

The Hobart Family Papers, 1721 - 1951

Repository: Hingham Public Library
Creator: Hobart Family
Quantity: 1/2 document box
Processed by: Bob Malme
Access: Open for Research
Related Materials: Bicentennial Collection

Provenance

These papers were originally created by various members of the Hobart family from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries while they were living in Hingham, Boston, Abington and other places throughout the country. This is an artificial collection, having been collected and assembled by John Richardson in the mid-twentieth century. It was donated in 1976 and 1980 as part of the Bicentennial Collection.

Biographical Note

Edmund Hobart (Hubbard) was born in Hingham, England in 1570. He and his wife, Margaret had seven children, including twins Edmund and Peter, and another son, Thomas. In 1633 they sailed to America, first to Charlestown and soon after helped settle the village of Bare Cove with several other families from Hingham, England. In September 1635 his son, the Reverend Peter Hobart, was granted a charter for the settlement, renamed Hingham, and Edmund, the father, Edmund, Peter, Thomas and several other family members were granted house lots along Town, now North, Street. The senior Edmund died in March 1646, the Reverend Peter Hobart died in 1679.

Edmund, the son, and his wife Elizabeth raised seven children in the New World. Among them were John, Samuel, and Daniel. John died at age 33, Daniel became a weaver and also served as town Selectman in 1699. Samuel was a yeoman farmer and married Hannah Gold and resided on North Street near Hobart's bridge. They had seven children, of which only four survived to adulthood. Among them was son Peter Hobart who was born in 1685 and became a farmer on his family's North Street homestead. He married Jael Whiton, daughter of Thomas and Joanna (May) Whiton in 1715. They raised four children, three of which survived to adulthood. These were a daughter, Jael born in 1717, and sons Samuel (b. 1719) and Peter (b. 1727). The two sons became farmers themselves and split the family homestead lands with Peter farming the western half and Samuel the eastern side.

Younger Peter Hobart married Lucretia Gill, daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Hawke) Gill. They had 11 children, of which Peter (b. 1750) attended Harvard College and served as a doctor in the Continental Army during the Revolution, Hawkes (b. 1753) who was a cooper and farmer obtaining additional lands for the family farm, and Edmund (b. 1755), a cooper and farmer who later lived on Main Street. Hawkes Hobart married Elizabeth Stodder, daughter of Isaiah and Priscilla (Beal) Stodder. They raised nine children on the Hobart family homestead. Hawkes Hobart died on April 14, 1831 surviving his wife for over six years. Edmund married Elizabeth Cushing, daughter of Ebenezer and Sarah (Lincoln) Cushing in April 1781. After her death in April 1790, he married Persis Cushing, Sarah's sister, later that year in September. With both wives he raised 11 children, all but one of which, Edmund, stayed in Hingham.

His second son, Bela Hobart, continued the family tradition of farming and coopering, he too married twice. First, to Betsey Sprague, daughter of Seth and Betty (Wilder) Sprague in November 1807. She died at age 20, only two years later. He then married Olive Wilder, daughter of Thomas and Olive (Gardner) Wilder in October 1811. They resided on Main Street and raised eight children.

Justin Hobart was born in Hingham in January 1731 and later moved to Fairfield, Connecticut and built a house in 1766. No other information is available.

Hannah Hobart was the granddaughter of Justin Hobart and lived in Fairfield, Connecticut. No other information is available.

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of this collection is composed of land title deeds for properties purchased by members of the Hobart family, in particular farmer Peter Hobart (1685-1760), his son, farmer Peter Hobart (1727-1805) and his son, cooper and farmer Hawkes Hobart (1753-1831) . There are also land plans, wills, estate inventories and receipts mainly involving the elder Peter Hobart. The collection also has an extensive inventory of genealogical research documents on Hobart family members, both in Hingham and elsewhere in the country. Most of the collection dates from the 1780s to the 1870s., though many documents are undated. The collection also includes a genealogical publication about John Sullivan Hobart published in 1951.

Arrangement

This collection is organized into the following series:

- Series I. Peter Hobart (1685-1760) Materials, 1721 - 1758
- Series II. Peter Hobart (1727-1805) Materials, 1762 - 1798
- Series III. Hawkes Hobart (1753-1831) Materials, 1782 - 1822
- Series IV. Misc. Hobart Family Materials, 1829 – 1871 and Undated
- Series V. Hobart Family Genealogical Materials, 1788 – 1951 and Undated
 - Subseries 1. Letters, 1830-1872
 - Subseries 2. Family History Notes and Publications, 1788-1798, 1951 and Undated

Series I. Peter Hobart (1685 – 1760) Materials, 1721 - 1758

Box 1 Folder 1

This series includes eight land deeds for property purchased by Peter Hobart between 1721 and 1758. Sellers include Benjamin Farrow of Scituate, Rachel Whiton of Hingham (land near Accord Pond), Benjamin and Eleanor Lincoln of Hingham, Eleazer Whiton of Hingham, Samuel Whiton of Hingham (all selling pieces of land in Abington), Samuel Brainhall, and David Thaxter of Hingham (each Great Hill properties, lands became part of the Brewer Estate). Signees of the deed documents include Seth Cushing (b. 1705), Benjamin Lincoln (1733-1810, Justice of the Peace), and Zachariah Standish. Documents are in chronological order.

