

**Sturgis Library Archives
Town and Local History Collection**

Frederick Matthews collection, 1810-1986
(bulk, 1810-1895)

MS. 26

Extent: 3 boxes

Biographical note: Frederick Matthews was born in Buffalo, NY in 1904, and died in 1996. He worked as an engineer for companies such as Penzoil, Armstrong Cork and Stone Webster before retiring to Hyannis, MA. He was married twice; first to Barbara (Hinckley) Matthews for twenty-five years and then to Eva (Leander) Matthews for another twenty-five years. He lived on Cape Cod for about forty years where he was a member of the Barnstable Historical Society, Barnstable Historical Commission and a founding member of the Trayser Museum. Matthews was an amateur historian and collector. He was interested in local history and particularly in early Barnstable Village and its inhabitants. To this end he researched families and their ownership of its early houses.

One of his most important contributions was the discovery of the Old Barnstable Jail which dated back to 1702. Found in the backyard of Margrilla Holway, it was given to the town in 1969. He took charge of getting it moved to the Trayser Museum (1971) and successfully petitioned the town for \$40,000 to restore it. According to some accounts this jail held six pirates from the pirate ship *Whidah* which had wrecked on Peaks Hill Bars in Truro, MA in 1718. They were held in the jail before being sent to Boston for execution.

Scope and Contents note: Half of the collection consists of two volumes of notes on early Barnstable houses compiled by Matthews as well as separate files on a number of properties, including the Old Jail, Trayser Museum building, windmills and local churches. The other half of the collection consists of 19th century Barnstable documents, some of which relate to Matthews' family.

Acquisition: Gift of the estate of Frederick Matthews, 1998. Accession number 04-09. Slides in folder 2 were developed 7/2007. Prints added to collection, along with Sally Gunning's transcription and added documentation 7/2007.

Access: Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library Archives for publication purposes.

Processed by: Stephen Robert Lovell Farrar, 2005. Additional processing by Lucy Loomis, 7/2007.

Box 1 Folder #

- 1 Vol. 1 of Frederick Mathews historical notes Location of early houses, G.A. Hickley, Vaughn Bacon (with maps), Town records, proprietors records
- 2 Vol. 2 of Frederick Mathews historical notes Vol. II
 - misc. articles (newspaper)
 - pamphlets
 - letter to Barnstable Selectmen from _?
 - letter to Patricia Weslowski
 - notes made by Henry M. Hutchings
 - Mary G. Hinckley will
 - notes on Otis House with hand drawn map
 - slides of unpublished (?) Samuel Otis letters to his father, James Otis, Sr., regarding brother James Otis, Jr.
 - 8x10 prints of slides
 - Transcription of slides by author Sally Gunning, July 2007
 - Notes on the "Inconsistencies" of James Otis Jr. by Sally Gunning, July 2007
 - photo of Sarah C. Mansfield, 1889
 - pamphlet on life of John Lothrop Old Jail
- 3 Notes on land ownership of Old Jail House
- 4 Sketch of Old Jail property drawn by Gustavus Hinckley
 - photocopied deed of property for land jail was on
 - notes on property and owners
 - negative of Old Stone Jail (built 1820 – removed 1878) on Old Jail Lane, Barnstable. Negative is of an oil painting which shows Freeman Hinckley's house before addition of jail keeper's section moved over in 1854. At the time of the photo, painting was in the possession of Betsey Wagner, Church St. W. Barnstable.
- 5 Hand written notes on old Jail, hand sketched maps of area
 - hand drawn rendition of cistern at old jail
 - letter authorizing removal of items from Lombard Farm, by Town Selectman (signed by M. Hoxie) Trayser Museum
- 6 Trayser
 - Trayser Museum 1985-1986
 - Barnstable/Museum timeline
 - museum study
 - consultant's report (Boston Affiliates)
 - Museum Assessment Program visit (Lawrence Pizer)
 - Town warrant

Box 1

Folder

- 7 Houses built before 1800
- 8 Historic sites in Barnstable Village (slide presentation text, no slides)
- 9 Notes on the Custom House (Trayser Museum), Dimmock House, Coyle House, Lothrop House
- 9A Hand drawn map showing land of Leander Hallett, Ebenezar Bacon, Solomon Hinckley plots and Ezra Crowell near Fresh Hole Pond
- 10 Misc. Property ownership notes
- 11 Lothrop Hill Cemetery
- 12 Scudder lane notes from David Crocker
- 13 Rendezvous Lane – told by Miss Mary G. Hinckley
- 14 Unitarian Church
 - lists of items given to church
 - inventory of 2 boxes of church records stored in Sturgis vault
- 15 Jas Paine Windmill at Barnstable
 - notes (handwritten)
 - hand drawn maps
- 16 Jail Lane windmill
 - handwritten notes
 - correspondence
- 17 Scudder Lane windmill
 - handwritten notes
 - traced map
- 18 First National Bank of Yarmouth (current name, Bank of America?) formerly called Daniel C. Crocker house
- 19 Account of Charles W. Hedge's life and the wreck of the Kadash. Note:

