

## The Cushing Family Papers, 1659-1902

**Repository:** Hingham Public Library

**Creator:** Cushing Family

**Quantity:** 1 document box, 1 oversize folder

**Processed By:** Stephanie McBain

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

### Provenance

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

### Biographical Note

The first Cushing to settle in Hingham was Matthew, who came over from Hingham, England in 1638 with his wife Nazareth and their five children. Matthew was granted land on Main Street below Pear Tree Hill to build his homestead. During his time in Hingham he was both a deacon of the church and deeply engaged in the public affairs of the town. He died in 1660, leaving behind a strong legacy for the Cushing family.

Daniel Cushing was born in Hingham, England on April 20, 1619 to Matthew Cushing and Nazareth Pitcher. He first married Lydia Gilman in 1645, and they had six children. Lydia died in 1688 or 1689, and in 1690 or 1691 Daniel remarried to Mrs. Elizabeth (Jacob) Thaxter, the widow of Captain John Thaxter. Daniel was described as an "active business man." He was a magistrate, town selectman in 1665, and town clerk from 1669 until his death, as well as being a delegate to the General Court in 1680, 1682, and 1695. He resided on the paternal homestead on Main Street and died on December 3, 1700, leaving behind considerable wealth and property for his family.

Theophilus Cushing was born in Hingham on December 5, 1740 to Theophilus Cushing and Hannah Waterman. In 1768 he married Patience Dunbar, and they had six children. Theophilus was a farmer and the proprietor of a gristmill and a sawmill, as well as being town selectman in 1778-1780, 1796, and 1803; town representative in 1776, 1782, 1783, 1785-1788, and 1794; and a member of the Senate in 1795 and 1796. He was also a brigadier general. He resided on the paternal homestead on Main Street, and died on March 11, 1820.

Pyam Cushing was born in Franklin, Massachusetts on February 21, 1778 to Perez Cushing and Ruth Cushing. In 1805 he married Olive Lovell of Hull, and they had seven children, including daughter Eliza Jones Cushing. Pyam resided in Hull with his family and died in Hull on April 9, 1841.

Jerom Cushing was born in Hingham on August 25, 1780 to Benjamin Cushing and Ruth Croade. In 1813 he married Mary Thaxter, and they had five children. Jerom was a trader and a

magistrate. He resided on Main Street near Water Street in Hingham, and he died on July 30, 1824.

Colonel Joseph Cushing was born in Hingham on January 23, 1781 to David Cushing and Hannah Cushing. In 1804 he married Rebecca Edmonds of Charlestown, and they had eight children. They lived in Boston and eventually moved to Baltimore, Maryland. Joseph died in Baltimore on August 2, 1852.

Charles W. Cushing was born in Hingham on October 26, 1811 to Charles W. Cushing and Deborah R. Jacobs. He first married Elizabeth Ann Lane in 1836, and they had five children. Elizabeth died in 1882, and in 1885 Charles married Mary Ann McKenna; they had one daughter. Charles was a master mason and contractor, as well as a farmer. He was also a town representative in 1850 and 1851. He resided on Main Street and died in 1898.

David Cushing was born in Hingham on August 14, 1826 to David Cushing and Mary Souther Lapham. In 1850 he married Mary Jacob Sherman of Andover, and they had five children. David was both a farmer and a contractor. He resided on South Pleasant Street in Hingham and died in 1908.

George Cushing was born in Hingham on June 16, 1841 to David Cushing and Mary Souther Lapham. In 1860 he married Deborah E. Cushing, and they had two children. George was the proprietor of the Cushing House and Billiard Room on North Street in Hingham, and was also the Chief Engineer of the Hingham Fire Department. He died in 1920.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection contains correspondence, genealogical notes, and various records created by or relating to members of the Cushing family in the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The records include plans of land owned by the Cushings; miscellaneous property records; personal records, including wills, business receipts, and a marriage certificate; and street and road petitions signed by the Cushings. Also included is a 1659 manuscript written by Daniel Cushing about Hingham land owned in the 1630s; various documents from the estate of Col. Joseph Cushing; and materials relating to the Cushing House, a boarding house and billiard room in Hingham.

### **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into the following six series:

- Series I. Col. Joseph Cushing's Estate, 1852-1861
- Series II. Correspondence, 1754-1800
- Series III. Cushing House, ca. 1876-1886
- Series IV. Daniel Cushing Manuscript, 1659
- Series V. Genealogy, ca. 1877-1902
- Series VI. General Family Records, 1682-1878
  - Subseries 1, Land Plans, ca. 1817-1853
  - Subseries 2, Miscellaneous Property Records, 1722-1871

- Subseries 3, Personal Records, 1682-1878
- Subseries 4, Street and Road Petitions, 1854-1872

### **Series I. Col. Joseph Cushing's Estate, 1852-1861**

Box 1, folder 1

This series includes various records relating to the estate of Colonel Joseph Cushing, who died in Baltimore in 1852. The first two documents are dated 1852; one is Joseph's will, and the other grants power of attorney to his son, Joseph Cushing Jr. Also included are numerous vouchers, dated 1852-1855, sent to Solomon Lincoln regarding money received from Cushing's estate; a notebook titled "Col. Joseph Cushing's estate, 1852" that notes conditions of the estate and an account of sales; an appraisal and inventory of the estate; and miscellaneous receipts of Theophilus Cushing and Solomon Lincoln, the trustees of the estate, from 1861.

