

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

**S. B. Phinney Newspaper Scrapbooks
MS. 133**

Extent: 2 boxes

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of three newspaper scrapbooks dating from the 1830s to the 1882, created by Sylvanus Phinney. They include clipped articles from the Barnstable Patriot and other newspapers. The clippings cover a variety of topics including Cape Cod and Massachusetts history, fishing, politics, history of the United States and other countries, agriculture, poetry, articles on Phinney himself, and other topics.

Historical and Biographical Information: S. B. Phinney founded the Barnstable Patriot, Cape Cod's oldest newspaper, in 1930. He was an outstanding business man and politician. He served as collector of customs under Presidents Polk, Pierce, Buchanan and Johnson. He was also secretary of Barnstable Savings, president of Hyannis Savings and Hyannis National banks. He was a clerk of the Cape Cod Central Railroad, a member of the Democratic National Convention in 1844, 1853, and 1857. He also was president of the Cape Cod Unitarian Conference, president of the Barnstable Agricultural Society, a Mason, and a major in the 1st Regiment of the Massachusetts Militia. He resided in the house that is now the Sturgis Library.

Access: **DO NOT PHOTOCOPY – fragile volumes.** Credit Sturgis Library Archives for publication purposes.

Acquisition: Unknown.

Related collections: There are numerous items published by or relating to S. B. Phinney in the Sturgis Library archives, and a book entitled *Biographical sketch, personal and descriptive, of Sylvanus B. Phinney, of Barnstable, Mass., on his eightieth anniversary, October 27, 1888* In LOTHROP REF 929.2 PHI.

Processed by: Lucy Loomis, July 2015.

See page 2 for contents.

Box 1 Volume 1 consists of a collection of articles and ephemera pasted into an old copy of The Report of the Superintendent of the Coastal Survey of 1854. It includes announcements of church services, demonstrations, ceremonies, and hundreds of articles from both local and national newspapers covering Cape Cod and other news. Some of the articles are by or about Sylvanus Phinney, or have to do with his personal interests (for instance, Humbolt College, where he served on the Board.) Articles cover news of the day (Cape Cod Canal, cable lines being laid, fisheries, telegraph, Governor Rutledge's visit to Cape Cod, Henry Ward Beecher, Unitarianism, cranberry culture, farming and agriculture, animal husbandry and more.

The final pages of the scrapbook are pasted onto what appears to be a handwritten ledger from the late 1700s recording transactions in the Port of Barnstable by Joseph Nourse, Registrar and Joseph Otis, Collector.

Box 1 Fldr 1 Includes correspondence with the paper conservation specialist at the Northeast Document Conservation center regarding the process for removing the newspaper articles from the final pages of volume 1 in order to uncover the 18th century content pertaining to port activity in Barnstable. Funds will need to be raised in order to fund this conservation work.

Box 2 Fldr 1 Volume 2 includes clipping of the newspaper column *The History of Barnstable County* by Amos Otis published in the Barnstable Patriot newspaper over the course of many months starting in 1861. The Clippings are pasted down in an old leger with handwritten entries, now unreadable. Enclosures.

Fldr 2 Volume 3 is the second part of the collection of The History of Barnstable County articles by Amos Otis. Volume 3 is titled Historical and Genealogical Sketches on the first page, which refers to the handwritten content before the clippings were pasted over it. Enclosures.