Box 1

Folder

- 19 C. W. Hedge was master of Kadash CWH got sick and was left in Yokohama. Ship under new master (Matthews) sank near Boston harbor where the new Master perished along with an number of sailors. Transcript account from Cliff Richards (Kadosh hand) and correspondence from same
- 20 History of Marion F. Sprague: 3 masted schooner
- 21 Burning of the Blue Tavern (news article from the *Register*, March 7, 1985)
- 22 Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory
 - forms submitted to MHC
 - notes on property ownership

Box #2

Folder

Collected Historic Deeds and Correspondence**Correspondence**

- 23 -Correspondence, __ 16 May 1754 to Nathaniel Holmes, Boston
 - Correspondence, __ Louisbourg 16 May 1754 to Nathaniel Holmes, Boston, in French (may be same as above),
 - Mr. Nathaniel Holmes account with Mascarene(?)
- 24 Correspondence: Amasa Smith to Dear and affectionate wife (from Pittsburgh 27 March 1814)
- 25 Correspondence: Lydia C. Hallett (Barnstable) to Leander Hallett (Liverpool, England) 12 September 1834
- 26 Correspondence: Eben Smith (Provincetown) to Leander Hallett 25 February 1869

Deeds

- 27 Timothy Phinney to Amasa Smith 19 December 1810
- 28 Deed, Isaac Gorham to Senas Howes 25 March 1811
- 29 Deed Ebenezer Sturgis to Amasa Smith 21 February, 1824

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- 30 Deed, Sarah Huse et al to Amasa Smith, 2 September 1826
- 31 Deed, Amasa Smith to Leander Hallett, 26 December 1847
- 32 Deed, John Eben, et al to Leander Hallett, 1 January 1848
- 33 Deed, Leander Hallett to Amasa Smith, 26 December 1853
- 34 Deed, Amasa Smith et al to Eben Smith, 26 December 1853
- 35 Deed, Ebenezer S. Smith to Leander Hallett, 21 October 1856
- 36 Deed, Ann Thatcher to Thomas Avery, 16 March 1860
- 37 Deed, John Smith et al to Leander Smith, 7 April 1869
- 38 Mortgage deed, George D. Cox to Barnstable Savings Bank
14 August 1872
- 39 Leander Hallett probate documents, estate expenses, receipt
- 40 Amasa Smith and Leander Hallett Genealogy
Mathews Family Documents
Deeds and Legal Documents
- 41 Deed, Zenas Gage to Prince Matthews 11 November 1824
- 42 List of the division of prince Matthews real estate 21 August 1834
(known as the first Prince Matthews)
- 43 Deed, Gorham Bray to George Matthews, 8 January 1872
- 44 Deed, George P. Matthews to Azariah Eldridge, 24 August 1878
- 45 Lease, George P. Matthews to George Thatcher, 7 September 1885
- 46 Deed, Henry Avery et al. to George P. Matthews, 2 June 1890
- 47 Deed, Anna Thacher (date?) to Thomas Avery, then T.A. to
George P. Matthews, 2 June 1890

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- 48 Deed, Anna Thacher to George P. Matthews, 14 November 1895
- 49 Deed, Charles H. Gorham to George P. Matthews, dated August 26, 1895 (Colorado deed) recorded Barnstable, 19 April 1897
- 50 Deed, Mrs. George P. Matthews et al. to Joseph Turpin, 31 October 1929
- 51 Lease, George P. Matthews to Cape Cod Art Club, 1 June 1933
- 52 Lydia C. Matthews probate documents, wills (2), Charles H. Hedge executor appt., inventory of estate, property valuation
- 53 Lydia C. Matthews probate documents, settlement of expenses, related correspondence and receipts, passbooks, legal notice
- 54 George P. Matthews probate documents, Lydia C. Matthews executor, inventory of estate, property evaluations, settlement of expenses
- 55 Charles W. Hedge, will, Hannah S. Hedge executor, funeral expenses
- 56 Hannah S. Hedge probate documents, will, Charles H. Hedge executor appt., legal notice, expenses
- 57 Names and ages of the children of Elijah Hedge and Mary Hedge dates 1677-1738
- 58 Charles H. Hedge; correspondence, Appt as executor to estate of Maria Matthews, marriage certificate, obituary, notice
- 59 Correspondence between Carl A. Terry and Charles P. Meikle, 1949-1950 regarding Mathews genealogy
- 60 Frederick Matthews, gifts
 - lists of gifts to Sturgis Library and Barnstable Historical Society
 - Sturgis Library
- 61 Sturgis Library
 - newsletters
 - correspondence related to building project

Box #2
Folder #

Other Misc.

62 Unidentified Photo of Male, age 35 yrs

63 Unidentified Photo's (5) of Barnstable Houses

Box 3
Folder #

64-67 Diaries of Mary Mathews (4), 1893, 1894, 1895, 1897