

Fearing Family Scrapbook, c. 1985

Repository:	Hingham Public Library
Manuscript Number:	MSC #34
Creator:	Fearing Family
Quantity:	1 Half Document Box (1 Scrapbook)
Processed By:	Stephanie McBain and Jennifer Williams. Finding aid completed in May of 2015.
Access:	Open for research. Some materials have been placed in protective enclosures and should not be removed from them.
Related Materials:	The Bicentennial Collection also contains records relating to the Fearing family.

Provenance

The scrapbook was created by the Fearing family in 1985 and was donated to the Hingham Public Library by the Fearing Family Organization during the same year.

Biographical Note

The first Fearings to settle in Hingham were John, born in January of 1612 to John (d. 1625), and his wife Margaret (b. 1617). The couple originally lived in Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England before leaving for the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1638. John was granted a parcel of land as early as 1635, three years before he arrived.

They married in 1642 in Hingham.

to settle in Hingham were John and Margaret, who came to Massachusetts in 1635 from Cambridge, England. John was born in Cambridge in January 1612 to John Fearing (d. 1625), and Margaret was born in 1617. John and Margaret had four children. The family lived on North Street, across from the meeting house of the Universalist Society. In addition to being a farmer, John was a town Selectman in 1648, 1661, and 1663, and became a Freeman in 1652. He died on May 14, 1665 and is buried in Hingham. In 1675 Margaret married Robert Williams (1593-1693) of Roxbury. She died in Roxbury on December 22, 1690 and is buried in Dorchester.

Israel Fearing, a great-great-grandson of John and Margaret, was born in Wareham on August 31, 1747 to Israel (1723-1753) and Hannah Thacher Fearing (1725-1774). He married Lucy Bourne (1748-1828) of Sandwich and they had seven children, all sons, only three of whom survived to adulthood. Israel served as a Captain and Major in the Revolutionary War, and was commissioned Brigadier General of the Massachusetts Provincial Army in 1778. He died in Wareham on March 20, 1826.

Albert Fearing was born in Hingham on March 12, 1798 to Hawkes (1750-1826) and Leah Lincoln Fearing (1758-1844). In 1831 he married Catherine Cushing Andrews (1806-1873). They had no children. Albert was a merchant in Boston until 1868, was elected to the state senate

in 1841, and founded the Hingham Public Library in 1869. He resided on North Street across from the South Shore Railroad station. He died in Hingham on May 24, 1875.

Hawkes Fearing was born in Hingham on May 20, 1826 to Hawkes (1781-1863) and Matilda Wilder Fearing (1799-1886). In 1860 he married Eliza Cushing (1835-1908) of Abington, and they had one child, a daughter named Anna (b. 1865). Hawkes was Town Clerk from 1848 to 1855 and state Representative in 1871 and 1872, and served as a Colonel in the Union Army during the Civil War. He was also a justice of the peace and one of the first librarians of the Hingham Public Library. He resided on his paternal homestead on Main Street in Hingham Center, and died in Hingham in 1908.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains copies of various documents and images that relate to members of the Fearing family in Hingham and Wareham, as well as their houses and other property in these two towns, several other states, and England. The collection also includes a full photocopied version of the original scrapbook, which has been rehoused from its binding for preservation purposes, as well as the original binding and donation information.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into the following series:

- Series I. Fearing Family Scrapbook, ca. 1985

Series I. Fearing Family Scrapbook, ca. 1985

Box 1, folders 1-3

The scrapbook contains copies of images and documents relating to members of the Fearing family who lived in Hingham and Wareham, as well as other parts of the United States and England. Included are John Fearing's 1665 will and estate inventory; images of the Old Ordinary and Old Ship Church, as well as the first Hingham Public Library building, which was founded by Albert Fearing in 1869; images of the Fearing residences and other buildings in Hingham, Wareham, Rhode Island, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and England; sketches of Fearing ships; a note from Samuel Adams to Israel Fearing informing him of his appointment as Brigadier General, dated 1794; and an image of the memorial at Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven dedicated to Israel Fearing for his role in saving the town while commander in chief of the Massachusetts militia. Also included are a photocopy of the scrapbook in its original order, its original binding, and its donation information.