

The Buswell, Merrill, and Poor(e) Family Collection, 1804-1980

General Information

Repository: Lawrence History Center

Creator: Gary Spranger

Dates: 1804-1980

Accession Number: 1997.145

Quantity: One Nonstandard Flat Box

Processed By: Veronica Denison

Access: Open for research. Some materials have been withdrawn for preservation purposes and copies have been left in the collection. Materials may not be taken out of their enclosures.

Provenance

These records were collected and donated by Gary Spranger. They were donated to the Lawrence History Center by him on November 11, 1997.

Related Materials

Research box of Sacred Spaces/Catholic Cemetery Project.

Historical Note

Thomas Poore was born on July 19, 1732 to Thomas and Mary (Adams) Poore in Andover, Mass. In 1757 he married Phebe Osgood (1733-1797), also of Andover, in 1757 and they had seven children: Mary, Hannah, Phebe, Stephen, Enoch, Caleb, and Thomas. Thomas Poore owned a significant amount of land in Methuen and Andover, MA, much of which would later become part of Lawrence, MA. He was a captain in the French and Indian War, and commanded a company that marched from Andover to Cambridge on April 19, 1775. He later became a major and then colonel, and served in the Revolutionary War. When he died on September 24, 1804 in Methuen he gave a significant amount of land to his children.

Joshua Buswell, of Methuen, MA, enlisted into the Second Brigade and Second Division of the Fifth Regiment of Infantry of the Militia of Massachusetts in 1810. In 1813, Buswell was appointed as a Lieutenant of the Fifth Regiment and the following year he was promoted to Captain. Joseph Edward Buswell (1843-1923), also from Methuen, enlisted into Company B of the 14th Regiment of

Massachusetts Volunteers Heavy Artillery in 1861 when he was 19 years old. He was soon promoted to 1st Sergeant and then 2nd Lieutenant in 1862. Joseph Buswell married Julia Merrill (1840-1916), daughter of Washington Merrill (1810-1878) and Abiah Gile Kelley (1808-1848) and sister of Moses Merrill (1833-1902). Bernard Clinton (B. Clinton) Buswell (1876-1935) was the son of Julia and Joseph Buswell. Julia and Joseph were married on May 1, 1865.

Washington Merrill married Abiah Kelley on October 21, 1832 and after her death in 1848 he married Lydia Baldwin (1827-1859). Merrill owned much land throughout Lawrence and Methuen, including land along the county road from Lawrence, MA to Salem, NH.

B. Clinton Buswell worked in a clothier, went to school at Hickox's Shorthand School, assisted in the arrangement of the Bureau of Commerce and Industries in the John Hancock Building, a stenographer at Fayerweather and Laden and National Rolling Screen Co. of Boston.

It is unclear how the Merrill and Buswell families are connected to the Poor family.

Scope and Content

This collection contains wills and quitclaims regarding land in and around Lawrence. There are ensign and appointment certificates dating from 1810 and the Civil War. There are various receipts of payment regarding payment for housewares, taxes, mortgage of land, house rent, and quitclaim deeds regarding land in Lawrence and Methuen, MA. There are also personal letters to and from family members pertaining to health and possible future visits. Amongst these are letters from a soldier in the Civil War writing his mother. There are also business letters and genealogical material relating to the Poor and Buswell families.

Arrangement

- Series I. Military, 1810-1814, 1816
- Series II. Financial, 1804-1921
- Series III. Correspondence
 - Subseries I. Personal, 1833-1923
 - Subseries II. Business, 1849-1870, 1896-1899
- Series IV. Genealogical, 1887-1980

Series I. Military, 1810-1814, 1862

This series contains the ensign certificate of Joshua Buswell into the second Brigade and Second Division 5th Regiment of Infantry as well as appointment certificates promoting Buswell to Lieutenant and then Captain. There is also an honorable discharge certificate of Joseph E. Buswell for reason of

promotion and an appointment certificate, promoting Joseph Buswell to 2nd Lieutenant.

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- 1 Ensign certificate of Joshua Buswell into the Second Brigade and Second Division of the 5th Regiment of Infantry in the; Appointment Certificate of Buswell to Lieutenant; Appointment Certificate of Buswell to Captain 1810-1814
- 2 Discharge Certificate of Joseph E. Buswell for reason of promotion; Appointment Certificate of Buswell as 2nd Lieutenant 1862

Series II. Financial, 1804-1921

This series contains the financial documents of the Merrill, Poore, and Buswell families, including the last wills and testaments of Thomas Poore and Joshua Buswell. There are various receipts of payment regarding payment for housewares, taxes, mortgage of land, house rent, and quitclaim deeds regarding land in Lawrence and Methuen, MA. There is also a statement regarding Washington Merrill's cemetery plot in Walnut Grove Cemetery. There are also personal and family letters regarding

