



Guide to the Meshech Weare Family Papers, 1652-1919

Administrative Summary

Title of the Collection:

Meshech Weare Family Papers, 1652-1919

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

M 1917.003, M 1983.058 (m)

Creator:

Meshech Weare and members of the Weare family

Author of Finding Aid:

Carolyn Baldwin, April 1974.

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box and 3 folders

Abstract:

The Meshech Weare Family Papers, 1652-1919, are composed of correspondence, legal documents, financial papers, and other miscellaneous documents reflecting the life of Meshech Weare, his service during the American Revolution and as first president of New Hampshire, and his family.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The two main parts of this collection were accessioned in 1917 and 1983 with accession numbers M 1917.001 and M 1983.058 (M). A number of other accessions, M 1976.076, M 2008.042, M 2008.073, and M 1974.013, were integrated into M 1917.001. M 1917.001 was a gift of V.C. Sanborn in June 1917. M 1983.058 (M) was a gift of Thomas and Bruce Batchelder in July 1983.

Processing Information:

Carolyn Baldwin originally processed the collection in April 1974. The finding aid was updated by Sarah Galligan, November 2013, to follow the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, NH. Each series is filed under its original accession number.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Researchers are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Meshech Weare Family Papers, 1652-1918, M 1917.001 and M 1983.068(M). New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Meshech Weare served as the President (now called Governor) of New Hampshire from 1776 to 1785. He was born in Seabrook, NH, on June 16, 1713 to Nathaniel Weare and Mary Wait Weare. Nathaniel Weare served as deacon in what was the Third Parish of New Hampshire. Nathaniel Weare's brother was Peter Weare who lived from 1695 to 1743. Meshech Weare graduated from Harvard College, MA, in 1735. In 1739, he became town moderator of Hampton Falls, NH. For the rest of his life, Meshech Weare served in various political positions including Speaker of the House of Representatives in New Hampshire, delegate to the 1754 Albany Congress, and Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Superior Court.

Meshech Weare married twice during his life, first to Elizabeth Shaw and then to Mehitabel Wainwright. He fathered 10 children: Samuel Weare (1741-1802), Nathaniel Weare (born 1757), Nathan Weare (1747-1798), Abigail Weare (1749-1786), Hannah Weare (1754-1849), Mary Weare (born 1743), Thomas Wibird Weare (born 1758), Elizabeth Weare (born 1749), Richard Weare (1752-1777), and Redford Weare (1761-1807). Meshech Weare died on January 14, 1786 in Hampton Falls, NH shortly after retiring from public life.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Meshech Weare Family Papers, 1652-1919, are composed of correspondence, legal documents, financial papers, and other miscellaneous documents reflecting the life of Meshech Weare, his service during the American Revolution and as first president of New Hampshire, and his family. The collection is divided into three series: Series I. Weare Family Papers, 1713-1821, Series II. Case of the sale of the Weare Papers, 1847-1919, and Series III. Weare Family Papers, 1652-1862. The first two series are from accession M 1917.003 and a number of smaller accessions. The third series is entirely from accession M 1983.058 (M). Both the first and third series contain materials from the life of Meshech Weare and his family and are separated in order to retain the manner in which the materials were accessioned. The second series contains information on the case of the sale of the Weare Papers which occurred in 1915 and concerned whether some of the Weare Papers were public, belonging to the state, or private and therefore, able to be auctioned.

Arrangement:

The Meshech Weare Family Papers, 1652-1919, are divided into three series:

Series I. Weare Family Papers, 1713-1821

Series II. Case of the sale of the Weare Papers, 1847-1919

Series III. Weare Family Papers, 1652-1862

Contents List

Series I. Weare Family Papers, 1713-1821

Extent: ½ box

Scope and Content Note: Series I. Weare Family Papers, 1713-1821 contains papers related to Meshech Weare (1713-1786), Nathan Weare (1747-1798), Nathaniel Weare (born 1757), Peter Weare (1695-1743), and Nathaniel Weare (1669-1755). The collection mainly includes correspondence, legal documents, and ledgers. There are also some miscellaneous papers loose in leather binding mainly dealing with life in Hampton Falls, NH and the surrounding area.

Box 1

- Folder 1 Genealogical Information
- Folder 2 Letters and legal documents of Meshech Weare, 1753-1786
- Folder 3 Orders and receipts of Meshech Weare, 1753-1786
- Folder 4 Letters from Nathan Weare to his brother Nathaniel Weare while serving in the American Revolution, 1778-1782
- Folder 5 Letters and legal documents regarding Peter Weare, 1719-1766
- Folder 6 Correspondence of Nathaniel Weare (born 1757), 1792-1826
- Folder 7 Ledger of Meshech Weare, 1778-1778
- Folder 8 Miscellaneous Papers loose in a leather binding, 1733-1821 include:
- A. Nathaniel Weare (1669-1755) Accounts, 1733-1736
 - B. Hampton Province Rate, not dated, circa 1745-1755
 - C. Memoranda includes work done on the parsonage at Hampton, 1713 and accounts, 1776-1778
 - D. Meshech Weare accounts of liquor sold, 1748-1753
 - E. Hampton Falls Parish, 2nd Church of Christ in Hampton records, 1757-1733
 - F. Hampton Falls Parish selectman's minutes and accounts, 1766-1767
 - G. Meshech Weare list of names and day of word, Hampton Falls, 1778-1782
 - H. Notes on the Jay Treaty, signed November 19, 1794
 - I. System of brachiagraphy
 - J. Biological sketch of Jeremiah Shaw of Moultonborough, NH
 - K. Notebook of Joseph Weare, 1793-1811
- Folder 9 Copies of Letters, 1782-1792

