



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

### **Manuscript Finding Aid**

Title: Banks Family Papers

Collection #: Ms 26

Dates: 1674-1923

Size of collection: 2 linear feet (4 boxes)

Accession number: L89 May 22; L91 May 34

Donors: Mr. and Mrs. John H. Banks; Elizabeth MacRury nee Banks

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Martha Rockwell; additional processing by Cory Clark

Date: November 1983; January 1997

#### Biographical/historical note:

Joseph Banks (1690-1776) is one of the first and most important members of this family. He married Mary Sherwood in 1712, and had seven children. Ebenezer Banks Sr. (1724-1777), the son of Joseph, married Sarah Hide, and had seven children. He was Captain of the Greenfield (militia) Company. David Banks (1718-1791), the son of Joseph, ran a country store with Ebenezer Jr., and was an Ensign in the 5th Co. (militia) of Fairfield. Ebenezer Banks Jr. (1752-1838), the son of Ebenezer, married Huldah Sherwood, and had four children. Ebenezer Jr. served in the Revolutionary war, as did his brother, Joseph (1756-1836).

Horace Banks (1831-1909), a descendant of David Banks, married Sarah Burr, known as "Aunt Sallie." Horace had two sisters, Eliza F., who married Rev. George W. Banks of Guilford, and Angeline Banks, who married Moses Banks. George A. Banks, Horace's son, married Minnie V. Jennings (1862-1921), and ran a general store in Greenfield Hill.

Benjamin Banks (1682-1760), the brother of Joseph (1690-1776), had a son Gershom (1712-1795), who graduated from Yale College in 1732. His son, Hyatt Banks (1764-1847), was appointed Captain of the 3rd Troop in the 1st Cavalry of Connecticut. Benjamin also had a son John (1717-1784) and is through his line that

Barzilla Banks is descended. Barzilla established a general store in 1869 on Greenfield Hill, a store that also served as the post office. His son, William H., ran the store for ten years before his sisters, Georgianna and Mary Elizabeth, assumed control. The store was a mainstay on Greenfield Hill until 1929 when the sisters retired.

#### Scope and content note:

The materials in this collection are arranged in alphabetical order by the first name of the individual. Series A consists of Alson Banks' estate papers, 1840-1844, including an inventory. Angeline Banks' diaries, 1883-1888, 1890, telling about daily weather and activities, are arranged chronologically in Series B. There is a bill, 1889, from Arthur Banks to John Perry for work building his house in Southport in Series C. Benjamin Banks Sr. is represented by deeds, 1708-1787, in Series D. Benjamin Banks, Jr., was involved in several court cases, 1786, 1787, the records of which are included in Series E.

Ebenezer Banks Sr. has a number of papers relating to his estate, 1746-1775, including an inventory, in Series F. His papers also include deeds and a document certifying his share in the Susquehannah Purchase, 1774. Series G, Ebenezer Banks Jr. papers, 1776-1833, include deeds, an inventory of his estate, and an account book kept with his brother David.

Eliphalet Banks' papers are organized in Series H and include a summons, 1823, and an account book, 1822-1830, 1888-1891. Portions of the book, kept in pen, include Eliphalet's accounts as constable of Fairfield, and for goods bought and sold. The later portions of the volume, written in pencil, are the farm accounts of George Banks, and include stud fees for cows and general accounts with customers such as Phineas T. Barnum. Deeds related to Eunice Banks, 1851, are in Series I. Bills to G. A. and M. E. Banks (Georgianna and Mary Elizabeth), 1905-1919, for store merchandise, and two oversized account books, 1923-1924, 1929, are in Series J. George Banks' account book for his store in Lyons, New York, 1848-1864, is in Series K. George W. Banks reminisces about teachers at the Dwight Academy on Greenfield Hill, 1923. His letter is filed in Series L. Gershom Banks' papers, which include deeds and receipts, 1737-1791, and his will, 1776, are in Series M. Grace Evelyn Banks wrote historical essays for the D.A.R., and these are in Series N. One typescript is a collection of proverbs, or "saws." Henrietta Banks' diary, 1848-1850, is in Series O. Hezekiah Banks' 1811 will constitutes Series P.

Horace Banks' papers, which consist of a store account book, 1859, an estate inventory, 1863, and a military enrollment exemption, 1863, are arranged in Series Q. Huldah Banks is represented by her will, 1838, in Series R. Hyatt Banks' letter of appointment as Captain of the 3rd Troop in the 1st Cavalry of Connecticut, 1804, is

in Series S. Deeds of Joel, John, and Joseph Banks are organized in Series T, U and V, respectively. Joseph Banks is also represented by his will, 1768.

