

# The Barnes Family Papers, 1700-1961

**Repository:** Hingham Public Library

**Creator:** Barnes Family

**Quantity:** 2 document boxes, 1 oversize box

**Processed By:** Stephanie McBain

**Related Materials:** The Bicentennial Collection and the Lincoln Family Papers also contain records that relate to the Barnes family.

## Provenance

These papers were created by various members of the Barnes family while living in Hingham and Boston. They were donated to the library by \_\_\_\_\_.

## Biographical Note

The first member of the Barnes family to settle in Hingham was Thomas Barnes, who was originally from England. He was granted land in 1637 on Bachelor Street, which is now Main Street. Thomas worked as a farmer and weaver. His wife was named Anna, and they had seven children together. He died in Hingham on November 29, 1672.

Ensign Barnes was born in Hingham on October 22, 1753 to John Barnes and Margaret Curtis. In 1786 he married Susanna Jacob, and they had nine children. Ensign was a farmer and resided at the paternal homestead on Summer Street. He died on December 6, 1830.

Luther J. Barnes was born in Hingham on December 11, 1798 to Ensign Barnes and Susanna Jacob. In 1825 he married Rebecca Fessenden of Boston, and they had two children. Luther was a merchant and was very active in the growth of Hingham. He was one of the founders of the Hingham Bank, the Boston and Hingham Steam Boat Company, the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and the Institution for Savings. He resided on Summer Street and died on January 24, 1855.

Isaac Barnes was born in Hingham on April 11, 1803 to Ensign Barnes and Susanna Jacob. He never married and died in Hingham on July 15, 1874. No more information is available.

Rebecca Ann Fessenden Barnes was born in Boston on December 13, 1807 to Benjamin Fessenden and Ann Bucknam. In 1825 she married Luther J. Barnes, and they had two children. Rebecca died in Hingham on August 23, 1885.

Ann Fessenden Barnes Ames was born in Hingham on January 21, 1826 to Luther J. Barnes and Rebecca Fessenden. In 1852 she married Preston Adams Ames. She died in Boston on December 11, 1876.

Charles Benjamin Barnes was born in Hingham on April 12, 1829 to Luther J. Barnes and Rebecca Fessenden. In 1859 he married Clara Louisa Page of Salem, and they had four children. Charles worked as a "woolen commission merchant" in Boston. He resided on Summer Street in

Hingham and had a winter residence in Boston. He died on June 2, 1912 and was buried in Hingham.

Charles Benjamin Barnes, Jr. was born in Boston on November 1, 1868 to Charles Barnes and Clara Louisa Page. He attended Harvard, where he studied law, and afterwards was prominent within the profession. In 1897 he married Josephine Lea Low, and they had four children. Charles died in Hingham on August 28, 1856.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection includes correspondence and various records created by or relating to members of the Barnes family from the 18<sup>th</sup> century through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Correspondence is mainly that of Charles B. Barnes, Jr., although several letters to his father are also included. A large part of the records are land deeds or relate to the wills and estates of various members of the family. Land records also include materials relating to Button Island, which the Barnes family owned for part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and to the Hingham wharves. General family records include items relating to the Boston and Hingham Steamboat Company and the California and South Shore Joint Mining Company, both of which Luther J. Barnes was involved with; Hingham cemetery plot records; the notebooks of Charles B. Barnes; materials relating to the French Spoliation Claims of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which affected the Page side of the Charles B. Barnes family; genealogical notes; and receipts and payment notes.

### **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into the following four series:

- Series I. Correspondence, 1874-1950
  - Subseries 1, Charles B. Barnes Correspondence, ca. 1874-1875
  - Subseries 2, Charles B. Barnes, Jr. Correspondence, 1882-1950
- Series II. Wills and Estates, 1788-1952
  - Subseries 1, Annie Barnes Ames Estate, 1864-1887
  - Subseries 2, Charles B. Barnes Estate, 1905-1952
  - Subseries 3, Ensign Barnes Estate, 1830-1845
  - Subseries 4, Isaac Barnes Estate, 1872-1878
  - Subseries 5, Luther J. Barnes Estate, 1853-1878
  - Subseries 6, Luther J. Barnes and Rebecca A. Barnes Estate, 1868-1870
  - Subseries 7, Miscellaneous Estates and Wills, 1788-1947
  - Subseries 8, Rebecca A. Barnes Estate, 1882-1885
- Series III. General Family Records, 1721-1961
  - Subseries 1, California and South Shore Joint Mining Company, 1849-1850
  - Subseries 2, Cemetery Records, 1849-1912
  - Subseries 3, Charles B. Barnes Notebooks, ca. 1846-1887
  - Subseries 4, French Spoliation Claims, 1826-1855
  - Subseries 5, Genealogy, ca. 1935-1961
  - Subseries 6, Miscellaneous Family Records, 1721-1956
  - Subseries 7, Personal Records, 1807-1907

