

The Tower Family Papers, ca. 1788-1916

Repository: Hingham Public Library

Creator: Tower Family

Quantity: 1 document box

Processed By: Stephanie McBain

Access: Open for research. Some materials have been placed in protective enclosures and should not be removed from them.

Related Materials: The Bicentennial Collection contains town records that relate to the Tower family.

Provenance

These papers were created by various members of the Tower family while living in Hingham. They were donated to the library by Joseph Richardson in 1976 and 1980 as part of the Bicentennial Collection.

Biographical Note

The first Tower to settle in Hingham was John Tower, who was born in Hingham, England on May 17, 1609 to Robert (1582-1634) and Dorothy Damon Tower (1590-1629). He settled in the new town of Hingham in 1637 and was granted a lot on Bachelor Street, now Main Street. He married Margaret Ibrook (1620-1700) in Charlestown in 1638, and they had ten children. They lived on the "Tower estate" near Tower's Bridge in South Hingham. John was a farmer, planter, and fence-viewer. He died in Hingham on February 13, 1701.

Laban Tower was born in Hingham on August 3, 1751 to Peter (1697-1781) and Anna Tower (1708-1801). He married Esther Cushing (d. 1828) of Weymouth and they had two daughters, Grace (b. 1777) and Lucy (b. 1780). Laban was a cooper and farmer, and was the chorister at the church in South Hingham. He resided on the family homestead near Tower's Bridge. He died in Hingham on July 30, 1824.

Anna Hersey Tower was born in Hingham on June 14, 1788 to John (1761-1849) and Anna Cushing Hersey (1767-1837). Her father was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. In 1811 Anna married Joshua Tower (1790-1845), and they had seven children. She died in Hingham on May 25, 1876.

Joshua Tower was born in Hingham on August 27, 1812 to Joshua (1790-1845) and Anna Hersey Tower (1788-1876). He married Louisa Wilder, and they had no children. Joshua was a cooper who specialized in fishing kits. He died in Hingham on March 22, 1884.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains daybooks, a journal, reports, deeds, and other records created by or relating to members of the Tower family during the 18th century through the 20th century. The daybooks and journal are those of Joshua Tower, a cooper working in Hingham during the 19th century. The reports are annual publications of the Tower Genealogical Society and relate to both the society's meetings and Tower family reunions. Other records include a bank check and published pamphlets.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into the following four series:

- Series I. Deeds, ca. 1788
- Series II. Genealogical Society and Tower Reunion Reports, 1909-1916
- Series III. Joshua Tower Business Records, 1824-1876
- Series IV. Personal Records, 1833-1873

Series I. Deeds, ca. 1788

Box 1, folder 1

This series contains two deeds relating to members of the Tower family. It includes an undated deed between John Tower and Thomas Chubbuck, which is signed by Benjamin Lincoln, and a 1788 deed granting Laban Tower plots of cedar swamp and upland, which is signed by his mother Anna.

Series II. Genealogical Society and Tower Reunion Reports, 1909-1916

Box 1, folder 2

The reports in this series were published annually by the Tower Genealogical Society during the early 20th century. Included are the first, second, fourth, seventh, and eighth annual reports of the Society, dated between 1909 and 1916, as well as the 1909 pamphlet "First Call for Tower Reunion." The 1909 annual report includes a description of the John Tower tercentenary celebration and Tower reunion held in Hingham in May of that year. Subsequent reports relate to reunions held in Hingham and Detroit and meetings of the Society held in Hingham and Boston.

Series III. Joshua Tower Business Records, 1824-1876

Box 1, folders 3-5

This series contains three daybooks and two small records books compiled by cooper Joshua Tower and relating to his business, Joshua Tower & Co. Woodenware, for which he partnered with his brother Edwin and Ebenezer Fearing. The daybooks are dated 1824-41, 1834-55, and 1848-64 and relate to the manufacturing of fishing kits and buckets, as well as broom making and shoemaking. The small record books are dated 1844-76 and 1851-65 and also relate to the manufacturing of fishing kits and other woodenware.

Series IV. Personal Records, 1833-1873

Box 1, folder 6

This series contains various personal records of several members of the Tower family, including an 1833 Hingham Bank check for Nicholas Tower; an 1845 document stating that Anna Tower would be the executrix of her husband Joshua's will; Joshua Tower's 1857-64 journal, which describes the Civil War and its outbreak; and a pamphlet of the 1873 historical address given by Reverend W.N. Tower at the golden wedding of Rial and Betsey Tower in West Lenox, Pennsylvania.