

Foster Family Papers

Finding Aid

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Peabody, MA 01960

Collection Summary

Title: Foster Family Papers

Accession Number: 2002.73

Dates: 1740 to 1965

Bulk Dates: 1762 to 1840

Location: Sutton Room

Physical Description: One Box of Papers

Abstract: The Foster Family Papers include the accounts, deeds, receipts and agreements for primarily Benjamin Foster (1714-1792), Captain James Foster (1742-1823) and Aaron Foster (1775-1844), as well as the correspondence and memorabilia of Mary Herrick McIntire, a direct descendent of Benjamin Foster.

Search Terms

Foster family

McIntire, Mary Herrick

McIntire, Mrs. Frank

Foster, Benjamin, 1714-1792.

Foster, Aaron, 1775-1844.

Foster, Elizabeth Flint, 1745-1813.

Foster, Nathan, 1809-1834

Foster, James, 1742-1823.

Provenance

The Foster Family Papers were donated by Mary Herrick McIntire, apparently in the late 1950's.

Processing

The papers were originally reviewed in the year 2002 and organized. They were processed in August 2006.

Conservation Work

All staples were removed. One map was unfolded and filed in the map drawers. Papers which were viewed as particularly acidic were enclosed in acid free tissue to slow down any transfer of acids to other papers. Minor tears were repaired.

Restrictions

Property of the Peabody Institute Library and all copyrights belong to the library. Access is only in the Sutton Room and all research is supervised.

Scope and Content Note

Benjamin Foster (1714-1792), lived in Reading and appears to have owned land in that town and been successful in business. His receipts and agreements reveal he had dealings with local officials as well as notable citizens, including Dr. Edward Augustus Holyoke of Salem from whom he borrowed money for his work. Further agreements have him able to partake in subscribing for a joint venture with the intent to borrow \$500, along with an agreement to pay it back. Papers settling his estate after his death in 1792 are also included here.

Benjamin Foster's son, Captain James Foster of Danvers (1742-1823), appears to have been a lawyer or other court official. He served in the Revolutionary War. His accounts include payments to Mehitable and Jesse Upton for their services in issuing summons, for obtaining depositions and for attendance at court in Salem, Ipswich and Newburyport. Foster was the executor of his father's estate. Also included in his papers are a letter to his children, receipts and other notes regarding the estate after Benjamin Foster's death. There are tax and business receipts, indicating he was well off enough to own a chaise and to pay tax for it, as well as to afford to have water for his family of five pumped to his home by the Salem and Danvers Aqueduct. He purchased cattle at auction, rented land on Essex Street in Salem, shipped his wares to Baltimore and was a juror in Salem Court. His final papers name the executors of his will.

Aaron Foster (1775-1844) of Danvers appears to have been involved in the leather as well as the carriage and wagon business. His account book reveals he traveled to New York and Boston for his business and had close dealings with his brother, James Foster (1773-). He also had close dealings with the Danvers Cotton Factory and rented out his wagons and carriages for their work and was prosperous enough to hire workers to obtain the supplies he provided to the Factory. He was a member of the Massachusetts Militia and was responsible for the notification of all non-commissioned officers in Danvers. He owned land and was involved in a fence division with his neighbor George Brown. His receipts include those for taxes, doctor's bills, for school supplies for his children, for his daughter Elizabeth's boarding at a school in Bradford, for his son Nathan's boarding at Phillips Academy and receipts regarding the settling of his father James's estate.

Nathan Foster's Papers are receipts from Phillips Academy for extra charges beyond the tuition his father paid.

The rest of the Foster Papers include receipts, deeds, mortgages and agreements and estate papers for various relatives of the Fosters: Samuel Foster of Reading, Skelton Sheldon of Danvers, the Browns of Danvers, Elizabeth Foster of Danvers and Jonathan Flint of Reading. There is a 1740 land agreement between Samuel Foster and Rueben Richardson, a 1759 loan to John Browne from Eleazar Lyndsey, 1770 receipt to John Browne from Samuel Gardner, an 1850 copy of an 1819 deed for Gideon Foster as well as an 1828 petition to the Salem Supreme Judicial court from Daniel, Joseph and George Brown regarding the estate of John Brown. It is signed by Rufus Choate. There is also an 1834 deed between Stephen Brown and William Browne, an 1842 eulogy for Mrs. Lucy Frost, and two 1907 receipts from the Jamestown Exposition to Mrs. Henry Rice for portraits loaned to the exposition, one of which was of Sarah Low Frost.

The remainder of the Foster Papers include the papers and memorabilia of Mary Herrick McIntire of Peabody. Her correspondence reveals her efforts to locate a safe repository for her family's papers and the eventual decision to donate them to the Peabody Institute Library. Her photograph, personal postcards and map of Peabody have been removed from the collection to be filed with photograph and map collections.

Organization and Container List

Container	Contents
Folder 1	Benjamin Foster (1714-1792) Receipts and agreements, 1762-1793.
Folder 2	Captain James Foster (1742-1823) Receipts, 1777-1823.
Folder 3	Aaron Foster (1775-1844) Accounts and agreements, 1806-1823, 1840.
Folder 4	Aaron Foster (1775-1844) Receipts, 1799-1842.
Folder 5	Aaron Foster (1775-1844) Receipts, no date.
Folder 6	Nathan Foster (1809-1834) Receipts, 1825-1827.
Folder 7	Foster Family Papers, 1740-1840, n.d.

Folder 8 Mary Herrick McIntire
Correspondence, 1956-1965.

Container

Contents

Folder 9 Mary Herrick McIntire
Miscellaneous Papers, 1956-1959, n.d.

Photograph Box 2 Photograph, Mary Herrick McIntire

Photograph Box 2 Postcard, Main Street, Dana, Massachusetts

Photograph Box 2 Postcard, Store and Post Office, Dana, Massachusetts

Map Drawer 3 Peabody Map, no date