

Guide to the Potter Family Papers

MS 16



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September 1969

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 16

CREATOR: Potter family

TITLE: Potter family papers

DATES: 1823-1888

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Account books (1846-1868) relating to surveying and highway repair in Hamden, Conn.; ledgers, daybooks, and pay books concerning the breeding of cattle, sale of hides and wood, and quarrying of stone; accounts (1825-1882) of the firm Rowe and Tuttle of Fair Haven, Conn., covering the sale of general merchandise; and deeds for land acquired by the Potter family in North Branford, New Haven, North Haven, Fair Haven, and Hamden, Conn. Represented in the collection are Jabez Turner Potter (1796-1871), Evelyn Blakeslee, Philemon Blakeslee, Lemuel Potter, Timothy Potter (b.1769), Martha (Turner) Potter, Sherman Benjamin Potter (1806-1860), Timothy Potter (1792-1853), Merritt Luzerne Potter (b.1831), George Washington Potter (1802-1879), and Timothy Zalmon Potter (b.1832).

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Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0016>.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Potter Family Papers (MS 16). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Scope and Contents

The Potter Family Papers, 1795-1887, are mainly the financial records and deeds of Jabez Turner Potter, 1796-1871. A surveyor of Hamden, Connecticut, his ledgers record payments to laborers, accounts as collector of highway taxes, sales of farm produce, oysters, hides and wood, and contracting work such as road repair, quarrying and carting stone, and masonry on houses and stores. Most of the papers and records date from the 1840's through the 1860's. There are also six volumes of accounts, 1825-1882, apparently all kept in the same hand, of a general store in the vicinity of Fair Haven, North Haven, or Hamden, Conn. The proprietors may have been Rowe & Tuttle, since large sums of money were regularly drawn from the business through the Rowe & Tuttle account. The store of John Rowe and Smith Tuttle was the principal store in Fair Haven, now a section of New Haven. However, the connection between Rowe & Tuttle and the Potter Family is uncertain. It is known that Smith Tuttle's sister, Mercy, married in 1810 Isaac Blakeslee, whose twin sons, Lucius Merrick Blakeslee and Julius Merritt Blakeslee, were clerks for, or in business with their uncle, Smith Tuttle. In 1885, Jabez Turner Potter's daughter, Eliza Ann (1826-) married another Isaac Blakeslee, probably a relative of the elder Blakeslee (see Potter Genealogy, Part V, p. 2 and Tuttle Genealogy, p. 284). The parents of the donor of these papers, Georgina Johnson, were George A. and Mary (Blakeslee) Johnson. The day books and ledger record the sale of groceries and general merchandise and goods received.

Box 1 of the papers contains 13 folders of deeds, 1795-1870, for land in New Haven, North Haven, Fair Haven, Hamden, East Haven, and North Branford. Most of the deeds are those of Jabez Potter. Other Potter relatives and prominent area citizens cited in the deeds are: Elmon, Evelyn, and Philemon Blakeslee; Frederick Crosswell; Caleb Mix; Hervey and Eliza Treat; Jared Foot; and Lemuel, Timothy (b.1796?), Timothy (1792-1853), Martha (Turner), and Sherman Benjamin (1806-1860) Potter.

The Potter Family Papers include very little correspondence and are primarily a source of information on the economic and agricultural history of Hamden and surrounding towns.

Arrangement

I. Legal Records. II. Correspondence. III. Financial Records.

Collection Contents

Series I: LEGAL RECORDS, 1795, 1802, 1814, 1818-1870

0.25 linear feet

Legal records contains deeds and miscellaneous materials. The deeds are arranged by families with the Potter deeds first followed by other families in alphabetical order.

Miscellaneous includes a court decision concerning Jabez Turner Potter's military service, power of attorney, the Pierpont estate settlement, and agreements for construction work.

Deeds

b. 1, f. 1	Potter, Jabez Turner	1818-1870
b. 1, f. 2	Potter, Hannah	1851
b. 1, f. 3	Potter, Horace	1824
b. 1, f. 4	Potter, Lemuel	1814
b. 1, f. 5	Potter, Martha	1795
b. 1, f. 6	Potter, Timothy, b. 1796?	1802
b. 1, f. 7	Blakeslee, Elmon	1823-1869
b. 1, f. 8	Blakeslee, Evelyn	1831, 1834
b. 1, f. 9	Blakeslee, Philemon Jr.	1830
b. 1, f. 10	Foot, Jared	1828-1839
b. 1, f. 11	Maynard, William	1814
b. 1, f. 12	Treat, Eliza	1863
b. 1, f. 13	Treat, Harvey	1852

Miscellaneous

b. 1, f. 14	Potter, Jabez Turner, court decision concerning his military service	1828-1833
b. 1, f. 15	Power of Attorney	1836, 1844
b. 1, f. 16	Pierpont estate settlement record	1852, undated
b. 1, f. 17	Agreements of construction work, to be done	1845, 1853

Series II: CORRESPONDENCE, 1848-1849, 1852-1853, 1866, 1875*0.25 linear feet*

Correspondence contains material to Jabez Turner Potter from Abram Ehle, George W. Potter and Timothy Z. Potter arranged in chronological order for each individual.