Series II. Peter Hobart (1727 – 1805) Materials, 1762 – 1798

Box 1 Folder 2

This series includes land deeds, land plans, a will, probate judgment, and estate inventory belonging to the younger Peter Hobart. The three deeds involve land sold by Josiah Lincoln of Hingham, a lot in

Hingham's 'Sixth Division', brothers James and John Hobart of Hingham, property on the 'Great Hill', and Thomas Gill of Hingham, a piece of land on 'Squirrel Hill'. The land plan is a map of 'Pigeon Plain' bought by Peter Hobart from Captain Barker and David Lincoln and dated August 26, 1796. The hand-written will is four pages, dated March 23, 1798. The typed probate will document is signed by the Judge of Probate Wills, George Richards Minot, Esq, and dated September 18, 1798 it is accompanied by a hand-written four-page long Hobart estate document. Signees of the deed and will documents include Benjamin Cushing (1725-1812, Justice of the Peace), James Hobart (1727-1794), Daniel Jacob (1768-1806), John Jacob, Jr. (1762-1847), Benjamin Lincoln (Justice of the Peace), and Isaac Wilder (b. 1748). Documents are in chronological order.

Series III. Hawkes Hobart (1753 – 1831) Materials, 1782 – 1822

Box 1 Folder 3

This series contains land-related documents, including ten deeds of property purchased by Hawkes Hobart and a map of the Hobart family homestead as split between brothers Hawkes and Edmond Hobart dated 1805. The deeds include the agreement to split the homestead lands and purchases of land both adjacent to the existing Hobart property and other places in Hingham including the 'Great Plain', 'Pigeon Plain', land and salt marshes along 'Broad Cove Lane' (present Lincoln Street), now town conservation land, and land in Hanover belonging to relative Laban Hobart. There is also a deed granting a lease by Hawkes Hobart, to one E. Binney, laborer, for the use of part of his house for three months dated April 1820. Signatures on the deed documents include those of Caleb Bates (1718-1797), Benjamin Cushing, (Justice of the Peace), John Leavitt (1771-1838), David Lincoln (1723-1798), Jotham Lincoln (1781-1844, Justice of the Peace), Martin Lincoln (1769-1837), Samuel Norton (1744-1832, Justice of the Peace), Martin Sprague (1779-1851), and Edward Wilder (1751-1817). Documents are in chronological order.

Series IV. Other Hobart Family Members Materials, 1829 – 1871 and Undated

Box 1 Folder 4

This series consists of items belonging to several different Hobart family members from the nineteenth century. Documents include an inventory of costs of the School Building Committee chaired by Bela Hobart dated September 26, 1829; a hand-written address marking the centennial of the building of house in Fairfield, Connecticut by Justin Hobart; a hand-written document 'On Petition of ?? undated; and six hand-written letters by Hannah Hobart addressed to Solomon Lincoln dated December 13, 1869 to January 12, 1871 from Fairfield, Connecticut regarding the history of the Hobart family in Hingham.

Series IV. Hobart Family Genealogical Materials, 1782 – 1951 and Undated

Subseries 1. Letters, 1830 - 1872

Box 1 Folder 5

This series consists of letters sent from several individuals, including members of the Hobart family living outside of Hingham, to historian Solomon Lincoln regarding the history of family members since they left Hingham. The letters were in response to Solomon Lincoln's correspondence to them requesting information. Letter writers include Aaron Hobart of East Bridgewater, Chauncey Hobart of St. Paul, Minnesota, Hannah Hobart of Fairfield, Connecticut, Ino P. Hobart of Pottsville, Pennsylvania, Peter Hobart, Jr. of Boston, George E. Emery of Lynn, Dennis A. Kennedy and H.E. Balch of Hingham, Wisconsin, Charles H. Miner the city clerk of New London, Connecticut, the Rev. J.F. Schroeder of New York City, John Lawton Sibley of Cambridge, and E. Whitaker of Southold, Long Island. The letters are in chronological order.

Subseries 2. Notes and Publications, 1782 – 1799, 1951 and Undated

Box 1, Folder 6

This series largely consists of hand-written notes and papers summarizing important dates in family history along with information on the genealogy of many members of the Hobart family going back to the seventeenth century. A majority of the material is undated and lacks information as to authorship, though much of it appears to have been written by Solomon Lincoln, town historian. The materials are on various kinds of paper, including note paper, lined writing paper, and envelopes and contain information on Rev. Peter Hobart and other family members who were early settlers of the town and their descendants. The series includes notes on the baptism dates of several Hobart children by the Rev. Daniel Shute between 1788 and 1799 and newspaper clippings on a centennial celebration in Fairfield, Connecticut on September 26, 1829 and a full page from the *Abington Standard* on January 28, 1865 detailing the wedding of Benjamin Hobart, Esq. The series also includes a booklet published in 1951 in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, *The Ancestors and Descendants of John Sullivan Hobart* written by Donald M. Hobart.