Series II. Case of the sale of the Weare Papers, 1847-1919

Extent: ½ box

Scope and Content Note: Series II. Case of the sale of the Weare Papers, 1847-1919, contains correspondence, legal documents, and auction catalogs related to case of *State of New Hampshire v. Henkels*. In the case, Meshech Weare Papers were discovered in 1913 in the estate of Frederick G. Moore after disappearing in the early nineteenth century. Moore's heirs prepared to sell the papers at auction. The State of New Hampshire, with the help of Otis Hammond of the New Hampshire Historical Society, laid claim to all official papers as state property. The papers were returned to the New Hampshire Historical Society where they were housed until they were transferred to the New Hampshire State Library.

Box 1

- Folder 10 Typewritten summary of the case and an article from *Granite Monthly*, 1919
- Folder 11 Letter from Jacob Bailey Moore to L.F. Wetmore concerning his possession of the Meshech Weare Papers, March 4, 1847 (This letter was unknown at the time of the litigation.)
- Folder 12 Correspondence, 1913-1914

- Folder 13 Correspondence, 1915-1916
- Folder 14 Correspondence, 1917-1918
- Folder 15 Documents, 1915
- Folder 16 Auction Catalogs, 1915
- Folder 17 Photocopied newspaper clippings, 1915-1919
- Folder 18 Inventory of the Weare Papers transferred to the New Hampshire Library

Series III. Weare Family Papers, 1652-1862

Extent: 3 folders

Scope and Content Note: Series III. Weare Family Papers, 1652-1862 contains correspondence, legal documents, and financial documents related to the Weare Family. The majority of the documents are Meshech Weare's and relate to the American Revolution.

- Folder 1 Correspondence and legal documents, 1652-1765
- Folder 2 Correspondence, 1766-1784
- Folder 3 Legal documents, accounts, receipts, recipes, a hand-painted family crest, and other miscellaneous documents, 1785-1862, undated

Separated Materials:

Some materials have been removed to the broadsides collections: Proclamations-Fast Day, Military 1746-1779, Military 1780-1800, Commissions, and Justice of the Peace, 1750-1850.

Subject Terms

Subjects:

- Committee of Safety
- Jay Treaty, London, 1764
- Loyalists
- Shorthand—brachiagraphy
- Taxation
- United States—History—Revolution, 1775-1783.

Locations:

- Hampton, NH
- Hampton Falls, NH
- South Hampton, NH
- Kensington, NH

People:

- Bailey, Reverend Josiah
- Gibson, John Sinclair

Gilman, John Taylor, 1753-1828
Gilman, Nicolas
Jones, Jonathan
Langdon, John, 1707-1780
Livermore, Matthew, 1703-1776
Moore Jacob Bailey, 1797-1853
Moulton, Jonathan, 1716-1762
Shaw, Jeremiah, 1747-1834
Swett, Jonathan
Wingate, Paine, 1739-1838
Weare, Hannah, born 1754
Weare, Jonathan
Weare, Meshech, 1713-1786
Weare, Nathan, 1747-1798
Weare, Nathaniel, 1669-1755
Weare, Peter, 1695-1743
Weare, Redford, 1761-1807
Weare, Samuel, 1741-1802
Weare, Thomas, born 1758

Related Materials

Butters, Avery John. *New Hampshire History and the Public Career of Meshech Weare, 1713-1786*. Ann Arbor: University Microfilms, 1961.

Original Letters. Concord: Jacob B. Moore, 1827.

Sanborn, F. B. (Franklin Benjamin). *The Nathaniel Weares*. Concord: F.B. Sanborn, 1910.

Sargent, William Mitchell. *The Weare Family of Hampton, New Hampshire and North Yarmouth Maine*. Yarmouth: Old Times Office, 1879.

Stearns, Ezra Scollay. *Meshech Weare*. Concord: Republican Press Association, 1894.

Upton, Richard. *Meshech Weare: New Hampshire's Colonial Patriot and Statesmen: A Biological Essay on the Civil Side of the American Revolution in New Hampshire*. New Hampshire Society of Colonial Wars, 1960.

Wingate, Paine, *Sketch of Honorable Meshech Weare*. Concord: Asa McFarland, 1837.