- Subseries 8, Steam Boat Companies, 1832-1899
- Series IV. Land Records, 1700-1956
  - Subseries 1, Button Island Records, 1843-1956
  - Subseries 2, Land Deeds, 1700-1923
  - Subseries 3, Land Plans, ca. 1788-1931
  - Subseries 4, Miscellaneous Land and Property Records, 1780-1920
  - Subseries 5, Wharf Deeds, 1803-1881

## **Series I. Correspondence, 1874-1950**

### **Subseries 1, Charles B. Barnes Correspondence, ca. 1874-1875**

Box 1, folder 1

This subseries contains three of Charles B. Barnes' letters, including an undated letter from Charles to his mother, an 1874 letter to Charles from his uncle Isaac, and an 1875 letter to Charles from C.W. Barnes.

### **Subseries 2, Charles B. Barnes, Jr. Correspondence, 1882-1950**

Box 1, folder 2

This subseries contains the correspondence of Charles Barnes, Jr. from 1882 to 1950, although most is from the 1880s and 1890s. Frequent correspondents include his parents and school friends such as Charles White and "Fo Fal." Also included are letters of recommendation from close acquaintances as Charles set out on his career as a lawyer.

## **Series II. Estates and Wills, 1788-1952**

### **Subseries 1, Annie Barnes Ames Estate, 1864-1887**

Box 1, folder 3

This subseries contains materials relating to the estate of Annie Fessenden Barnes Ames, including her 1864 will, notes from Preston Adams Ames and Rebecca Ann Barnes dated 1878 and regarding Annie's requests, and an 1887 receipt from the estate.

### **Subseries 2, Charles B. Barnes Estate, 1905-1952**

Box 1, folder 4

This subseries includes a copy of Charles B. Barnes' 1905 will and another, undated will; a 1912 release relating to his real estate on Marlboro Street in Boston; a 1913 letter from Mary P. Barnes regarding the receipt of her legacy payment; a 1920 quitclaim to Elmer L. Curtiss; a 1952 document stating that Charles B. Barnes, Jr. and Mary P. Barnes acted as trustees of the estate; six 1952 documents signed by Charles Jr. and Mary dividing interest in Hingham real estate between themselves and other tenants; and two 1952 documents signed by some of the other tenants giving land to Charles Jr.

### **Subseries 3, Ensign Barnes Estate, 1830-1845**

Box 1, folder 5

This subseries includes two copies of the 1830 will of Ensign Barnes, the undated account of Luther J. Barnes and Isaac Barnes of Ensign's estate, an 1843 document appointing Luther as trustee, and an 1845 letter to Luther as trustee regarding the straightening of a road.

#### **Subseries 4, Isaac Barnes Estate, 1872-1878**

Box 1, folder 6

This subseries consists of materials relating to the estate of Isaac Barnes. There are two copies of his 1872 will and the 1874 codicil, an 1872 document giving power of attorney to Charles B. Barnes, an 1874 document appointing Charles as executor, Charles' first account of the estate from 1875 and second account from 1878, and various receipts and letters dated 1874 to 1877 regarding payments received from the estate.

#### **Subseries 5, Luther J. Barnes Estate, 1853-1878**

Box 1, folder 7

This subseries contains documents relating to the estate of Luther J. Barnes, including his 1853 will; the 1855 indenture of trust from Rebecca Ann Barnes et. al. to Isaac Barnes, and several copies of the agreement between Rebecca Ann Barnes and others; two 1855 documents signed by Isaac, one appointing Charles B. Barnes as his attorney and one giving power of attorney to Charles Blake; an 1855 letter to Charles B. Barnes appointing him administrator; Isaac's and Charles' 1855 accounts of the estate; various notes, receipts, and accounts of payment; cash books of the estate dated to 1863; the 1878 release of trust to Charles Blake after Isaac's death; and the 1878 release of power of attorney from Charles Blake to Charles B. Barnes.

