Virginia*, undated

American Party, Winchester Council. *The Principles and Objects of the American Party, Approved and Endorsed by Winchester Council, No. 16*. Winchester: Republican Office, 1855

Bryce, John. *Answer to Hon. Henry A. Wise's Anti-Know Nothing Letter*, New York, 1854