SMITH, Gerrit

MSRC Staff

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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.

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.
Series Description

Series A Printed Materials

Box 92-1 Circulars written by Smith in the form of resolutions, letters, speeches etc., primarily concerned with the anti-slavery and temperance movements.

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Container List

A Printed Materials

Box 92-1 Folder 1 Anti-Fugitive Slave Law Meeting...

Jan. 9, 1851

2 To John C. Spencer - November 22, 1851
3 To Gov. Hunt - Feb. 20, 1852
4 Speech In Pittsburgh Convention
   Aug. 12, 1852
5 To the Abolitionists and Prohibitionists - Aug. 16, 1858
6 To The Men Who Put Me In Nomination
   Nov, 5, 1858
7 To Rev. Dr. John Marsh - Nov. 12, 1858
8 To President Schmucker - June 19, 1858
9 Personal Liberty Bell
10 To John Thomas - Aug. 27, 1859
11 To Frederick Douglass - July 13, 1860
12 To Gov. Seymour - Jan. 12, 1863
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