

Local History Resource Center
Peabody Institute Library
82 Main Street, Peabody, MA 01960

Foster Family Papers, 1740-1965

Collection Summary

Reference Code: MPeaI

Repository: Local History Resource Center, Peabody Institute Library, Peabody, Massachusetts.

Call Number: MS1

Creator: Mary Herrick McIntire; Mrs. Frank McIntire; Benjamin Foster; Aaron Foster; Elizabeth Flint Foster; Nathan Foster; James Foster.

Title: Foster Family Papers, 1740-1965

Dates: 1740 to 1965 (1762-1840)

Size: 0.0625 linear feet

Language(s): Collection materials are in English.

Abstract: The Foster Family Papers include the accounts, deeds, receipts and agreements for primarily Benjamin Foster (1714-1792), Captain James Foster (1742-1823) and Aaron Foster (1775-1844), as well as the correspondence and memorabilia of Mary Herrick McIntire, a direct descendent of Benjamin Foster.

Biographical History

Benjamin Foster (1714-1792), lived in Reading and appears to have owned land in that town and been successful in business. Benjamin Foster's son, Captain James Foster of Danvers (1742-1823), appears to have been a lawyer or other court official. He served in the Revolutionary War. Aaron Foster (1775-1844) of Danvers papers appears to have been involved in the leather as well as the carriage and wagon business. His account book reveals he traveled to New York and Boston for his business and had close dealings with his brother, James Foster (1773-). Other family members are included Samuel Foster of Reading, Skelton Sheldon of Danvers, the Browns of Danvers, Elizabeth Foster of Danvers and Jonathan Flint of Reading. There is a 1740 land agreement between Samuel Foster and Rueben Richardson, a 1759 loan to John Browne from Eleazar Lyndsey, 1770 receipt to John Browne from Samuel Gardner, an 1850 copy of an 1819 deed for Gideon Foster as well as an 1828 petition to the Salem Supreme Judicial court from Daniel, Joseph and George Brown regarding the estate of John Brown. It is signed by Rufus Choate. There is also an 1834 deed between Stephen Brown and William Browne, an 1842 eulogy for Mrs. Lucy Frost, and two 1907 receipts from the Jamestown Exposition to Mrs. Henry Rice for portraits loaned to the exposition, one of which was of Sarah Low Frost. The last of the Fosters is Mary Herrick McIntire.

Arrangement

Series 1: Foster Family Papers (1740-1965)

- Subseries 1.1: Benjamin Foster (1714-1792)
- Subseries 1.2: Captain James Foster (1742-1792)
- Subseries 1.3: Aaron Foster (1775-1844)
- Subseries 1.4: Nathan Foster (1809-1834)
- Subseries 1.5: Unsorted Forster Family Papers, 1740-1840
- Subseries 1.6: Mary Herrick McIntire (1886-1972)

Scope and Content Note

Benjamin Foster's papers include receipts and agreements reveal he had dealings with local officials as well as notable citizens, including Dr. Edward Augustus Holyoke of Salem from whom he borrowed money for his work. Further agreements have him able to partake in subscribing for a joint venture with the intent to borrow \$500, along with an agreement to pay it back. Papers settling his estate after his death in 1792 are also included here.

In Benjamin Foster's son accounts include payments to Mehitable and Jesse Upton for their services in issuing summons, for obtaining depositions and for attendance at court in Salem, Ipswich and Newburyport. Foster was the executor of his father's estate. Also included in his papers are a letter to his children, receipts and other notes regarding the estate after Benjamin Foster's death. There are tax and business receipts, indicating he was well off enough to own a chaise and to pay tax for it, as well as to afford to have water for his family of five pumped to his home by the Salem and Danvers Aqueduct. He purchased cattle at auction, rented land on Essex Street in Salem, shipped his wares to Baltimore and was a juror in Salem Court. His final papers name the executors of his will.

Aaron Foster (1775-1844) had close dealings with the Danvers Cotton Factory and rented out his wagons and carriages for their work and was prosperous enough to hire workers to obtain the supplies he provided to the Factory. He was a member of the Massachusetts Militia and was responsible for the notification of all non-commissioned officers in Danvers. He owned land and was involved in a fence division with his neighbor George Brown. His receipts include those for taxes, doctor's bills, for school supplies for his children, for his daughter Elizabeth's boarding at Bradford Academy in Bradford, Bradford was annexed by Haverhill, for his son Nathan's boarding at Phillips Academy and receipts regarding the settling of his father James's estate.

Nathan Foster's Papers are receipts from Phillips Academy for extra charges beyond the tuition his father paid.

