

## 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