

## The Cushing Family Bicentennial Papers, 1659-1950?

<b>Repository:</b>	Hingham Public Library
<b>Manuscript #:</b>	MSC # 7
<b>Creator:</b>	Cushing Family and John P. Richardson
<b>Quantity:</b>	1 half document box, 1 oversize folder
<b>Processed By:</b>	Stephanie McBain and Jennifer Williams. Finding aid completed in March of 2015.
<b>Related Materials:</b>	The Bicentennial Collection contains records that relate to the Cushing family.

### Provenance

These papers were created by John P. Richardson as well as various members of the Cushing family, while living in Hingham and the surrounding area. This is an artificial collection that was assembled by John Richardson in the mid-twentieth century. A portion of it was donated in 1974 and the remainder in 1981 as a part of the Bicentennial Collection.

### Biographical Note

The first Cushing to settle in Hingham was Matthew, son of Peter Cushing (c. 1562-1615) and Sarah Hawes (c. 1563-1641). Matthew was born around 1588 and lived much of his life in Hingham, Norfolk, England. In 1613 he married Nazareth Pitcher (c. 1586-1681), daughter of Henry Pitcher and Sarah Bond, and they had five children together. The family came to Massachusetts in 1638 on the ship *Diligent*, which was captained by John Martin. It is possible that they decided to leave England due to religious persecution. Prior to their arrival Matthew had been allotted several plots of land. He chose to build his homestead on Main (Bachelor) Street below Pear Tree Hill. During his time in Hingham Matthew was deeply engaged in the town's public affairs and also served as a church deacon. He died on September 30, 1660 at the age of seventy-one and was buried in Old Ship Cemetery.

Daniel Cushing was born in Hingham, Norfolk, England on April 20, 1619 to Matthew Cushing (c. 1588-1660) and Nazareth Pitcher (c. 1586-1681). In 1645 he married Lydia Gilman (d. 1689), daughter of Edward and Mary (Clark) Gilman, and they had six children together. Lydia died in approximately 1689, and in either 1690 or 1691 Daniel was remarried to Mrs. Elizabeth (Jacob) Thaxter, the widow of Captain John Thaxter. The couple did not have any children together. George Lincoln described Daniel as an "active business man, sagacious and thorough in whatever he undertook."<sup>1</sup> He was a magistrate and town selectmen for many years, town clerk from 1669 until his death, as well as a delegate to the General Court in 1680, 1682, and 1695. Daniel resided on the paternal homestead on Main Street and died on December 3, 1700, leaving behind considerable wealth and property to his family.

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<sup>1</sup> Lincoln, George, *History of the Town of Hingham, Massachusetts: The Genealogies*, Vol. II (Somersworth: New England History Press, 1982), 151.

Theophilus Cushing, great-grandson of Daniel Cushing (1619-1700), was born in Hingham on December 5, 1740 to Theophilus Cushing (1703-1779) and Hannah Waterman (b. 1704). In 1768 he married Patience Dunbar (1739-1822), daughter of Peter and Hannah (Dunbar) Dunbar, and they had six children together. Theophilus was a farmer as well as the owner of both a gristmill and sawmill. He also held several political positions: town selectman in 1778-1780, 1796, and 1803; town representative in 1776, 1782, 1783, 1785-1788, and 1794; and Senator in 1795 and 1796. He was also a brigadier general. He resided in the paternal homestead on Main Street until his death on March 11, 1820.

Pyam Cushing, nephew of Theophilus Cushing (1740-1820), was born in Franklin, Massachusetts on February 21, 1778 to Perez Cushing (1746-1794) and Ruth Cushing (1752-1830). In 1805 he married Olive Lovell (1783-1848), daughter of Samuel and Olivia (Gould) Lovell of Hull. Pyam resided in Hull with his family until his death on April 9, 1841.

Jerom Cushing, great-great-grandson of Daniel Cushing (1619-1700), was born in Hingham on August 25, 1780 to Benjamin Cushing (1725-1812) and Ruth Croade (d. 1803). In 1813 he married Mary Thaxter (1784-1867), daughter of Thomas and Mary (Barker) Thaxter, and they had five children together. Jerom was a trader and a magistrate who resided on Main Street near Water Street in Hingham. He died on July 30, 1824 at the age of forty-four.