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- 3 Wills of Thomas Poore and Joshua Buswell 1804, 1836
- 4 Receipt of Payment from Joshua Buswell to Abigail Buswell for furniture, cutlery and other housewares 1814
- 5 Receipts of Payment, to Joseph Buswell from Moses Merrill regarding taxes 1831-1832
- 6 Receipts of Payment from Phineas Smith of house rent and Dennis Capron form membership into the Bristol Co. Agricultural Society 1834, 1844-1845
- 7 Mortgage Payment from John McKay to Broadway Savings Bank regarding land on Summer St and Newbury St in Lawrence; Mortgage Payment and sale of land to Joseph Buswell from John McKay regarding land on Lawrence Street and Newbury Street in Lawrence, MA 1867, 1875
- 8 Quitclaim Deeds--Washington Merrill payment to Nancy Grosvner regarding land on the county road leading from Lawrence, MA to Salem, NH; Julia Buswell payment to Alvin E. Mack regarding land on Howe St and Milk St in Methuen and Summer St in Lawrence; Mary Madden to Mildred Buswell regarding land on Prospect St in Methuen 1872, 1897, 1918
- 9 Receipts of Payment to and from Joseph Buswell regarding land on Summer St in Lawrence, MA and various debts owed to him by others 1878-1880
- 10 Demand of Payment for Loan--Churchill vs Joseph Buswell 11 Oct 1883
- 11 Statement of Fund for Perpetual Care regarding Washington Merrill's Cemetery Plot in Walnut Grove Cemetery 1921
- 12 Interest received list from 1887-1906

Series III. Correspondence

Subseries I. Personal, 1833-1923

This subseries contains correspondence personal in nature. There are letters to and from family members regarding health and possible future visits. Licus Buswell wrote to his mother while stationed at Fort Albany during the Civil War, and Rev. Charles Oliphant, minister of the First Church in Methuen, wrote to Jos. E. Buswell thanking Buswell for reciting the Gettysburg Address.

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- 13 Letter to (unknown first name) Merrill from Joseph 5 July 1833
- 14 Letters--to Lydia Merrill from Catha; to Mrs. Merrill from Julia Brown; to Washington Merrill from Lydia Merrill 1852, 1862
- 15 Letters from Licus Buswell to his Mother while stationed at Fort Albany Sept-Nov 1862
- 16 Letters to Joseph Buswell from sister Annie, cousin Amanda, and his mother 1862-1863
- 17 Letters--from Moses Merrill to "brother," to Julia from brother John Merrill, to Julia from brother Moses Merrill, to Julia from cousin Ada 1856, 1865-1866, 1876
- 18 Wedding Invitations--Mr. and Mrs. Jos. E. Buswell; Mildred Mears Fosque to Bernard Clinton Buswell circa 1909
- 19 Letter to Jos. E. Buswell from Rev. Charles Oliphant 30 May 1923

Subseries II. Business, 1849-1870, 1896-1899

This subseries contains correspondence that pertain to business. There are letters to Washington Merrill regarding an order for hats, another from Joseph Sawyer regarding a payment for potatoes, a letter detailing the purchase of stock, and a letter from John Ederly describing the purchase of a furnace. There are also letters of recommendation for B. Clinton Buswell from F. A Warren, Clothier, the Hickox's Shorthand School in the Pierce Building in Copley Square, Boston, the Bureau of Commerce and Industries located in the John Hancock Building in Boston, Fayerweather and Laden of Boston, and National Rolling Screen Co. of Boston. There is also a letter regarding the development of Buswell Acres controlled by the Joseph E. Buswell Estate in Methuen, written by the Julia Buswell heirs.

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- 20 Letters to Washington Merrill regarding business 1849-1870
- 21 Letters of Recommendation for B. Clinton Buswell 1896-1899
- 22 Letter regarding the development of the Buswell Acres (Joseph E. Buswell Estate) from the Julia Buswell Heirs undated

Series IV. Genealogy, 1887-1980

This series contains records regarding the genealogy of the Poore and Buswell families, although most of the documents pertain to the Poor family. There are family trees regarding births, deaths, and marriages of various family members, letters requesting information on family history, and news articles pertaining to the ancestors of the Poor family.

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- 23 Ancestors of Isaac Buswell family tree undated
- 24 "The Poor(e)s and Their Name" undated
- 25 Poor family lineage to 1940 undated
- 26 Biography of George Capron and his mother Mildred Moores, written by George Capron undated
- 27 Labels-- "Home of Washington Merrill where he took his bride November 30, 1832 on Prospect St, Methuen, Mass," "Joseph Merrill Buswell's great great grandfather," and "Hotel Chapman 21 Via Pandolfini-21 Firenze March 3, 1900" undated
- 28 Letter to Mr. Buswell from H.L. Bugzell regarding Buswell's Ancestry 11 Mar 1887
- 29 Letter from E. Poor to woman regarding her ancestors in the Salem Witch Trials 18 Aug 1897
- 30 Poor-Poore-Little Family Association event notification 21 Aug 1908
- 31 Copy of Mrs. Piercy Poore obituary circa 1910
- 32 Copy of news article regarding Enoch Poor from Lawrence Sunday Sun, "Enoch Poor, Soldier and Citizen" 7 Feb 1926
- 33 News article regarding Fred A. Poor, "The Road to Success: A Sketch of Fred A. Poor, Chairman of the Board of Poor and Co." 20 Dec 1952
- 34 Letter and copy of news article from North Andover Historical Society; Poor family documents at Robert Murphy Bookseller 1975
- 35 Correspondence between Chester, Charles, and George Poor regarding family ancestry 1980