#### **Subseries 6, Luther J. Barnes and Rebecca A. Barnes Estate, 1868-1870**

Box 1, folder 8

This subseries contains numerous receipts for the estate's settled accounts, all dated between 1868 and 1870.

#### **Subseries 7, Miscellaneous Estates and Wills, 1788-1947**

Box 1, folder 9

This subseries is made up of the wills and estate accounts of various members of the Barnes family. Included are the 1788 will of John Barnes; the 1833 will of Nathan Barnes; an inventory of Nathan's estate; the 1841 will of Susan Barnes; the 1947 will of Charles B. Barnes, Jr.; and part of an unidentified will addressed to "Mrs. Barnes," the writer's wife.

#### **Subseries 8, Rebecca A. Barnes Estate, 1882-1885**

Box 1, folder 10

This subseries contains two copies of Rebecca A. Barnes' will, dated 1882. The rest of the materials, all dated 1885, include a letter to Charles B. Barnes regarding the petition of probate for the will; documents naming Charles executor; a document appointing Charles to appraise the estate; Charles' account of the estate; a document stating the will was proved and allowed; an inventory of the estate; and receipts of estate payments.

### **Series III. General Family Records, 1721-1961**

#### **Subseries 1, California and South Shore Joint Mining Company, 1849-1850**

Box 2, folder 11

This subseries contains records relating to the California and South Shore Joint Mining Company, of which Luther J. Barnes was a shareholder. Included is an 1849 document explaining that George Stoddard wanted to be a member of the company but could not afford the expenses, and that Luther would pay for him in return for half of the earnings and stock in the company. Also included are the 1849 note from George Stoddard acknowledging Barnes' payment and agreeing to give Barnes half his earnings; and thirteen letters dated 1849-1850 between Barnes and both Stoddard and Captain Henry Pratt in California.

### **Subseries 2, Cemetery Records, 1849-1912**

Box 2, folder 12

This subseries consists of documents relating to the Barnes family's plots in the Hingham cemetery. Included are an 1849 deed to Luther J. Barnes, an 1854 deed to Isaac Barnes, an 1871 plan of the family plot and monument, 1877 documents relating to the removal of a tomb by Isaac's request, an 1873 deed to Charles B. Barnes, and a 1912 plan of Charles' burial lot.

### **Subseries 3, Charles B. Barnes Notebooks, ca. 1846-1887**

Box 2, folder 13

This subseries contains several notebooks kept by Charles B. Barnes during the mid to late 19th century. Included are a short journal from 1846; lists of property sold to Charles in 1883 and 1887; the Hingham Wharves minutes from 1885; account books; and notes on the estate of Luther J. Barnes.

### **Subseries 4, French Spoliation Claims, 1826-1855**

Box 2, folder 14

This subseries contains materials relating to the French Spoliation Claims of the early 19th century, including an 1826 printing of Henry Clay's report to John Quincy Adams regarding the spoliation claims; three 1828 letters to men in Washington regarding claims made by the heirs of Samuel Page, Esq. (related to Charles' wife Clara Page Barnes); and a printing of 1855 letters from John M. Clayton to James H. Causten, the agent of the claimants, commending his hard work although the bill for relief had been vetoed.

### **Subseries 5, Genealogy, ca. 1935-1961**

Box 2, folder 15

This subseries includes the typed "Ancestry of Charles Benjamin Barnes," a page from a book with a section on Barnes ancestors in seventeenth century England, a clipping called "The Barnes Family Has Its Mediaeval Martyr and Its Literary Lights," a story copied from Merchants Magazine about an unidentified Barnes during the Revolutionary War, and handwritten notes about members of the family, all undated; a 1935 note from Josephine Lea Barnes about her family, the Leas; and a 1961 letter from Charles B. Barnes III to Mrs. David Charum regarding information for a genealogy she was writing.