Fragments of correspondence are found at the end of the series.

b. 1, f. 18	Potter, Jabez Turner from Abram Ehle	1846-1848
b. 1, f. 19	Potter, Jabez Turner from George W. and Timothy Z. Potter	1849, 1852-1853
b. 1, f. 20	Fragments of correspondence	1866, 1875

Series III: FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1825-1889*1.5 linear feet (4 Boxes)*

This series is arranged according to type of record: ledger, daybooks, account books, bills and miscellaneous.

Miscellaneous contains promissory notes, premium notes, receipts, an arithmetic books and a death certificate.

Jabez Turner Potter's general bills are in chronological order at the beginning of the section with his specific bills chronologically arranged next. These are followed by Blakeslee bills and miscellaneous.

b. 2, f. 21	Ledger of a general store (possibly of Rowe & Tuttle)	1825-1834
<u>Daybooks</u>		
b. 2, f. 22	Of a general s[illegible]re (possibly of Rowe & Tuttle) in the vicinity of Fair Haven, North Haven, or Hamden, Conn.	1825-1830, 1834
b. 3, f. 23-26	Same	1830-1863, 1882
<u>Account Books</u>		
b. 4, f. 27	Miscellaneous accounts	1859-1861
b. 4, f. 28-31	Accounts with laborers	1847-1854, 1856, 1858, 1860
b. 4, f. 32	Accounts with laborers, also for carrying stones; with some entries of family births and deaths	1859-1862, 1868
b. 4, f. 33	Accounts as collector of highway taxes and account of highway repair	1859-1860
b. 4, f. 34	Accounts as collector of highway taxes; also, few accounts with laborers	1862-1866, 1868
b. 4, f. 35	Accounts for household; also for work done	1847, 1865-1866
b. 4, f. 36	Accounts with real estate	1867
b. 4, f. 37	Accounts of oyster sales; also bull servicing, and some laborers	1842, 1846-1851
b. 4, f. 38	Accounts with laborers, stone quarrying, materials; also some for Ellfskins[illegible]es, and bulls (Potter and Atwater)	1847-1857, 1859, 1863, 1870-1871
b. 4, f. 39	Accounts for quarrying and carting stone; also a few extra entries (Bishop and Potter)	1851, 1853
b. 4, f. 40	Accounts for quarrying and carting stone	1853
<u>Bills</u>		
b. 4, f. 41-43	Potter, Jabez Turner	1835-1858
b. 5, f. 44	Potter, Jabez Turner	1859-1889, undated
b. 5, f. 45	Potter, Jabez Turner, concerning the Oyster Schooners and sloops	1841-1848

Bills (continued)

b. 5, f. 46	Potter, Jabez Turner, concerning early railroads	1843-1865
b. 5, f. 47	Potter, Jabez Turner, concerning the construction of a house for Mrs. Eliza Treat	1870
b. 5, f. 48	Bishop and Potter	1853, undated
b. 5, f. 49	Potter, Merritt Luzerne (1831-)	1858-1880, undated
b. 5, f. 50	Blakeslee, Mrs. Eliza Ann (Potter)(1826-)	1851-1859
b. 5, f. 52	Miscellaneous, unidentified bills and notes	undated
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
b. 5, f. 53	Promissory notes	1834-1885
b. 5, f. 54	Premium notes of insurance policies	1851, 1854
b. 5, f. 55	Potter, Merritt Luzerne, receipts for tuition paid to school district no. 9 at Hamden, Connecticut	1857-1871
b. 5, f. 56	Arithmetic book with problems, unidentified	18th century
b. 5, f. 57	LeRowland, Janice, death certificate	1874

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Business
Businessmen
Families
Labor
Labor movement
Working class

Geographic Names

Connecticut
Connecticut -- Commerce
Fair Haven (Conn.)
Hamden (Conn.)
New Haven (Conn.)
North Haven (Conn.)

Genres / Formats

Account books
Deeds

Names

Blakeslee, Evelyn
Blakeslee, Philemon
Potter, George Washington, 1802-1879
Potter, Jabez Turner, 1796-1871
Potter, Lemuel
Potter, Martha Turner
Potter, Merritt Luzerne, 1831-
Potter, Sherman Benjamin, 1806-1860
Potter, Timothy, 1769-
Potter, Timothy, 1792-1853
Potter, Timothy Zalmon, 1832-
Tuttle, Smith, 1795-1865

Families

Potter family

Corporate Body

Rowe and Tuttle