Guide to the Sawyer, Goodhue, and Fisk Family Papers, 1831-1964

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:
Sawyer, Goodhue, and Fisk Family Papers, 1831-1964

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

Collection Number:
2003.013

Author of Finding Aid:
David Smolen; updated by Sandra L. Wheeler

Creator:
Fisk family
Goodhue family
Sawyer family

Language:
The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:
6 boxes ; 2.29 linear feet

Abstract:
The Sawyer, Goodhue, and Fisk Family Papers is comprised of six boxes containing family letters, diaries, account books, writings, poetry, and notes.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:
The Sawyer, Goodhue, and Fisk Family Papers were a gift of Susan E. Schnare on February 2, 2003.

Processing Information:
This collection was processed by David Smolen at an unknown date and was reprocessed by Sandra L. Wheeler in June 2024. The finding aid was written by David Smolen at an unknown date and updated by Sandra L. Wheeler in June 2024. 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 materials 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, Sawyer, Goodhue, and Fisk Family Papers, 2003.013. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:
James Goodhue (1831-1905), of Webster, NH, married Mary Fisk (1825-1911) in 1853. They had:
Charles F. (1854-1936), who married Martha George in 1883
Gavuetta (1859-1936), who married Harvey Sawyer in 1894
William G. (1861-1938), who married Nettie Sargent (-1934) in 1889
Senter M. (1865-1932), who married Nellie Wright in 1892
Forrest G. (1869-1877)

Gavetta/Guavetta/Gavuetta (1859-1936) was known to everyone as “Detta.” The spelling of her first name is highly variable, but her tombstone has “Gavuetta” and that version will be used throughout this document. She married Harvey C. Sawyer (1868-1946) of Andover in 1894. Harvey’s father Luther (1836-) was a railroad section master; he and his wife Susan (1840-) had,

in addition to Harvey, Bessie (1859-), Lerois (1860-), Orrin (1865-1910), Ada (1873-) and Luther (1877-). Harvey and Gavuetta had no children together, but adopted the daughter of Harvey's brother, Orrin (1865-1910) and his wife, Minnie Waterman Sawyer (1866-1931) in 1910. The baby was named Clarissa at birth, but renamed Orrine, as seen in the Probate Court record dated February 14, 1911.

Harvey's working life was as a Methodist minister and a farmer. He appears to have served churches in various small New Hampshire towns, but the family could seldom live on that income and they also raised chickens for meat and eggs, cows for milk, and sold garden produce in larger or smaller quantities throughout their lives.

After one year at Antioch College in Ohio in 1929-1930, Orrine was a housekeeper/cook at various summer camps and resorts. At one point in the 1940s, she worked at a University of New Hampshire fraternity house. She married Guy Norris Heath (1894-1968) in 1947; they had no children.

Collection Scope and Content Note:
The Sawyer, Goodhue, and Fisk Family Papers contain materials from these families from 1831 to 1964, though the bulk of materials in this collection primarily concern Harvey Sawyer (a Methodist minister), his wife Gavuetta, and their daughter Orrine, between 1910 and 1945. Incoming correspondence to Harvey, Gavuetta, and Orrine from Goodhue extended family members relate news of neighbors and family; the Sawyer family seems not to have been as closely connected. Harvey and Gavuetta wrote to Orrine frequently about their activities, news about neighbors and family, and Harvey's efforts to stay afloat financially during the depression of the 1930s. Orrine's brief stay at Antioch College is documented in this way. Orrine's correspondence is almost entirely incoming from friends and members of the extended Goodhue family. Harvey, Gavuetta, and Orrine all kept diaries now and then, and Harvey kept clippings of Bible verses, inspirational quotes, religious publications, and religious tracts.

The bulk of ephemera throughout this collection are invitations and announcements for marriages, wedding anniversaries, births, and high school graduations from individuals throughout New Hampshire and a few from Vermont from about 1885 to 1933. Other ephemera includes holiday cards, Webster Old Home Week programs, and calling cards, as well as religious ephemera collected by Harvey.

Photographs were placed in other Historical Society files at the time of accession – see below under "Separated Items" for a complete list. Other than wondering how rationing would work and mentioning friends being drafted (or not), the events of World War II are not discussed.