The rest of the Foster Papers include receipts, deeds, mortgages and agreements and estate papers for various relatives of the Fosters: Samuel Foster of Reading, Skelton Sheldon of Danvers, the Browns of Danvers, Elizabeth Foster of Danvers and Jonathan Flint of Reading. There is a 1740 land agreement between Samuel Foster and Rueben Richardson, a 1759 loan to John Browne from Eleazar Lyndsey, 1770 receipt to John Browne from Samuel Gardner, an 1850 copy of an 1819 deed for Gideon Foster as well as an 1828 petition to the Salem Supreme Judicial court from Daniel, Joseph and George Brown regarding the estate of John Brown. It is signed by Rufus Choate. There is also an 1834 deed between Stephen Brown and William Browne, an 1842 eulogy for Mrs. Lucy Frost, and two 1907 receipts from the Jamestown Exposition to Mrs. Henry Rice for portraits loaned to the exposition, one of which was of Sarah Low Frost.

The remainder of the Foster Papers includes papers and memorabilia of Mary Herrick McIntire of Peabody. Her correspondence reveals her efforts to locate a safe repository for her family's papers and the eventual decision to donate them to the Peabody Institute Library.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation: [Identify the item], [Folder Number], Foster Family Papers, 1740-1965, Local History Resource Center, Peabody Institute Library.

Provenance: The Foster Family Papers were owned by Mary Herrick McIntire.

Acquisition Information: Mary Herrick McIntire donated the materials to the Library in the 1950s.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Processing Information: Nancy C. Barthelemy, Archivist, 2002; reprocessed Erik R. Bauer, Archivist 2018.

Access Rights: Collection is open for research.

Physical Access Restrictions: None.

Tech. Access Restrictions: None.

Special Formats: None.

Copyright: All copyrights belong to the Peabody Institute Library, Peabody, MA. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Local History Resource Center as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, when applicable, which must also be obtained by the researcher. This does not apply to items where the copyright has expired.

Conservation Notes: All staples were removed. One map was unfolded and filed in the map drawers. Papers which were viewed as particularly acidic were enclosed in acid free tissue to slow down any transfer of acids to other papers. Minor tears were repaired.

Related Collections: None.

Separated Material: A photograph of Mary Herrick McIntire has been removed and is part of the photograph collection two postcards from Dana, Massachusetts have been placed in the postcard collection and a map of Peabody, no date, has is located in the City of Peabody, Map Collection.

Subjects:

Foster family

McIntire, Mary Herrick (1886-1972).

McIntire, Mrs. Frank

Foster, Benjamin, 1714-1792.

Foster, Aaron, 1775-1844.

Foster, Elizabeth Flint, 1745-1813.

Foster, Nathan, 1809-1834

Foster, James, 1742-1823.

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Foster Family Papers Box. This series is focused on the Foster family's personal papers and how they relate to the individual family members.

Subseries 1.1: Benjamin Foster, 1762-1793

This subseries includes papers include receipts and agreements reveal he had dealings with local officials as well as notable citizens

Box Number/Folder Title	Folder
Box 1	
Receipts and Agreements, 1762-1793	1

Subseries 1.2: Captain James Foster, 1777-1832

This subseries covers receipts and agreements of Benjamin Foster.

Box Number/Folder Title	Folder
Box 1	
Receipts, 1777-1823	2

Subseries 1.3: Aaron Foster Papers, 1799-1842

This subseries covers receipts include those for taxes, doctor's bills, for school supplies for his children, for his daughter Elizabeth's boarding at Bradford Academy in Bradford, now apart of Haverhill, for his son Nathan's boarding at Phillips Academy and receipts regarding the settling of his father James's estate.

Box Number/Folder Title	Folder
Box 1	
Receipts, 1799-1842	3
Receipts, No Date(s)	4

Accounts and Agreements, 1806-1823, 1840	5
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Subseries 1.4: Nathan Foster Papers, 1825-1827

This subseries covers receipts and agreements of Benjamin Foster.

Box Number/Folder Title	Folder
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Box 1

Receipts, 1825-1827	6
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Subseries 1.5: Unsorted Forster Family Papers, 1740-1840, No Date

This subseries include receipts, deeds, mortgages and agreements and estate papers for various relatives of the Fosters: Samuel Foster of Reading, Skelton Sheldon of Danvers, the Browns of Danvers, Elizabeth Foster of Danvers and Jonathan Flint of Reading among others.

Box Number/Folder Title	Folder
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Box 1

Foster Family Papers, 1740-1840, No Date	7
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Subseries 1.6: Mary Herrick McIntire, 1956-1965

This subseries includes correspondence and reveals her efforts to locate a safe repository for her family's papers and the eventual decision to donate them to the Peabody Institute Library.

Box Number/Folder Title	Folder
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Box 1

Correspondence, 1956-1965	8
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News Clippings, 1956-1959, No Date(s)	9
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