

Wakeman Family Papers

COLLECTION, MS 15

DATE

1705 – 1938

CONTRIBUTOR

Fairfield Museum

ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY ELEMENT

The collection primarily consists of legal and financial records of generations of the Wakeman family, from the 17th through the 19th centuries.

The most notable Wakeman, in relation to this collection, is William Webb (1799-1869), the son of Jessup (1771-1844, who served as collector of Revenue in Fairfield) and Esther Dimon Wakeman. A sea captain, William was active in the coastal trade between New York, Boston, and Salem, Massachusetts, later expanding his route to Georgetown (Washington, DC), Savannah Georgia and Galveston, Texas. As principal in the firm Wakeman, Dimon & Co., he engaged in trade with East India and China. At the start of the Civil War, Wakeman added steamships to his line, and these ships were used by the U.S. government as transports.

SCOPE & CONTENT

A. Maria Wakeman's papers in Series 1 include photographs, newspaper articles, reminiscences of Fairfield schools and examples of school work, 1888-1913, 1935-1938, from Stratford and Dwight schools where she was a teacher, and a copy of Maria's obituary, 1938; and records she kept as clerk of the Greenfield Hill Church, 1925-1931.

Abbie D. Wakeman, Series 2, is represented by probate records of her estate, 1910. Andrew Wakeman (1745-1821) was a Lieutenant and later Captain in the 1st Company, 4th Conn. Regiment. His papers, organized in Series 3, consist of deeds and maps of properties, 1771-1816; receipts for rations and rum for his men, 1777; a slave purchase and emancipation document for the slave Jeffrey, 1801, 1812; his will, 1817; and receipts and accounts, 1816- 1820.

David Wakeman is represented in Series 4 by deeds, 1857. The documents of two Ebenezers are arranged in Series 5. The first Ebenezer (1749-1801) is represented by a deed, 1785; the second (b. 1775) by a bill of sale, 1823. Eleanor Wakeman (1783-1873) , daughter of Epaphras Wakeman and wife of Jesse Wakeman, sold land in Westport in 1836. These documents are arranged in Series 6.

ARRANGEMENT

The individuals are arranged alphabetically with their papers organized chronologically.

Collection Contents

Wakeman Family Papers

Series 33: Assorted family members

Folder 1 includes legal and financial records arranged in alphabetical order according to the name of the individual. Of note is a receipt, 1769, issued to Gideon Wakeman, for a share in the Susquehannah Purchase. Maps of the Wakeman/Dimon homestead are in Folder 2. Andrew Wakeman's Bible dictionary is in Folder 6.

Series 32: Wakeman Gardens

Account book, 1957; placard

Series 31: Zalmon Wakeman

deeds, 1805-1837

Series 30: William Webb Wakeman

Business records:

cash book, 1816; shipping papers related to Wakeman & Dimon, including bills and receipts, 1857; claims for loss related to several vessels, 1864-1865; insurance documents for ships, 1862-1864; contracts for charter parties, 1868; and a ledger, 1859-1862. William's letter book, also related to shipping, 1858-1868, is included in this series.

Series 29: Seth Wakeman

deeds, 1843-1855, and bills and receipts, 1852-1859

Series 28: Sarah Ann Bulkley Wakeman and Joseph Wakeman
Estate of Joseph

Series 27: Samuel Wakeman (multiple)

deeds, 1746, 1843-1844, 1859; regimental orders, 1809; and a probate record, 1910.

Series 26: Samuel Wakeman (1774-1826)

deeds, 1798-1820, and the distribution of his estate, 1826.

Series 25: Samuel Wakeman (1734-1809)

Account book, operated a sawmill and also traded in meat and cider

Series 24: Samuel Wakeman (1713-1752)

Wakeman's appointment as a Ensign in the 1st Co. of Fairfield's militia, 1745; an inventory, 1753, and a court order, 1780, concerning his estate.

Series 23: Samuel Wakeman (1693-1771)

indentures for an Indian woman and her child, 1742; deeds, 1734-1751, bonds, 1738-1749, and a lease, 1789.

Series 22: Samuel Wakeman (1657-1691)

Will, 1690

Series 21: Ruth Rogers Wakeman

Documents: leased property to her son, Andrew, in 1762, and wrote her will in 1783.

Series 20: Maurice Wakeman

shipping account book, 1831-1838

Series 19: Mary Catherine Hull Wakeman

deeds, 1869, 1880

Series 18: Joseph Wakeman (unplaced)

Deeds, 1843 and 1849

Series 17: Joseph Wakeman (1792-1854)

Deeds, 1819-1827

Series 16: Joseph Wakeman (1763-1839)

Account book, 1774-1817, bills and receipts, 1789- 1822, found in the book, and a writ, 1787

Series 15: Joseph Wakeman (1704-1762)

Deeds, 1734

Series 14: Joseph Wakeman (1670-1726)

Deeds, 1705-1726, and a military appointment, 1708

Series 13: John B. Wakeman (1888-1931)



Deeds

Series 12: John Wakeman (1730-1809)

Deeds, 1759-1808, and an account book, 1769-1817

Series 11: John Wakeman (1601-1666)

Series 10: Jessup Wakeman

account book, 1815-1816, and an inventory of his estate, 1843

Series 9: Jabez and Ruth Treadwell Wakeman

Deeds, 1729-1738, and a writ, 1773.

Series 8: Henry Burr Wakeman

deeds, 1838-1889, including contracts for the sale of crops such as onions, potatoes and hay.

Series 7: Eli Wakeman

Account book, 1834-1856

Series 6: Eleanor Wakeman

Land sale, 1836

Series 5: Ebenezer Wakeman

The first Ebenezer (1749-1801) is represented by a deed, 1785; the second (b. 1775) by a bill of sale, 1823.

Series 4: David Wakeman

Deeds, 1857

Series 3: Andrew Wakeman

Deeds and maps of properties, 1771-1816; receipts for rations and rum for his men, 1777; a slave purchase and emancipation document for the slave Jeffrey, 1801, 1812; his will, 1817; and receipts and accounts, 1816- 1820.

Series 2: Abbie D. Wakeman

probate records of her estate, 1910

Series 1: A. Maria Wakeman

photographs, newspaper articles, reminiscences of Fairfield schools and examples of school work, 1888-1913, 1935-1938, from Stratford and Dwight schools where she was a teacher, and a copy of Maria's obituary, 1938; and records she kept as clerk of the Greenfield Hill Church, 1925-1931.