Arrangement:
The papers are arranged alphabetically by name, then by subject or genre, then chronologically.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 1 Fisk, Mary; John; unidentified, correspondence, 1840, 1870, 1938, undated

Folder 2 Goodhue genealogy, 1831-1938
Folder 3 Goodhue family, ephemera: invitations and announcements, 1890s-1931, undated
Folder 4 Goodhue family, ephemera: "Goodhue hair," [snips and locks of hair of Forrest, J.B., Mary, Mother] 1873, undated
Folder 5 Goodhue family [Charles, Forrest, Willie, unidentified], ephemera, 1917, undated
Folder 6 Goodhue, James, account book, 1854-1857, 1863, 1886
Folder 7 Goodhue, James and Mary, correspondence, incoming, 1877, 1903 October, undated
Folder 8 Goodhue, James and Mary, ephemera: invitations and announcements, 1880s-1910s, 1926
Folder 9 Goodhue, Mary Fisk (Mrs. James), correspondence, incoming, 1877, 1894, 1898, 1901-1902
Folder 10 Goodhue, Mary Fisk (Mrs. James), correspondence, incoming, 1905-1911, undated
Folder 11 Goodhue, William, writings [poems in manuscript and clippings of published], undated
Folder 12 Sawyer, Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, correspondence, incoming, 1910-1911, 1914, 1928
Folder 13 Sawyer, Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, correspondence, incoming, 1929 January-June
Folder 14 Sawyer, Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, correspondence, incoming, 1929 October-December
Folder 15 Sawyer, Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, correspondence, incoming, 1930, 1935, undated
Folder 16 Sawyer, Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, diaries, 1904, 1909-1911
Folder 17 Sawyer, Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, diaries, 1912-1913
Folder 18 Sawyer, Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, diaries 1931, 1933

Box 2

Folder 1 Sawyer Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, writings and lists, undated
[Lists of sewing done; bound volume almost completely empty.]
Folder 2 Sawyer, Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, writings and lists, 1910, undated
[Lists include expenses of adoption, recipes, places lived, vacation events. There is also an envelope of clippings of her published poems.]
Folder 3 Sawyer, Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, ephemera, 1891-1892, undated
Folder 4 Sawyer, Harvey and Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, correspondence, outgoing to daughter, 1926-1928
Folder 5 Sawyer, Harvey and Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, correspondence, outgoing to daughter, 1929-1930
Folder 6 Sawyer, Harvey and Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, correspondence, outgoing to daughter, 1933, 1934 March-August
Folder 7 Sawyer, Harvey and Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, correspondence, outgoing to daughter, 1934 September-November
Folder 8 Sawyer, Harvey and Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, correspondence, outgoing to daughter, 1935, 1938
Folder 9 Sawyer, Harvey and Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue, ephemera, 1924, undated

Folder 10 Sawyer, Harvey and Gavuetta “Detta’ Goodhue, ephemera: invitations and announcements, 1885-1898
Folder 11 Sawyer, Harvey and Gavuetta “Detta” Goodhue, ephemera: invitations and announcements, 1900-1909
Folder 12 Sawyer, Harvey and Gavuetta “Detta” Goodhue, ephemera: invitations and announcements, 1910-1919
Folder 13 Sawyer, Harvey and Gavuetta “Detta” Goodhue, ephemera: invitations and announcements, 1920-1929
Folder 14 Sawyer, Harvey and Gavuetta “Detta” Goodhue, ephemera: invitations and announcements, 1932-1933, undated

Box 3

Folder 1 Sawyer, Harvey, correspondence, outgoing to daughter, 1940
Folder 2 Sawyer, Harvey, correspondence, outgoing to daughter, 1941
Folder 3 Sawyer, Harvey, correspondence, outgoing to daughter, 1942 January-April
Folder 4 Sawyer, Harvey, correspondence, outgoing to daughter, 1942 July-December
Folder 5 Sawyer, Harvey, correspondence, outgoing to daughter, 1943 January-April
Folder 6 Sawyer, Harvey, correspondence, outgoing to daughter, 1943 May-August
Folder 7 Sawyer, Harvey, correspondence, outgoing to daughter, undated
Folder 8 Sawyer, Harvey and Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1936
[includes condolences on death of Gavuetta “Detta” Goodhue Sawyer]
Folder 9 Sawyer, Harvey, diaries, 1893, 1903
Folder 10 Sawyer, Harvey, diaries, 1905-1906
Folder 11 Sawyer, Harvey, diaries, 1908, 1936
Folder 12 Sawyer, Harvey, ephemera, 1930s, undated
Folder 13 Sawyer, Harvey, ephemera, 1930s, undated
Folder 14 Sawyer, Harvey, ephemera, religious tracts, undated

Box 4

Folder 1 Sawyer, Harvey, financial records, 1888-1896
Folder 2 Sawyer, Harvey, financial records, 1897-1900
Folder 3 Sawyer, Harvey, financial records, 1909-1910
Folder 4 Sawyer, Harvey, writings, lists, 1883, 1888, undated
[school essays, lists of weddings/funerals, quotations, aphorisms]
Folder 5 Sawyer, Harvey, writings, lists, 1920-1935, undated
[lists of weddings/funerals, notes, notes on exercises for ‘overcoming stoop’]
Folder 6 Sawyer, Harvey, writings, lists, undated
[Bible verses explained, aphorisms]
Folder 7 Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, outgoing, 1926, 1930, 1938, 1941, 1943
Folder 8 Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1911, 1915, 1917-1923
Folder 9 Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1924 January-June
Folder 10 Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1924 July-December
Folder 11 Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence incoming, 1925