Joseph Cushing, great-great-grandson of Theophilus Cushing (1619-1700), was born in Hingham on January 23, 1781 to David Cushing (b. 1754) and Hannah Cushing (b. 1760). In 1804 he married Rebecca Edmonds of Charlestown, and they had eight children. Joseph was a printer in Boston until 1806, when he moved his family to Amherst, NH. During his time in Amherst Joseph established a newspaper entitled *The Farmer's Cabinet* that was still in existence in 1877. In 1808 Joseph and his family moved to Baltimore, MD where he established a bookselling business. While living in Baltimore he participated in the city government, helped to found Baltimore's first public school, and served as the president of the Saving's Bank of Baltimore. Joseph died in Baltimore on August 2, 1852.<sup>2</sup>

Charles Whiting Cushing, paternal cousin of Joseph Cushing (1781-1852), was born in Hingham on October 26, 1811 to Charles W. Cushing (1766-1828) and Deborah R. Jacobs (1776-1841). In 1836 he married Elizabeth Ann Lane (1816-1882), daughter of Quincy and Elizabeth (Hersey) Lane, and they had five children together. Elizabeth died in 1882, and Charles married Mary Ann McKenna (b. 1855), daughter of Daniel McKenna, in 1885. Together they had one daughter. According to George Lincoln, Charles was "a man of energy in the conduct of his business affairs."<sup>3</sup> He was a master mason, contractor, and farmer who also served as a town representative in 1850 and 1851. He resided on Main Street, near South Pleasant Street, until his death in 1898.

David Cushing, nephew of Charles Whiting Cushing (1811-1898), was born in Hingham on August 14, 1826 to David Cushing (1801-1887) and Mary Souther Lapham (1804-1885). In

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<sup>2</sup> Lemuel Cushing, *The Genealogy of the Cushing Family* (Montreal: Lovell Printing and Publishing Company, 1877), 80.

<sup>3</sup> Lincoln, George, *History of the Town of Hingham, Massachusetts: The Genealogies*, Vol. II (Somersworth: New England History Press, 1982), 176.

1850 he married Mary Jacob Sherman (b. 1826), daughter of Marshall and Hannah (Jacob) Sherman of Andover, and they had five children together. David was a farmer and contractor who resided with his family on South Pleasant Street until his death in 1906.

George Cushing, brother of David Cushing (1826-1906), was born in Hingham on June 16, 1841 to David Cushing (1801-1887) and Mary Souther Lapham (1804-1885). In 1860 he married Deborah E. Cushing (b. 1841), daughter of John and Harriet (Gilkey) Cushing, and they had two children together. George was the proprietor of the Cushing House Hotel and Billiard Room on North Street in Hingham as well as the first Chief Engineer of the Hingham Fire Department. He was very well known for his desire for innovation and improvement in both of his careers. A popular figure in Hingham, he was also an active member in several different clubs and organizations. George died in 1920.

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection contains records, created between approximately 1659 and 1950, relating to the Cushing family of Hingham, Massachusetts. There are a substantial number of records dating between 1852 and 1861 that pertain to the estate of Joseph Cushing (1781-1852), such as letters, receipts, legal documents, and inventories. The collection also contains photographs, advertisements, letters, and bills from the Cushing House Hotel which were created between approximately 1876 and 1886. Daniel Cushing's 1682 manuscript detailing the land allotted to early settlers is also included in the collection.

Genealogical records include handwritten notes, interviews, letters, and formally published documents that were created between approximately 1877 and 1950. The collection also contains the property records, personal records, and street petitions, dating between 1682 and 1878, of various Cushing family members. These materials include deeds, land plans, covenants, estate and probate records, letters, marriage announcements, town documents, petitions, and business records.

