

Guide to the John S. Weeks Papers, 1856-1906

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

John S. Weeks Papers, 1856-1906

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

1977.067

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing

Creator:

Weeks, John S., 1841-1930

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

3 boxes ; 1.04 linear feet

Abstract:

The John S. Weeks Papers contains diaries, two account books, and considerable correspondence for one who had many jobs, traveled throughout the Midwest, and lived in New England.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The John S. Weeks Papers were deposited as an indefinite loan by Mrs. Donald Weeks for the Leonard Weeks & Descendants in America, Inc. on September 26, 1977.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date and reformatted by Korrena Cowing in March 2020. This finding aid follows 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, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

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

Preferred Citation:

Item title, John S. Weeks Papers, 1977.067. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Brainard Spencer Weeks married Sarah Minerva Chamberlain on September 17, 1840 at Wentworth, NH. The daughter of Asa and Sarah (Russell) Chamberlain, Sarah was born on August 18, 1821 at Norwich, VT. Brainard and Sarah had the following known children: John Spencer (b. 1841), Esther M. (b. 1842), Rhoda Ann (b. 1843), William C. (b. 1846), Mary S. (b. 1849), James G. (b. 1850), and Charles Asa (b. 1860). The family lived and farmed in Piermont, NH. In the 1860s Brainard and Sarah moved to Eden, Iowa, with William and Charles. Brainard died there on June 16, 1875, and Sarah on April 1, 1897.

John Spencer Weeks, son of Captain Brainard Weeks, was born in Greenland, NH, in 1841. He moved to Orford, NH, but then after a trip out West, he settled in the Lawrence, MA, area and worked in a cotton mill.

In 1860, John appears to be a Piermont farmhand for Amos and Sarah Kent, a couple in their sixties. On May 6, 1867 John married Lettie P. Merrill at Haverhill, NH. The daughter of Stephen and Adeline Merrill, Lettie was born in August 1843 at Orford, NH. The couple was living in Lawrence, MA, in 1870 and John was a spinner in a local textile mill. Their son Stephen was born in December 1871. Lettie died there on March 20, 1872 of consumption (tuberculosis).

John then married Nellie J. Read on July 15, 1874 at Lebanon, NH. Nellie was born on July 29, 1845 at Nashua, NH, the daughter of Edwin R. and Lucy (Farr) Read. John's son George E. was born at Orford on April 19, 1880, followed by Lettie M. born on October 14, 1882. John purchased an Orford lot from Samuel and Adeliza Morrison in 1876. Nellie died at Orford on June 30, 1903. Their son George moved to Marshall, Iowa, and John went with him. (This was in the same county that Brainard moved to.) By 1920, John was back in Orford.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The John S. Weeks Papers consist of family genealogy, diaries, correspondence, financial papers, and documents of John Spencer Weeks. In the early months of 1864, his diaries mention the effects of the Civil War on Orford, NH. He then leaves on a trip to the "West," going to Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati, where he took a job with an insurance company. He travels Indiana and Illinois, where he works in Chicago for a railroad. The effects of the war are visible in his comments on politics, the abolition movement, Lee's surrender, and the assassination of Lincoln. In August of 1865, he starts home again where he looks for work.

In 1866, he is working in the Atlantic Cotton Mill in Lawrence, MA. In 1867, he devotes more of his diary to the Atlantic Baseball Club, which he helps organize. Weeks includes mentions of floods, earthquakes, and national events both here and in Europe and Canada. He also mentions daily activities and family matters.

This collection also includes excerpts of letters and diaries compiled and reproduced by Audrey Weeks (Mrs. Douglas Weeks) and genealogy.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are organized into folders by type, then chronologically.

Contents List

Box 1

- Folder 0 Finding aid
- Folder 1 Weeks family genealogy, undated
- Folder 2 Diary excerpts, typed, 1864-1877
- Envelope 3 Diary, 1864
- Envelope 4 Diary, 1865
- Envelope 5 Diary, 1866
- Envelope 6 Diary, 1867
- Envelope 7 Diary, 1868
- Envelope 8 Diary, 1869

Envelope 9 Diary, 1870
Envelope 10 Diary, 1872
Envelope 11 Diary, 1873
Envelope 12 Diary, 1874

Box 2

Front Inventory of correspondence
Folder 1 Correspondence, 1856-1857
Folder 2 Correspondence, 1858-1861
Folder 3 Correspondence, 1862-1863
Folder 4 Correspondence, 1864 January-June
Folder 5 Correspondence, 1864 July
Folder 6 Correspondence, 1864 August-October
Folder 7 Correspondence, 1864 November-December
Folder 8 Correspondence, 1865 January-March
Folder 9 Correspondence, 1865 April-July
Folder 10 Correspondence, 1865 August-December
Folder 11 Correspondence, 1866 January-April
Folder 12 Correspondence, 1866 May-August
Folder 13 Correspondence, 1866 September-December
Folder 14 Correspondence, 1867 January-June
Folder 15 Correspondence, 1867 July-December
Folder 16 Correspondence, 1868 January-June
Folder 17 Correspondence, 1868 July-December
Folder 18 Correspondence, 1869 January-June

Box 3

Folder 1 Correspondence, 1869 July-December
Folder 2 Correspondence, 1870 January-March
Folder 3 Correspondence, 1870 April
Folder 4 Correspondence, 1870 May-July
Folder 5 Correspondence, 1870 August-December
Folder 6 Correspondence, 1871 January-February
Folder 7 Correspondence, 1871 Mary-May
Folder 8 Correspondence, 1871 June-October
Folder 9 Correspondence, 1871 November-December
Folder 10 Correspondence, 1872 January-May
Folder 11 Correspondence, 1872 June-December
Folder 12 Business correspondence, 1880-1902
Folder 13 Correspondence, undated
Envelope 14 Account book, 1864
Envelope 15 Account book, 1865
Folder 16 Bills, 1861-1904
Folder 17 Receipts, 1864-1906
Folder 18 Printed material, 1861-1901
Folder 19 Miscellaneous, 1858-1869, undated

Subject Terms

People:

Merrill family
Weeks family
Weeks, John S., 1841-1930

Organizations:

American Farmers Insurance Co.
Atlantic Baseball Club
Atlantic Cotton Mills

Subjects:

Account books
Baseball
Correspondence
Cotton manufacture
Diaries
Farms
Insurance
Mills and mill-work
Textile industry
Travel
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Locations:

Cincinnati, OH
Illinois
Indiana
Lawrence, MA
New York City, NY
Orford, NH
Philadelphia, PA
Wentworth, NH

Occupations:

Farmers