Mary Banks' inventory, 1684, is in Series W. Minnie Banks' household account book, 1899, is contained in Series X. Series Y consists of Nehemiah Banks' estate inventory, n.d., and a court document, 1775. In Series Z, Polly Banks has a medical bill, 1864, and a number of tax payments, 1867-1883. Sarah (Sally) Banks' diaries, 1875-1923, are organized in Series AA. The diaries includes entries on the effects of the Blizzard of 1888, notes on births, marriages and deaths, and daily activities. Series BB contains receipts and deeds, 1875-1898, related to Sherwood Banks. Talcott Banks' will, n.d., is the only document found in Series CC. Thaddeus Banks is represented in Series DD by receipts, 1771, 1774. William Banks' papers, which include grocery bills from his store, a letter about the death of Captain Burr Scott aboard the Haidee, 1850, and William's journal kept aboard the Brig Haidee about daily life on this circus boat, 1849-1850, are arranged in Series EE.

Greenfield Congregational Society records, 1806-1828, 1869, 1892-1894, include membership records and subscription lists, tax collectors' lists, a handwritten "newsletter," and Sunday School records, and are arranged in Series FF. The papers of various Banks family members are arranged by type of material in Series GG. Correspondence, 1853-1893, primarily to Mary Bulkley and "Sally," along with a postcard announcing a suffragette meeting are in folder 1. Bills and receipts, 1802-1887 are in folder 2, and include a bill from Widow Sarah Banks for "keeping Negro Ned," 1802. Legal records in folder 3 consists of the estate inventory of Aaron Banks and several court documents, 1810-1824. Folder 4 contains deeds dating from 1745-1868. School records, 1840-1844, consist of premiums awarded to Francis Banks by the New York Public School system, 1840-1841; Simon Banks' composition on schools, 1843; and a school district meeting notice, 1844. The final folder includes invitations to anniversary celebrations of B.B. Banks, 1875, 1880; and a chap book kept by Curtis Banks, including records of church attendance, 1925-1930, a draft of his will, 1924, genealogy notes and notes on school events and teachers.

For more information on the family, see The Families of Old Fairfield by Donald L. Jacobus, and the Banks family brown envelope file. For information on Banks' store, see the vertical file "Fairfield--Buildings--1199 Hillside Ave."

BANKS FAMILY  
Collection, 1674-1923

Box 1

- Series A. Alson Banks Papers, 1840-1844  
Folder 1. estate papers 1840, 1843, 1844
- Series B. Angeline Banks Papers, 1883-1888, 1890  
Folder 1. diaries 1883-1888, 1890
- Series C. Arthur Banks Papers, 1889  
Folder 1. bill to John Perry, 1889
- Series D. Benjamin Banks Sr. Papers, 1708-1741  
Folder 1. deeds, 1708, 1709, 1736, 1741
- Series E. Benjamin Banks Jr. Papers, 1786-1787  
Folder 1. court documents, 1786-1787
- Series F. Ebenezer Banks Sr. Papers, 1746-1838  
Folder 1. deeds, 1746- 1760  
Folder 2. deeds, 1760-1775  
Folder 3. estate papers, 1838; inventory, 1838; copy of will, 1838  
Folder 4. Susquehannah Purchase, 1774; promissory note, 1772; fence
- Series G. Ebenezer Banks Jr. Papers 1747-1833  
Folder 1. deeds, 1776-1802  
Folder 2. inventory, 1828, 1829; bills, 1817, 1819, n.d.  
Folder 3. nomination, 1818; funeral letter, 1833  
Folder 4. account book, with David, 1747-1831  
Folder 5. loose papers removed from account book 1804, 1821-1828
- Series H. Eliphalet Banks Papers 1822-1830, 1888-1891  
Folder 1. summons, 1822-1830, 1888-1891  
Folder 2. account book, 1822

Box 2

- Series I. Eunice Banks Papers 1851  
Folder 1. deed, 1851

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Box 2 (cont.)