### **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into the following six series:

- Series I. Joseph Cushing Estate Records, 1852-1861
- Series II. Cushing House Hotel Records, ca. 1876-1886
- Series III. Daniel Cushing Manuscript, Undated
- Series IV. Genealogy, c. 1877-1950
- Series V. General Family Papers, 1682-1878
  - Subseries I. Property Records, 1722-1871
  - Subseries II. Personal Records, 1682-1878
  - Subseries III. Street and Road Petitions, 1854-1872

**Series I. Joseph Cushing Estate Records, 1852-1861**  
**Box 1, Folder 1**

This series includes materials relating to the estate of Joseph Cushing (1781-1852). The first two documents, dating to 1852, assign power of attorney over Joseph Cushing and his estate. The first item was written while Joseph Cushing was alive and states that he gave power of attorney to his son, Joseph Cushing, Jr. (b. 1806). The second item, written after Joseph Cushing's death, states that Joseph Cushing Jr. grants power of attorney for his father's estate to Solomon Lincoln. Also included in the series are numerous vouchers, letters, and receipts which were sent to Solomon Lincoln regarding the disposition of the estate. Several of the items were written by family members and friends receiving their inheritance, while others were created by businesses receiving payment for Cushing's funeral and debts.

Other records include a notebook entitled "Col. Joseph Cushing's estate, 1852" which details the conditions placed upon the sale of real estate at an auction in 1852 as well as an account of all real estate sales. The latter provides the name and amount of each lot sold, the price, and the name of the purchaser. There are also two undated appraisals/inventories of Joseph Cushing's estate which includes a list of his personal items, real estate, and farm animals. Finally, there are several receipts detailing the money given to Solomon Lincoln from the Trustees of Joseph Cushing's estate in 1861.

**Series II. Cushing House Hotel Records, 1876?-1886?**  
**Box 1, Folder 2**

This series contains both visual and textual documents, dating between approximately 1876 and 1886, which are related to the Cushing House Hotel. The visual records are undated, and include a small tinted photograph, a town directory advertisement, and a trade card. The photograph depicts the house, the street in front of it, and one of the carriages provided to patrons as part of the hotel's livery services. The Hingham Directory advertisement, which consists of a page taken from that publication, includes a drawing of the hotel as well as basic information about the amenities provided. Finally, the trade card focuses on the hotel's Billiard Rooms and depicts a young boy holding what may be a billiard stick.

The textual documents include three bills and one stock letter written by George Cushing (1841-1920). The bills, which date to 1885 and 1886, describe the money owed to the hotel by the town of Hingham and L. B. Whiton for the use of its livery services. Two of the bills include handwritten notes stating that they were paid, while the third was stamped and signed on the date of payment. The stock letter, written in April of 1877, describes the recent improvements made to the hotel, the amenities provided to guests, and the location of the hotel.

**Series III. Daniel Cushing Manuscripts, 1682, Undated**  
**Box 1, Folder 3**

This series is composed of a seventy page manuscript written by Daniel Cushing (1619-1700) in the late seventeenth century. It documents land grants to early settlers mainly in the 1630s and 1640s, and includes information up to the 1680s. The information provided in the entries

includes the name of the person granted land, the type of land granted, the use of the property, the location of the lot, any subsequent changes in ownership, and the location of the land grant in the town's official records. It appears that some of the entries were transcribed from those records.

**Series IV. Genealogy, c. 1877-1950**  
**Box 1, Folder 4**

This series includes letters, genealogies, and handwritten notes detailing the history of the Cushing family between approximately 750 and 1950 CE. There are two letters which date to the 1870s. The first letter, written in 1877 to George Lincoln, was created by Rachel Andrews Cushing (dates unknown) and asks whether or not Benjamin (1725-1812) and Ruth Cushing (1753-1803) were first cousins. The second letter, written in 1874 to George Lincoln, was created by John P. Cushing (dates unknown) and focuses on the family history of a Washington, D.C. resident named Henry Cushing (dates unknown). There are also several pieces of scrap paper with handwritten notes taken during George Lincoln's interviews with Miss R. A. Cushing (dates unknown), Dr. Alvin Mathew Cushing (dates unknown), and Miss Harriet Cushing (dates unknown). The notes focus mostly on the personal and familial history of these three individuals.

