

William L. Phinney Genealogical Papers, c. 1971-1996

Repository: Hingham Public Library
Manuscript Number: MSC #22
Creator(s): William Lester Phinney
Quantity: 7 document boxes
Processed By: Stephanie McBain and Jennifer Williams. Finding aid completed in March of 2015.
Access: Open for research.

Provenance

This collection was created by William Lester Phinney between approximately 1971 and 1996. It was donated to the Hingham Public Library by his wife, Elaine Phinney, in the early 2000s.

Historical Note

William Lester Phinney was born in Middleborough, Mass. on December 12, 1931 to Sheldon Lester Phinney and Dorothy (Orrall) Phinney. He grew up in Middleborough with his parents and two brothers. After graduating from Middleborough High School in 1949 he moved to Hingham, Mass., where he would live for the next twenty-two years. On April 21, 1951 he married Elaine A. (Philbrick) Phinney, and they had one son together. During his time in Hingham Phinney worked at Perkins Engineering as a land surveyor and obtained the rank of lieutenant in the Hingham Fire Department. Phinney was passionate about both firefighting and genealogy. He acted as both the secretary and treasurer of the Plymouth County Forest and Firefighters Association as well as the treasurer of the Plymouth County Genealogists. In 1984 he opened his own land surveying business in Middleborough, which he maintained until his death on February 29, 1996.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of genealogical research completed by William Lester Phinney between approximately 1971 and 1996. There are records focusing on family units, including both parents and their children. These materials include information about births, deaths, marriages, and the names of spouses. Also included are birth, death, and marriage records for other individuals who lived in Hingham. They contain the names of family members, the ages at which marriages and deaths occurred, as well as the dates and locations of births, marriages, and deaths. The entries in this collection focus mostly on individuals who were born between 1850 and 1980.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into the following four series:

- Series I. Hingham Families Records, c. 1971-1996
- Series II. Marriage Records, c. 1971-1996

- Series III. Birth Records, c. 1971-1996
- Series IV. Death Records, c. 1971-1996

Series I. Hingham Families Records, c. 1971-1996

Boxes 1 - 6

This series includes 41 folders that contain records with information on Hingham families who existed between approximately 1850 and 1980. Each record focuses on one family unit composed of a mother, father, and their children. Although the information provided varies by record, typical data provided for the mother and father includes their names, the dates and locations of their births, marriages, and deaths, and their ages at the time they died. Information for the children often includes their names, birth dates, and locations; spouse names and marriage dates; death dates and locations; and ages at death. Many of the entries include newspaper clippings, such as obituaries and marriage announcements, which were used as information sources. Finally, there are also citations to indicate where the information on each family unit was discovered. The materials are in alphabetical order by last name.

Series II. Marriage Records, c. 1971-1996

Box 6

This series includes six folders with records containing information about the marriages of various Hingham residents in the late 19th and in the 20th centuries. Although the information provided varies by entry, typical data includes the names of each spouse, the date and location of the marriage, the home town of each spouse, and the name of the officiant. Entries are arranged alphabetically by the husband's last name, with McKee and Snell added at the end.

Series III. Birth Records, c. 1971-1996

Box 7

This series includes two folders with records containing information about the births of Hingham residents in the 19th and 20th centuries. Although the information provided varies by entry, typical data includes the person's name, the date and location of their birth, their parents' names, and date of death. Entries are arranged alphabetically by last name, with Duffy and Hannigan added at the end.

Series IV. Death Records, c. 1971-1996

Box 7

This series includes four folders with records containing information about the deaths of Hingham residents, mainly in the 20th century. Although the information provided varies by entry, typical data includes the name of the deceased, the date and location of their birth, the date and location of their death, their age at death, their parents' names, and name(s) of their spouse(s). Information source citations are also included with some entries. The records are arranged alphabetically by last name, with Cummings, Cushing, and Kingman added at the end.