Sturgis Library Archives

Genealogy and Personal Manuscripts Collection

Charles L. Bassett Papers, 1853-1943

MS. 17

Extent: 3 boxes

Biographical Note: Charles Luce Bassett was born in 1853 and died in 1941. He lived his life on a farm located on Main Street in West Barnstable, MA. His parents were Chester L. and Eliza Bassett. He married Annie Hamblin and they had at least one child, Chester L. Bassett. As a local farmer, and seemingly a prosperous one according to his probate records, he cultivated cranberries and various other vegetables. At the time of his death, in 1943, his stock portfolio was worth approximately $43,000.

Scope and Contents note: Collection consists of Bassett’s personal and business correspondence, account books, and other records relating to his cranberry growing business, 1883-1889. Also includes his personal investment records and records of town service. Arranged chronologically.

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

Acquisition: Source unknown, accession # 05-02

Box 1

Folder #

1  Correspondence, undated
2           “                  1854, 1884, 1886-1889
3           “                  1890
4           “                  1891
5           “                  1892-1893
6           “                  1894
7           “                  1895
8           “                  1896
9           “                  1897
10          “                  1898
11         “                  1899-1900
12 Correspondence relating to selling bog property, 1900-1901

Records regarding cranberry growing business, 1883-1899

13  Grocery supply account book, 1883-1889
14           “                  1887-1890
15           “                  1888-1895
16           “                  1889
17           “                  1890
18           “                  1890
19           “                  1890-1892
20 Farm and bog account book, 1893-?
21 Grocery supply account book, 1894-1897
22           “                  1897
23           “                  1897-1900

24 Receipts and inquiries from merchants for other vegetables, 1888-1901
25 Receipts for picking, screening, and weeding on cranberry bog, 1889-1899
26 Wages paid to cranberry pickers
27 Sales receipts from Waquoit Barrel Co. for barrel purchases, 1895-1898
28 Sales receipts for cranberries, from various merchants, 1885-1898
29           “                  “                  “                  1890-1893
30           “                  “                  “                  1895-1898
Box 2

Folder #

31 Postcard notices advising on market prices and conditions
(from various merchants, including Titus Brothers, NYC, Sharp Cox & Co., Philadelphia, and Redfield and Son, Philadelphia)
32 Correspondence from merchants advising on market prices and conditions, 1895-1899
33 Railroad shipping receipts, 1888-1899

Records regarding town appointments, taxes, permits and fees

34 Appointments as Fire Warden, Town of Barnstable, 1887-1897
35 Receipts for payment to firefighters, 1884-1896
36 Poll tax payments, 1890-1897
37 Republican Party, notices and member list, 1895
38 Notice of insolvency
39 Burn permit, 1898
40 Money order
41 Fire insurance
42 Description of unknown woodlot
43 School notebook
44 Photograph (not identified)
45 Notice of cattle impoundment
46 Receipts

Records relating to railroad stocks owned by Charles Bassett, 1886-1898

47 Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe stocks, notice of dividend payments, stockholder meetings, plan of income hand conversion, 1886-1889
48 Old Colony Railroad stocks, notice of dividend payments, director’s report, 1890, 1895
49 Union Pacific stocks, notice of stockholder meeting, 1888-1891
50 West End Street Railway stocks, annual meetings, proxy notices, notice of directors, board vote, notice of dividend payment, 1892-1898

Records relating to telephone company stocks owned by Charles Bassett, 1892-1901

51 New England Telephone and Telegraph stocks, order forms, notice of dividend payments, notice of stockholder meetings, notice of new stock offering to shareholders, 1892-1901
52 American Telephone and Telegraph Company stocks, notice of dividend payments, annual meeting notices, notice of capital stock increase, 1894-1901
Box 3

Folder #

Record of mining company stocks owned by Charles Bassett, 1891-1901

53  Cordell Zinc and Lead Mining Co., correspondence from broker, blank forms, advertising circular, 1900
54  Quincy Mining Co., proxy forms, notice of dividend payments, annual stockholder meetings, Thomas F. Maron memorial, 1899-1901
55  International Zinc Co., Ltd, prospectus, correspondence, order forms, 1899
56  Syndicate agreement to purchase May claim, with prospectus, 1900
57  Continental Zinc and Lead Mining and Smelting Co., notices and prospectus, not dated

Records regarding various other stocks owned by Charles Bassett, 1892-1901

58  Olympia Light and Power Co, notices, 1892?
59  Swift and Company, notices, forms, 1895-1901
60  Crescent Oil Co., prospectus, correspondence, forms, 1901
61  American Sugar Refining Co., notices of meetings, payment, forms, not dated
62-63  Brokerage firms (various), notices and receipts, 1890-1901
64-65  Advertising circulars from various merchants selling agricultural products

Other items

66  World’s Fair memorabilia
67  Other memorabilia (Luray Caverns, Brockton Fair tickets)
68  Metal shipping stencils
69  Receipts