### **Series II. Correspondence, 1754-1800**

Box 1, folder 2

This series includes two letters from members of the Cushing family. The first is a 1754 letter from Gideon Hayward, the husband of Lydia Cushing, to his father describing a voyage into the Caribbean that included a stop in Barbados. The second letter, dated 1800, is from Theophilus Cushing to Captain Thomas Fearing asking for payment for the use and improvement of the stream at Accord Pond.

### **Series III. Cushing House, ca. 1876-1886**

Box 1, folder 3

This series contains a photograph of the Cushing House, a trade card for the Cushing House billiard rooms, and a page from the Hingham Directory featuring the Cushing house, all undated. Also included is a notice from 1877 that the House has been renovated, including the addition of a billiard hall, and is accepting applications for boarders for the coming season, as well as three receipts of payment by the Cushing House and Livery Stable and its proprietor George Cushing; one, from 1876, is unidentified; the other two, from 1885 and 1886, are from the Telephone Connection with Boston.

### **Series IV. Daniel Cushing Manuscript, 1659**

Box 1, folder 5

This series contains a manuscript written by Daniel Cushing in 1659, entitled "The Second Year." The manuscript is 70 pages long and describes the property of Hingham landowners in the mid-to-late 1630s, including their house lots and salt marsh grants.

### **Series V. Genealogy, ca. 1877-1902**

Box 1, folder 5

This series includes an 1877 note to George Lincoln from Rachel Andrew Cushing containing genealogical information on her family; a typewritten manuscript by an unknown author ca. 1890 which provides information on the families of Matthew Cushing and his son Daniel, but also goes back to trace the name Cushing through England to possible descendants named "Cossey" recorded in the Domesday book, and back even further to the Normans; a 1902 manuscript book, "The Ancestors and Descendants of Pyam and Olive (Lovell) Cushing," compiled by their daughter Eliza Jones Cushing; an undated note from George Lincoln regarding information about

the family of a Henry Cushing working in Washington; and interview notes from Miss R.A. Cushing, Dr. Alvin Matthew Cushing, and Miss Harriet Cushing about their families.

## **Series VI. General Family Records, 1682-1878**

### **Subseries 1, Land Plans, ca. 1817-1853**

Box 1, folder 6

This subseries contains five plans of land owned by members of the Cushing family, including Salt Meadows, owned by Pyam Cushing; Rocky Nook, owned by Ned Cushing; Thomas Cushing's land; a field owned by Isaac Cushing; and a salt marsh partially owned by Jacob Cushing.

### **Subseries 2, Miscellaneous Property Records, 1722-1871**

Box 1, folder 7; Oversize folder 1

This subseries includes a 1772 document giving Joseph Cushing the land of Nehemiah Leavitt; an 1808 deed signed by Charles and Ann Cushing giving land to Josiah Lane; an 1822 deed signed by Thomas Cushing giving Jerom Cushing various pieces of land and a pew at First Parish; an 1832 statement relating to land in Illinois; and a copy of an 1836 deed signed by Mary Cushing giving Benjamin and Reuben Thomas land at Rocky Meadow. There are also three statements regarding cattle disease (foot and mouth disease) and the costs in damages from the disease; one, dated 1871, is signed by David Cushing; the other two are undated and signed by James Cushing and Caleb Cushing. Also included is an undated document granting Theophilus Cushing one half part of a sawmill, and part of an unsigned and undated will granting property to Pyam Cushing. The oversize folder includes several documents, dated between 1722 and 1854, all relating to the land, money, or estates of members of the Cushing family.

### **Subseries 3, Personal Records, 1682-1878**

Box 1, folder 8

This subseries contains personal records of the Cushing family, including a 1682 military history written by Daniel Cushing; two 1697 documents to the sheriff or marshal of Suffolk County signed by Daniel Cushing; an 1802 note to Stephen Cushing asking for a bushel of Indian corn; the 1813 certificate of marriage of Jerom Cushing and Mary Thaxter; an 1816 document appointing Seth Cushing the lawyer of Thomas Cushing; an 1868 receipt from David Cushing's lumber, brick, lime, and cement company; and an 1878 list of items bought by Caleb Cushing from D. Cushing. Also included are several records of various Cushings who were administrators of estates; the wills of Pyam and Isaiah Cushing; and a printed copy of William Cushing's will from 1492 England.

### **Subseries 4, Street and Road Petitions, 1854-1872**

Box 1, folder 9

This subseries contains two documents written by members of the Cushing family regarding Hingham streets and roads. The first is dated 1854 and is a petition by David Cushing, James Cushing, Charles Shute, Charles W. Cushing, and David Cushing to alter the north line of South Pleasant Street. The second petition, dated 1872 and signed by Charles W. and James Cushing, asks the Board of Street Commissioners to accept the

road built by Charles W. Cushing and Samuel Downer running from Downer Landing to Walton Cove.