### **Subseries 6, Miscellaneous Family Records, 1721-1956**

Box 2, folders 16-18; Oversize box, folder 1

Folder 16 includes the 1721 deed of the apprenticeship of Ezekiel Smith to John Barnes; an 1803 certificate of Fessenden ownership of a tomb; an 1827 list of trees purchased by Isaac Barnes; an 1828 indenture between Isaac and John Bassett; an 1834 indenture between Luther J. Barnes and Theophilus Cushing; an 1838 letter to Luther regarding potential sale of his land in Illinois; an 1851 notice preventing Luther from acquiring right of passage over William Davis' land; an 1853 letter to Luther that came with a Treasury Draft; an 1856 document stating that Charles B. Fessenden had lent money to Charles B. Barnes to enter into a partnership in the firm Parker, Barnes & Merriam; the 1867 Statement of Loss & Damage by Fire of Barnes, Merriam, & Co.; documents relating to various estates members of the Barnes family were involved with; accounts of payments and money withdrawals and notes regarding payment; and an account of the Rice Pasture.

Folder 17 includes documents dated 1870-1883 regarding Peter McClune and the Hingham Institute for Savings; an 1877 agreement between Reuben Eldredge and the Old Colony Railroad Company to remove gravel from property bordered by Barnes land; an 1881 assignment of mortgage from Charles B. Barnes to William A. Prescott; an 1882 letter to Charles regarding his donation to the Hingham Public Library; 1881 and 1884 letters from Mr. Bicknell to Charles giving an account of the Hingham wharves and their ownership, and maps of the wharves; documents dated 1886-1912 relating to a deed between Lincoln Bicknell and Joseph Burdett, which was passed on to Quincy Bicknell and then Charles B. Barnes; letters to Charles dated 1899-1900 regarding the "quiet title" in the Emily A. Herbert Estate; a 1901 permit for telephone/telegraph poles; a 1923 discharge of mortgage from Alfred Hemenway to Josephine and Charles B. Barnes, Jr.; newspaper articles, including the obituary of Luther, one about beautification work done in Hingham by Charles, and one praising the young Charles Jr.; the 1956 obituary of Mary P. Barnes and a typed copy of her funeral talk; and the obituary of Charles B. Barnes, Jr.

Folder 18 mainly contains various receipts, as well as lists of payments and values of property.

Oversize folder 1 contains additional copies of the 1828 indenture between Ensign Barnes and John Bassett and the 1834 indenture between Luther J. Barnes and Theophilus Cushing.

### **Subseries 7, Personal Records, 1807-1907**

Box 2, folder 19

This subseries includes an 1807 document showing Ensign Barnes' ownership of a pew in the New North Meeting House, and an 1845 document showing the transfer of the pew to Luther J. Barnes; two receipts for Ensign's share in the Hingham & Quincy Bridge & Turnpike Corp.; two 1824 receipts of Luther's share in the Funeral Car and Building in Hingham, as well as one from 1865; an 1824 certificate of Luther's appointment as paymaster of the Second Regiment of Infantry, and an 1830 certificate that he had resigned as paymaster; an 1829 document showing payment for Luther's pew in the First Universalist Meeting House; four 1831 receipts showing that Ensign and Luther had purchased shares of Engine Number 5, "The Hingham," and two receipts for Isaac Barnes; letters from Derby Academy in 1844-1845 commending Charles B. Barnes;

Isaac's 1847, 1848, and 1850 shares in the Vermont Central Railroad Co., and his 1849 and 1854 shares in the Northern Railroad Co., N.Y.; 1854 and 1861 certificates showing the appointment of Jeremiah Page as Justice of the Peace for Essex County; an 1897 note telling Charles B. Barnes, Jr. that he had been appointed Instructor in Suretyship at Harvard; an 1898 certificate showing that Charles had been appointed Referee in Bankruptcy for Plymouth County; and Charles' 1907 certificate of membership to the Lincoln Farm Association.

