

The Bassett Family Collection

Repository

Dutchess County Historical Society
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Access Number

2003.0025

Processed by

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Date Completed

2003-2005, 2013 December 3, 2014 April 1

Creators

William D. Bassett
Caroline Antoinette Wheeler Bassett
Lyman Bassett and Siblings
Henrietta Maria Wheeler Newcomb Mason
Mary Wheeler Lee
John M. Hon
Hannah Peck Wheeler
Hannah Elizabeth Wheeler Powers
Nicholas Sornborger
Sherman Bassett
John M. Wheeler
William Ogden Wheeler
Julia Wheeler Tiffany
Dr. C.W. Bassett

Extent

3.5 linear ft

Dates

Bulk: 1855 - 1899

Conditions Governing Access

Any or No Restrictions

Languages

English

Scope and Content

The collection consists of personal papers, ledgers and an oversized map.

The collection is basically evenly split between records from William Bassett's days in business in the fur trade in New York City and the running of the dairy farm. The records span from 1855 to 1899 and some records were continued by William's son Williams Hopkins Bassett (Mrs. Crawford's father) into the early 20th century. The records consist of financial ledgers, copies of business correspondence, journals recording the daily activities on the farm from 1878-1892, and assorted loose papers.

Most items can be clearly designated as belonging to the period of working in New York or on the farm, but there are a few items that the demarcation is not clear. The descriptions to follow will basically be divided between work and farm, but the division can be arbitrary.

All the volumes and loose papers are in good to excellent condition. All the volumes were commercially produced and are approximately all the same size. The entire collection could be housed in legal size .5 cubic foot boxes. The loose papers have been foldered. There are some loose papers still in some of the volumes and have not been removed.

Biographical Note

William David Bassett was born 12 August 1827 in the town of North East, Dutchess County, New York. On 26 January 1854, William married Caroline Antoinette Wheeler (born 9 January 1831) in North East. Soon after their marriage, in 1855, they moved to Rochester, New York and started to raise a family.

By 1857, William had moved his family to New York City. The milk was shipped daily in cans by the railroad.

While working on his dairy farm, William kept a daily journal of the weather and work done on the farm. His sons William Hopkins Bassett [called Willie in the journals] and Clarence Wheeler Bassett [who was a physician and practiced in nearby Sharon, Connecticut] are mentioned often in the journals. The journals reflect the changing seasons of the year which bring their own tasks. Often there is discussion of how a hired worker is faring, or not faring as the case may be [Mrs. Crawford's mother originally came to the farm as a hired worker before her marriage].

He operated the farm until his death on 9 July 1899. The farm's operation was continued by William Hopkins Bassett.

A pedigree chart and other genealogical documents are also available in the collection's accession file.

Provenance

The Bassett Family Collection was donated to the Dutchess County Historical Society in 2003.

Subject Headings

Business records; Dairy farmers; Economic history

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Container List

Series 1 – Personal papers

Series 2 – Ledgers

Series 3 – Map

Series 1 – Personal papers

Box 1

File or Object ID	Contents	Date
2003.0025.001	William D. and Caroline Antoinette Wheeler Bassett personal papers, deeds, power of attorney, photographs	undated

Box 2

File	Contents	Date
2003.0025.002	Lyman Bassett and Siblings	undated

Box 3

File	Contents	Date
2003.0025.003	Papers of Henrietta Maria Wheeler Newcomb Mason and Mary Wheeler Lee, correspondence	undated

Box 4

File	Contents	Date
2003.0025.004	Papers of John M. Hon and Hannah Peck Wheeler. Also Peck and Barker of Michigan	undated

Box 5

File	Contents	Date
2003.0025.005	Papers of Hannah Elizabeth Wheeler Powers	undated

Box A-010 (not present, 2014)

File	Contents	Date
2003.0025.006	Miscellaneous papers	undated

Series 2 – Ledgers

Box A-011 (Box 6, only one Lyman Bassett ledger present, 2014)

File	Contents	Date
2003.0025.007	5 bound ledgerbooks. Ledger for Lyman Bassett, shoemaker, 1835-1838. Also an accounting of the estate of Nicholas Sornborger, the father of Hannah Bassett the wife of Sherman Bassett. Sherman was the brother of Lyman. Ledger purchases of wheat, rye, shad, oats and wages, 1838-1861 Ledger book pasted over with poems that were published in newspapers. Ledger book partially pasted over with poems published in newspapers. The rest is cash expenditures and wages for employees. Possibly belonging to John M. Wheeler. Ledger recording debts and payments for Wheeler, Peck, Bassett, 1819-1859. Loose receipts interleaved in pages: school tuition receipts, invoices,.	undated

Box A-012 (not present, 2014)

File	Contents	Date
2003.0025.008	2 Ledger books, 1 scrapbook Ledger of purchases "accounts of stock", 1828. Back of book includes recipes and pages pasted over with newspaper clippings of useful notions for households Account book of Lyman Bassett, 1848-1877. Also includes loose papers, one is a mortgage from Lyman Bassett to Jacob Howland for use of house, outbuilding, land and well. Scrapbook-death notices for William Ogden Wheeler, his sister Julia Wheeler Tiffany, catalog of Lectures from the Medical Department of the University of the City of New York, 1882 (loose) with attached card from Dr. C.W. Bassett, genealogical clippings and general clippings from newspapers, recipes	undated

Series 3 – Map

Box A-013 (not present, 2014)

File	Contents	Date
2003.0025.008	Map, no further description	undated