Box 5

Folder 1 Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1926
Folder 2 Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1927-1928

Folder 3	Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1929-1930, 1934, 1936
Folder 4	Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1937-1939
Folder 5	Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1940
Folder 6	Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1941 January
Folder 7	Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1941 February
Folder 8	Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1941 March-April
Folder 9	Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1941 May-December
Folder 10	Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1942
Folder 11	Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1943-1944
Folder 12	Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, 1952-1953, 1958, 1961, 1964
Folder 13	Sawyer, Orrine, correspondence, incoming, undated
Folder 14	Sawyer, Orrine, diaries, 1919-1928 [one of these was probably written all or in part by her mother, Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue Sawyer]

Box 6

Folder 1	Sawyer, Orrine, diary, 1930
Folder 2	Sawyer, Orrine, diary, 1937
Folder 3	Sawyer, Orrine, diary, 1940
Folder 4	Sawyer, Orrine, ephemera, 1917, 1920s, undated
Folder 5	Sawyer, Orrine, legal documents [birth certificate], 1909
Folder 6	Sawyer, Orrine, writings [childish hand], undated
Folder 7	Sawyer, Orrine, photographs and negatives, undated
Folder 8	Unidentified authors, letters, notes, lists, poems, writings, 1853, 1877, 1930, undated

Separated Materials:
The following photographs were moved to the Photograph Collection when the collection was accessioned:

Number of Photographs	Description
17	Photographs of and at the Tilton Seminary, circa 1893. Most are of individuals or groups of people. Filed in the Tilton (Town) photographs.
18	Photos of Orrine, her father Harvey, and mother "Detta" plus a booklet of 12 photographs still in the book. Filed in the Surname (People) photographs.
1	Oversize photograph of the Portsmouth Shipyard plus 3 photos (11x14) of shipyard, all during WWI. Filed in the Portsmouth (Town) photographs.
1	Oversize photograph of the New Hampshire National Guard in WWI at Berlin.
6	Photos of Goodhue and Fisk family members. Filed in the Surname (People) photographs.

Family surnames filed in the People photographs:

Brown, 3
Carter, 1
Colby, 4
Detter? Senter, 1
Dickerman, 2
Downes, 1
Eastman, 1
Eaton, 2
Fletcher, 2
Griffin, 1
Haynes, 6
McGregor, 1
Mooney, 4
Nett, 1
Page, 3
Thompson, 1
Walker, 2
Wheeler, 1

Hart, 1 (five-generation photo of Hart, Marshall, and 3 Knowltons)

Places filed in Town photographs:
Andover, 1
Bristol, 1
Charlestown, 3
Chesterfield, 2
Elkins, 1
Franconia, 2
Hillsboro, 1
Hinsdale, 1
Munsonville, 3
Salisbury, 1
Sandwich, 3
Sunapee, 1
Tamworth, 1
Tilton, 1

Subject Terms

People:

Fisk family
Fisk, Mary 1825-1911
Goodhue family
Goodhue, James, 1831-1905
Sawyer family
Sawyer, Gavuetta M., 1859-1936
Sawyer, Harvey Calvin, 1868-1946
Sawyer, Orrine, 1909-1986

Organizations:

Antioch College
Bradford Academy
Charlestown High School
Hinsdale High School
Hopkinton High School
Moultonborough Public Schools
Penacook High School
Proctor Academy
Simonds Free High School (Warner, N.H.)
Union Graded School
Walnut Hill School (Natick, Mass.)

Subjects:

Birth announcements
Camps
Christmas cards
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
Commencement ceremonies
Condolence notes

Correspondence
Depressions--1929--United States
Diaries
Draft
Families
Greeting cards
Invitation cards
Marriage
New Hampshire Old Home Week
Obituaries
Poetry
Religion
Resorts

Locations:

Charlestown, NH
Concord, NH
Durham, NH
Natick, MA
New Hampshire
Penacook, NH
Piermont, NH
Rye, NH
Webster, NH
Weirs Beach, Laconia, NH

Occupations:

Clergy
Cooks
Farmers
Housekeepers

Related Materials

Archives
Gavuetta "Detta" Goodhue Sawyer Papers, 2023.019

Library
For the name change from Clarissa to Orrine Goodhue:
Roberts, Richard P. *New Hampshire Name Changes, 1768-1923*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1996. Call number 929.3778 R646 page 230