### **Subseries 8, Steam Boat Companies, 1832-1899**

Box 2, folder 20; Oversize box, folder 2

Items in this subseries relate mainly to the Boston and Hingham Steam Boat Company, which Luther J. Barnes was involved with, although two other companies are also represented by later records. Documents relating to the Boston and Hingham Steam Boat Company include an 1832 deed of land from Scarlet Hudson, an 1833 deed of land from Luther J. Barnes, an 1845 letter to Luther notifying him to pay his taxes on his share in the company, an 1845 deed of land from Theophilus Cushing, an 1846 petition regarding an increase in expenses, an 1850 agreement to remove a pier from Luther's land, and an 1869 deed of land from Alfred Hersey. Also included are an 1882 document from the Old Colony Hingham Steam Boat Company granting Charles B. Barnes the use of a well on their land and an 1899 deed from the Nantasket Beach Steam Boat Company to Charles.

Oversize folder 2 contains another copy of the 1869 deed from Alfred Hersey to the Boston and Hingham Steam Boat Company and an 1879 deed from Charles B. Barnes and others to the Boston and Hingham Steam Boat Company.

## **Series IV. Land Records, 1700-1956**

### **Subseries 1, Button Island Records, 1843-1956**

Box 2, folder 21; Oversize box, folder 3

This subseries contains records relating to Button Island, which the Barnes family owned for part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Included are a copy of the 1846 deed for part of the island from Charles W. Seymour and Jotham Lincoln to Solomon Lincoln; the 1858 deed for part of the island from Ebed Sprague to Solomon Lincoln; restrictions in the 1911 deed from Mary H. Hersey to Elizabeth Townsend Swift; the 1926 depositions of Hersey and Swift and the deed of the island from Rodman and Elizabeth Townsend Swift to Charles B. Barnes, Jr.; a 1956 letter to Charles B. Barnes III with the article and vote for sale of Langley Island and Sarah Island enclosed for reference; several 1956 letters to Charles III regarding the deed for the island from his father to the town; and the 1956 deed.

Oversize folder 3 includes the 1843 deed for part of the island from the Hingham Mutual Fire Insurance Company to Charles W. Seymour and Jotham Lincoln and another copy of the 1846 deed for this part of the island from Seymour and Lincoln to Solomon Lincoln.

### **Subseries 2, Land Deeds, 1700-1923**

Box 3, folders 22-23; Oversize box, folder 4

This subseries contains land deeds, mainly signed by various members of the Barnes family but also including some deeds for Hingham land not signed by a Barnes. Folder 22 contains deeds dated 1786-1871, including many signed by Ensign and Luther J. Barnes. Folder 23 includes deeds dated 1876-1923, many signed by Charles B. Barnes. Many of the 20th century deeds relate to land on Marlboro Street in Boston and from the Charles B. Barnes estate.

Oversize folder 4 contains a large collection of land deeds, mainly for Hingham but some for the Marlboro Street property in Boston, dated between 1700 and 1899.

### **Subseries 3, Land Plans, ca. 1788-1931**

Box 2, folder 24; Oversize box, folder 5

This subseries includes sketched plans of various plots of salt marsh land, real estate, and wharf property owned by the Barnes family in Hingham. Sketches are dated between 1788 and 1902, although some are undated.

Oversize folder 5 contains five sketched plans of land in Hingham, including two 1920 surveys of the land on Summer Street purchased from Mary H. Hersey by Charles B.

Barnes, a 1930 "plan of lots in Hingham" made for Charles B. Barnes, Jr. and John P. Barnes, a 1931 Hingham State Highway layout, and an undated plan of land near the railroad.

### **Subseries 4, Miscellaneous Land and Property Records, 1780-1920**

Box 2, folder 25

This subseries includes the 1780 deed of Cornelius Barnes' shop to Henry Thaxter; letters dated 1882 and 1908 regarding the deeds to salt meadows in Hingham; 1900 petitions by George Z. Adams (Charles B. Barnes' neighbor) to settle a title regarding seized land; 1912 documents relating to the family's property on Marlboro Street in Boston, which was sold after the death of Charles; and a 1920 letter to Charles B. Barnes, Jr. regarding a property on Summer Street in Hingham he may be interested in buying and a document of the sale to Charles.

### **Subseries 5, Wharf Deeds, 1803-1881**

Box 2, folder 26

This subseries includes several deeds for wharves in Hingham signed between 1803 and 1810 by Ensign Barnes. Also included are deeds for parts of the Union Wharf, mill wharves, and land near the wharves signed between 1830 and 1831 by Luther J. Barnes and Ensign Barnes, Jr.; and an 1881 deed for Charles B. Barnes to extend his wharf.