

The Whiton Family Papers, 1737 - 1883

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

Provenance

These papers were originally created by various members of the Whiton family in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries while they were living in Hingham. 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

The first member of the Whiton family to reside in Hingham was James Whiton (d. 1710) which records established was as a citizen of the town by 1647. He married Mary Beal (1622-1696) who was born in Hingham, England. He farmed land in the Liberty Plain area of town. His farmhouse was one of five in the town that were burned by Indians during King Phillips War (1676-77). Before Mary's death in December 1696, the couple raised six children to adulthood. One of them, a son Matthew Whiton (1653-1725) was a cooper by trade who also served as town constable in 1701. Another, Enoch Whiton (1659/60-1714), was a trader who also served as Constable (1703) and as Selectman (1712).

Samuel Whiton (b. 1712/13) was the great-grandson of James Whiton and the eldest son of Samuel Whiton (b. 1685), town constable in 1717. He also served as town constable in 1747 and 1753. He married Mary Wing of Hanover and resided at Liberty Plain. They had six children. No other information is available.

Enoch Whiton (1733-1777) was the grandson of Enoch Whiton. He was also a cooper, like his grandfather and father (Enoch Whiton b. 1699), and served as a captain in a military unit during the Revolutionary War prior to his death. He is buried in the Hingham Cemetery. No other information is available.

Elizabeth Marble Whiton (1736-1816) was born in Hingham and was the wife of Jacob Whiton (1731/32-1816), grandson of Matthew Whiton. The couple resided on Main Street near Tower's Bridge and had eight children. No other information is available.

One of Jacob Whiton's brother's was Stephen Whiton (1722-1812), a cooper who resided Main Street opposite Hersey Street. His grandson, Isiah Whiton was born in Hingham in 1789, the son of Israel Whiton (1758-1840), who married Martha Davis Easterbrook (1790-1857) on November 5, 1810. His occupation was 'packetman,' or ship/dock worker???. He and his wife resided on South Street and had 11 children, 10 which survived to adulthood. He died in 1871.

Hannah B. Whiton (1778-1865) was the wife of Sylvanus Thayer (b. 1775). No other information is available.

Lyman B. Whiton was born in Hingham in 1834, the son of Job S. Whiton (1797-1845), a 'master-mariner' and brother of Isiah Whiton. He was a salesman by occupation and worked and lived on the paternal homestead on South Street. He married Sarah F. Dyer (1834-1880) and together they raised 4 children to adulthood (another 3 died in infancy). He served in the Army during the Civil War promoted from captain to major in the Third Regiment, Massachusetts Heavy Artillery. He was posted first to Fort Warren in Boston Harbor and then, in 1864, at Ft. Berry and Ft. Richardson, Va to help out in the defense of Washington, DC.

Bela H. Whiton (b. 1816) was a carriage-maker who lived at the corner of Main and Central Streets. His first wife was Hannah R. Whiton (1818-1860) and they had five children before her death. He later married Mary C. Hersey (b. 1834) and raised two other children with her. No other information is available.

Peter L. Whiton (b. 1816) was a brother of Hannah R. Whiton and was a trader who owned many schooners sailing out of Hingham Harbor. He married Sarah A.P. Densmore of Northboro (b. 1828) and together they had one son, George Henry, who died at age 15. He and his wife resided on Lincoln Street. He served the town many years as deputy inspector of pickled fish, before that office was abolished.

Wilson Whiton, Jr. (1805-1873) was the son of Wilson Whiton (1777-1854) a packet-master and later merchant who resided on Main Street near Hingham Center and married Chloe White of Weymouth in October 1804. The younger Whiton was the first of eight children and died unmarried. No other information is available.

Scope and Content Note

This collection is composed of miscellaneous materials belonging to members of the Whiton family. It includes three day books and miscellaneous receipts of Isiah Whiton (1789-1871), three account books, two dog licenses, and miscellaneous receipts of his nephew, salesman Lyman B. Whiton, deeds of land sold by Enoch (1733-1777) and Eleazar Whiton and bought by Bela H. Whiton, an indenture document of Elizabeth Marble Whiton, a letter written by Hannah B. Whiton, a printed poem dedicated to Hannah R. Whiton, a deed and a map of property owned by Samuel Whiton, eight ship licenses of Peter L. Whiton, and two sermons belonging to Wilson Whiton, Jr. The collection dates from 1737 to 1879 with the bulk between 1836 and 1874, with the map being undated.

