



Fairfield Museum and History Center Library
370 Beach Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Manuscript Finding Aid

Title: Turney Family Papers

Collection #: Ms 13

Dates: 1685-1949

Size of collection: 10 inches (2 boxes)

Accession Number:

Donor: Sharps-Ritger Estate and unknown sources

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Martha Rockwell; additional processing by Barbara Austen

Date: December 1981; March 1996

Biographical/historical note:

The original Turney who settled in Fairfield was Benjamin (d. 1648). He had two sons, Robert (1633-1690) and Benjamin (1645-1694). Benjamin's son Thomas (1679-1741) had sons Thomas and Samuel (d. 1777). Robert's grandson, Stephen (1721-1786) had sons Aaron (1754-1833), Asa (b. 1759) and Abel (b. 1762). Aaron's daughter Sarah (1801-) married Andrew Trubee. She reportedly attended school in Litchfield, Conn., where she created the mourning picture in the Historical Society's museum collection. Abel had a grandson, Albert (1817-1898) whose son Oliver (1842-) married Kate Louisa Sherman. Their daughter Helen Sherman Turney (1876-1954) married Herbert Everett Sharps. She was actively involved in the Historical Society (the rear exhibit gallery is named in her honor), was secretary of the English Club of Courtland School in Bridgeport, and collected genealogical data. Her daughter Rhoda Sharps (1900-1955) married Frank Anton Ritger. For additional genealogical information, see History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield by Donald L. Jacobus, the collection folder, and Helen Turney Sharp's genealogical notes.

Scope and content note:

The collection consists of financial, legal, and personal papers of various members of the Turney family of Fairfield. Materials are organized by creator and arranged in a generational and family order. The first folder contains a 1685 deed of patriarch Benjamin Turney. Legal papers of Thomas and Samuel, sons of Thomas Turney, the patriarch's grandson, are organized in folder 2. They consist of a deed, 1767, and the inventory of Samuel's estate, 1777.

Aaron Turney's papers in folder 3 encompass a photocopy of an 1805 deed and an 1833 deed between his wife Ellen and Sarah Trubee. Aaron's daughter Sarah is represented in the collection by her writing book, 1813-1821, and a transcript of the book, in folders 4 and 5. Folders 6 and 7 contain the papers of Aaron's brother Asa, namely two deeds, 1789, 1828; a certificate of and a transcript of his will, 1833; and transcripts and photographs of pages from his account book, 1786-1829.

Julia Ann Turney, daughter of Asa's brother Abel, is represented by a deed for land in Bridgeport, 1850, in folder 8. Abel's son, Albert, recorded his business dealings in an account book, 1844-1866, 1881, found in folder 9. His papers also include a selection of promissory notes, receipts and money orders, 1857-1880, organized chronologically in folder 10. Albert's son, Oliver, married Kate Sherman and their marriage certificate, 1886, is included in the collection in folder 11. Their daughter was Helen Turney Sharps. Her papers, organized in folders 12-17, encompass incoming and outgoing correspondence, 1935-1949; a bridal souvenir, 1899; Calkins genealogical notes, n.d.; the Quinquennial Record, a publication of the English Club of Courtland School, 1896; and folders of genealogical notes in box 2.

Helen Turney Sharp's daughter, Rhoda, is represented by a letter to her grandmother Turney, n.d., in folder 18. Other papers include the legal papers of Isaac Turney, 1818, and of his sons Silas and Gould Turney, 1823, 1880 organized in folder 19; a promissory note from John Turney, 1793, an appeal from Stephen Turney, 1828, and an anonymous diary and cartoon drawing, n.d., in folder 20. Folders 21 and 22 contain the papers of the Sherman family. George W. Sherman is represented by a letter to his wife, 1863, his will, 1847, and bills, 1863, 1866. Letters to and from Rhoda Sherman, 1862, 1868, and a tuition bill for "Miss Sherman" at Old Academy, 1862, complete the collection. Box 2 holds the contents of Helen Turney Sharps's genealogy notebooks and a collection of newspaper clippings.

TURNEY FAMILY
Papers, 1685-1949

Box 1

- Folder 1 Benjamin Turney deed, 1685
Folder 2 Thomas Turney deed, 1767; Samuel Turney estate inventory,
Folder 3 Aaron Turney copy of deed, 1805; deed from wife Ellen to Sarah
Trubee, 1833
Folder 4-5 Sarah Turney Trubee writing book, 1813-1821, and transcript
Folder 6 Asa Turney deeds, 1789, 1828; certificate to and transcript of
will, 1833
Folder 7 Asa Turney transcripts and photographs of pages from account
book, 1786-1829
Folder 8 Julia Ann Turney deed, 1850
Folder 9 Albert Turney account book, 1844-1866, 1881
Folder 10 Albert Turney financial records, 1857-1880
Folder 11 Oliver Turney and Kate Sherman marriage certificate, 1866
(in oversize mss box 1)
Folder 12 Helen Turney Sharps correspondence, 1935-1949
Folder 13 “ “ “ bridal souvenir, 1899
Folder 14-16 “ “ “ Calkins genealogical notes, n.d.
Folder 17 “ “ “ Quinquennial Record, 1896
Folder 18 Rhoda Sharps Ritger letter, n.d.
Folder 19 Isaac Turney will, 1818; Silas and Gould Turney deed, 1823, 1880
Folder 20 John Turney promissory note, 1793; Stephen Turney appeal,
Folder 21 George W. Sherman papers, 1847-1866
Folder 22 Rhoda Sherman papers, 1862, 1868, n.d.

Box 2

Folder 23-30 Helen Turney Sharps genealogy notebooks and newspaper

clipping

Ms 13

TURNEY FAMILY
Papers, 1685-1949

Subject headings

Account books--Conn.--Fairfield
Calkins family
Deeds--Conn.--Fairfield
Farmers--Conn.--Fairfield

Onions--Conn.--Fairfield
Sherman family
Shipping--Conn.--Fairfield
Wills--Conn.--Fairfield

Sharps, Helen Turney (1876-1954)
Sherman, George Wayland (1818-1868)
Trubee, Sarah Turney (1801-1868)
Turney, Albert (1817-1898)