The series also includes two formally written genealogies, the first of which is a typewritten manuscript created by an unknown author in approximately 1890. The manuscript begins by describing the family's Viking ancestors in approximately 750 CE and continues through history up until 1865. The document a narrative and contains information regarding the births, marriages, deaths, and personalities of the individuals included. The second genealogy is a booklet entitled *The Ancestors and Descendants of Pyam and Olive (Lovell) Cushing*, written by Eliza Jones Cushing (b. 1821). Published in 1902, the booklet gives detailed information about Cushing family members who lived between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The booklet also contains newspaper clippings focusing on the family members discussed as well as typed and handwritten notes.

**Series V. General Family Records, 1682-1878**

**Subseries I. Property Records, 1722-1871**  
**Box 1, Folders 5**

This subseries contains records pertaining to the land, buildings, and livestock owned by various Cushing family members. The deeds, dated between 1704 and 1836, focus on the buying and selling of property, including land, sawmills, houses, and church pews. Members of the Cushing family mentioned in these documents include Pyam Cushing (1778-1841), Jerom Cushing (1780-1824), and Charles Whiting Cushing (1811-1898).

Two covenants focus on dividing land between multiple individuals. The first, dated to 1772, is an agreement between Charles Cushing (1744-1809) and his father-in-law, Thomas Croade. It states that Charles may live and work on Thomas' land as long as he makes improvements to the holdings and shares his profits with Thomas. The second

item is a document created in 1722 by Elisha Cushing (c. 1682-1734) and Daniel Cushing (1686-1755), sons of Daniel (1648-1716). The covenant states that the two men agree to divide a piece of jointly owned land between them.

The subseries also includes five plans of land owned by members of the Cushing family: Salt Meadows, owned by Pyam Cushing (dates unknown) in 1853; Rocky Nook, owned by Ned Cushing (1783-1863) in 1834; land owned by Thomas Cushing (dates unknown); a meadow below a field owned by Isaac Cushing (dates unknown); and a salt marsh partially owned by Jacob Cushing (1784-1868) in 1817. The information provided by each plan varies, but includes the shape of the piece of land, the names and/or owners of surrounding properties, the scale to which the plan is drawn, the cardinal directions, and the year in which the plan was made.

There are also three statements regarding cattle disease (foot and mouth disease) and the costs in damages from the disease. One of them was signed by David Cushing (dates unknown) in 1871 while the other two were signed by James and Caleb Cushing, dates unknown. Finally, there is an undated document describing a piece of land in Illinois taken from David Cushing (dates unknown) in 1820 due to his pauperism.

## **Subseries II. Personal Records, 1682-1878**

### **Box 1, Folders 6; Oversize Folder**

This subseries contains personal records, dating between 1682 and 1878, belonging to various Cushing family members. Materials include receipts, marriage announcements, wills, estate and probate records, court summons, town documents, and business records.

The subjects within these records include the sale of land, debts owed and paid, the nomination of officers in the local militia in 1682, complaints made to the town clerk in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, items purchased from stores, materials and money inherited from deceased family members, family life, marriages and deaths, trips to other countries, and the use/improvement of land by Cushing family members.

There are many names mentioned in these documents, including Daniel Cushing (1619-1700), Stephen Cushing (1792-1818), Theophilus Cushing (1740-1820), Isaiah Cushing (1730-1816), Joseph Cushing (1781-1852), Jerom Cushing (1780-1824), Adna Cushing (1785-1859), Isaac Cushing (c. 1746-1815), Mary Cushing (1750-1821), David Cushing (1826-1906), Pyam Cushing (dates unknown), and William Gray Cushing (1810-1872).

## **Subseries III. Street and Road Petitions, 1854-1872**

### **Box 1, Folder 7**

This subseries contains two documents regarding Hingham streets and roads that were written by members of the Cushing family. The first item is an 1854 petition created by David Cushing (dates unknown), James Cushing (b. 1820), Charles Shute, and Charles W. Cushing (1811-1898) to clearly define the north line of South Pleasant Street. The second petition, dated 1872 and signed by Charles W. (1811-1898) and James Cushing

(b. 1820), 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.