Arrangement

This collection is organized into the following series:

- Series I. Isiah Whiton Materials, 1811 – 1864
- Series II. Lyman B. Whiton Materials, 1841 – 1883
- Series III. Peter L. Whiton Materials, 1865-1874
- Series IV. Misc. Whiton Family Materials, 1737-1872 and Undated

Series I. Isiah Whiton Materials, 1811 – 1864

Box 1 Folders 1 and 2

This series includes three day books of Isiah Whiton used to account for various purchases between 1811 and 1864 and several miscellaneous receipts. The first day book covers the years 1836-47 and is 48 pages long, the second covers 1848 to 1851 but only eight pages of the book are written on. The third book covers many different individual years starting in 1811 and ending in 1864. The entries in each book are in chronological order. The receipts are for medical services on February 12, 1837, three copies of a list of purchases from Moses Cross on October 2, 1860, and for materials bought from cousin William J. Whiton (1811-1876) on March 6, 1864.

Series II. Lyman B. Whiton Materials, 1841 - 1883

Box 1 Folders 3 and 4

This series includes three account books, two dog licenses, and two receipts. The three books cover purchases from different shopkeepers. The first is 40 pages and covers the years 1870 to 1872 and regards the purchases of George Hersey, Jr. (b. 1824). The second is 13 pages for the years 1870-71 and is for purchases of Caleb S. Hunt. The third is earlier, from 1841-42, and accounts for purchases from the store of Royal Whiton (1792-1877), his uncle. The two dog licenses were issued in 1871 for 'Gypsy' and in 1879, where the dog's name is not noted. The receipts are for a year's subscription to *The Hingham Journal* in 1879 and services from the Hingham Water Co. from May to June 1883.

Series III. Peter L. Whiton Materials, 1865-1874

Oversize Folder 1

This series contains eight Enrollment or ship license forms for the operation of schooners 'Vision', 'Exchange', the 'P.L. Whiton', 'Game Cock', and 'Bloomer' in the Port of Hingham between 1865 and 1874. All the vessels were owned in part, or totally, by Peter L. Whiton. The forms indicate the ship owner, where the ship was built, its measurements and tonnage capacity, type, and ship master. One of the vessels, the Game Cock, was also partially owned by Bela H. Whiton. The material is in chronological order.

Series IV. Miscellaneous Whiton Family Materials, 1737 - 1872 and Undated

Box 1 Folders 5 and 6, Oversize Folder 2

This series contains documents of six other Whiton Family members. In the first folder, the oldest document is a deed signifying the selling of a piece of land belonging to Enoch Whiton of Hingham and Eleazar Whiton of Abington to Peter Hobart. Signatures on the deed include Benjamin Lincoln acting as Justice of the Peace. The second document is an indenture certificate of Elizabeth Whiton for the services of John Daniels which is dated January 11, 1773. The third document is a deed selling a piece of land belonging to Nathaniel Gardner of Hingham to Samuel Whiton dated March 4, 1777 with signatures of Enoch Whiton and David Lincoln, Jr. , The fourth a one-page printed poem whose inscription reads '(d)edicated to Mrs. B.H. Whiton from Mrs. A. Hersey, October 20, 1853'. The last document is a map entitled 'Land Plan for Cedar Swamp Given to Samuel Whiton, 1777'. It is unknown whether the date indicates the year the map was made or when the land was purchased, therefore the document (in very poor condition) is classified as undated. The second folder contains two funeral sermon publications owned by Wilson Whiton, Jr. The first is of a sermon preached in Hingham on March 19, 1837 by Rev. Samuel J. May, Minister of the Second Parish of Scituate, following the death of Mrs. Cecilia Brooks (first wife of pastor of the Third Congregational Society in Hingham, Rev. Charles Brooks) published in Hingham by the Press of J. Farmer, 29 pages plus cover. The second is of a sermon preached at the Third Parish in Hingham on the Sunday following the death of cousin Thomas F. Whiton (1821-1872), June 9, 1872 by the Pastor and published in Hingham for private distribution by Joseph Easterbrook, totalling 16 pages plus cover. Oversize materials include a letter from Hannah S. Whiton, wife of Sylvanus Whiton, to her sister dated May 1823 and a property deed selling a piece of land in Cohasset to Bela H. Whiton of Hingham dated January 8, 1859. The seller

being John Manuel of Cohasset, who continued to live on the land and pay rent a semi-annual rent of \$500 to Bela Whiton. The deed also contains the signature of Henry E. Hersey, Justice of the Peace.