- Series J. G.A. and M.E. Banks Papers, 1905-1919  
Folder 1. bills and receipts, 1905-1910  
Folder 2. bills and receipts, 1911  
Folder 3. bills and receipts, 1911  
Folder 4. bills and receipts 1911-1912  
Folder 5. bills and receipts, 1913  
Folder 6. bills and receipts, 1914-1915  
Folder 7. bills and receipts, 19115-1919  
Folder 8. store account books, 1923-1924, 1929 (oversize)
- Series K. George Banks Papers, 1848-1864  
Folder 1. account book, 1848-1864
- Series L. George W. Banks Papers, 1923  
Folder 1. reminiscences, 1923
- Series M. Gershom Banks Papers, 1737-1791  
Folder 1. Deeds, 1737-1748  
Folder 2. deeds, 1749-1774  
Folder 3. will, 1776; court execution order, 1787; receipt, 1791
- Series N. Grace Evelyn Banks Papers, n.d.  
Folder 1. Time is, Time was; Time is past  
Folder 2. "Some old New England Saws"
- Series O. Henrietta Banks Papers, 1848-1850  
Folder 1. diary, 1848-1850
- Series P. Hezekiah Banks Papers, 1811  
Folder 1. will, 1811
- Series Q. Horace B. Banks Papers; 1859, 1863, 1901  
Folder 1. store account book, 1859; military enrollment exemption,
- Series R. Huldah Banks Papers, 1838  
Folder 1. will, 1838

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Box 2 (cont.)

- Series S. Hyatt Banks Papers, 1800-1804  
Folder 1. deed, 1800; military appointment, 1804
- Series T. Joel Banks Papers, 1882  
Folder 1. deed, 1882
- Series U. John Banks Papers, 1674, 1675  
Folder 1. deeds, 1674, 1765
- Series V. Joseph Banks Paper, 1768, 1780  
Folder 1. will, 1768; deed, 1780
- Series W. Mary Banks Papers, 1684  
Folder 1. inventory, 1684
- Series X. Minnie Banks Papers, 1899  
Folder 1. household account book, 1899
- Series Y. Nehemiah Banks Papers; 1775, n.d.  
Folder 1. probate paper, 1775; inventory of estate, n.d.
- Series Z. Polly Banks Papers, 1864-1883  
Folder 1. doctor bill, 1864; tax payments; 1867-1878
- Series AA. Sally Banks Papers, 1875-1923  
Folder 1. diaries, 1875, 1877, 1878, 1880  
Folder 2. diaries, 1897, 1898, 1900, 1902  
Folder 3. diaries, 1903, 1904, 1906, 1907

Box 3

- Folder 4. diaries, 1908, 1909, 1911, 1914  
Folder 5. diaries, 1918, 1919  
Folder 6. diaries, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923  
Folder 7. loose papers removed from 1903, 1909 diaries  
Folder 8. loose papers removed from 1923 diary

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Box 3 (cont.)

Series BB. Sherwood Banks Papers, 1865-1898

Folder 1. receipts, 1865, 1867, 1898; deeds, 1867-1878.

Series CC. Talcott Banks Papers, n.d.

Folder 1. will, n.d.

Series CC. Thaddeus Banks Papers, 1771, 1774

Folder 1. court executions, 1771, 1774

Series DD. William H. Banks Papers, 1897-1926

Folder 1. grocery bills, 1897-1899

Folder 2. grocery bills, 1900-1902, 1909, 1913, 1915, 1926

Folder 3. estate papers, 1872, 1873; will, 1873

Folder 4. account book, 1899

Folder 5. letter, 1850

Folder 6. Brig Haidee journal, 1849-1850

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Series FF. Greenfield Congregational Society Records, 1806-1828, 1869, 1892-94

Folder 1. membership records, 1806-1828

Folder 2. tax collectors' records, 1823

Folder 3. newsletter, 1869; Sunday School records, 1892-1894

Series GG. Assorted Banks Family Papers,

Folder 1. correspondence, 1853-1893

Folder 2. bills and receipts, 1802, n.d., 1861-1862, 1887

Folder 3. inventory, n.d.; court judgments, 1810-1824

Folder 4. deeds, 1745-1868

Folder 5. school records, 1840-1844

Folder 6. B. B. Banks anniversary invitations, 1875, 1880; Curtis Banks



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Subject Headings

Account books--Conn.--Fairfield  
Barnum, Phineas Taylor, 1810-1891  
Church membership--Conn.--Fairfield  
Decedents' estates--Conn.--Fairfield  
Deeds--Conn.--Fairfield  
Diaries  
Fairfield (Conn.)--Blizzard, 1888  
Farmers--Conn.--Fairfield  
Greenfield Hill Congregational Society (Fairfield, Conn.)  
Haidee (Brig)  
Inventories of decedents' estates--Conn.--Fairfield  
Log-books  
Proverbs  
Stores, retail--Conn.--Fairfield  
Susquehannah claim  
Wills--Conn.--Fairfield

Banks, Angeline, 1826-1892  
Banks, Ebenezer, 1724-1777  
Banks, Ebenezer, 1752-1838  
Banks, Gershom, 1712-1795  
Banks, Horace B., 1831-1909  
Banks, Hyatt, 1764-1847  
Banks, Sarah Burr, 1837-1930  
Banks, William H.,  
Banks' Store (Greenfield Hill, Conn.)