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GERRIT SMITH COLLECTION

Collection 92-1

Prepared by:
Greta S. Wilson
June 1980

Scope Note

The Gerrit Smith collection contains printed circulars written by

him during the period 1843-1871 and is contained in one box measuring
« linear foot.

Smith, son of a wealthy landowner, used his wealth for philanthropic purposes. He was active in social reformation, especially women's suffrage, prison reform and the abolition movement. The circulars in the collection reflect his involvement with these social endeavors.

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Biographical Sketch

- 1797 March 6 Born in Utica, N.Y., to wealthy landowners, Perer and Elizabeth Smith.
- 1818 Graduated from Hamilton College with honors and inherited father's estate.
- 1819 January 11 Married wealthy Ann Backus who died months later of dropsy of the brain.
- 1822 January 3 Married Ann Carroll Fitzhugh and had four children.
- 1826 Became member of Presbyterian Church. Built reputation of reform.
- 1827 Nominated to office for State Senator on the Anti-Masonic ticket.
- 1840 Helped to initiate Liberty Party.
- 1846 Appointed a committee for land reformers and abolitionist to parcel out a land grant of 150,000 acres to poor white settlers and Negroes.
- 1853-1854 Elected as Independent to Congress.
- 1858 Ran for Governor on the "People's State Ticket" advocating temperance, anti-slavery, and land reform.

- 13 The Good See: The Bad Are Blind -
May 3, 1863
- 14 Sermon In Peterboro - May 21, 1865
- 15 The Methodist Convention - March 8,
1870
- 16 The West Point Mob - March 13, 1871
- 17 Report From County of Madison

