



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

Manuscript Finding Aid

Title: The Sturges Family. Papers

Collection #: Ms 32

Dates: 1707-1954

Size of Collection: 1 linear ft (1 box)

Accession Number: L87 Jun 6

Donor: Mrs Etting Deyo; Library Purchase

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Martha Rockwell; additional processing by Barbara Austen

Date: June 1984; November 1996

Biographical/ historical note:

Jonathan Sturges was the patriarch of a family active in the social, political and economic life of the town of Fairfield from its earliest settlement. The library owns several published Sturges genealogies. Additional information can be found in Donald L. Jacobus' book The History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield and in the vertical files.

Scope and content note:

The materials in this collection represent individual members of different branches of the Sturges family of Fairfield County and New York City. Determining the relationships within the family is difficult, and no attempt has been made to organize the collection by lineage or family group. Instead, the collection is arranged alphabetically by the first name of the individual. In some cases, material in a folder may actually represent more than one person.

The estate of Abigail Sturges (possibly different people) is represented by a record of real estate distribution, n.d., and a transcript of the will, 1748. Anna B. Sturges collected patterns, signatures, and instructions in her notebook, 1864-1875, while a student at the Golden Hill Seminary in Bridgeport. Folder 3 contains legal records and correspondence, 1815-1862, related to Banks Sturges, including a petition against him sent to the Superior Court in 1815 and a letter describing the history of the case, written in 1844. Daniel Sturges is represented by deeds, 1773, 1778, in Folder 4. David Sturges' legal records in Folder 5 include executions of judgment, 1771, 1774; and a summons, 1804. Deeds issued to Eleazar Sturges, 1745, are arranged in Folder 6.

Frederick Sturges, the son of Jonathan (1802-1874) kept account books for the family farm, 1878-1890. The books include daily notations on the weather and the amount of labor expended, accounts with Sturges, and an inventory of "his place." His son, Frederick Sturges, Jr. is represented by a military discharge, 1919; a certificate that he donated to the Liberty Loan, 1919; and blackline maps of his property on Unquowa Road, surveyed by Huntington and Company, 1954, in Folder 10. Gershom Sturges is represented by a copy of a register for the Ship Eliza, 1818, and a lease with Ellen Bennit, 1833, arranged in folder 11. Henry A. Sturges' ledger, 1836-1845, is an oversized item and is stored separately. Henry Cady Sturges was a historian by avocation, gave numerous presentations at the Fairfield Historical Society, and published at least one book. His manuscript history of Mill Plain, n.d., a pedigree chart for cows on his farm, n.d., and correspondence concerning family history, 1914, are arranged in Folder 13. Hezekiah Sturges served in the militia, and his papers include his military discharge, 1794, along with a draft, 1774; account book, 1770-1816; and a deed, 1822, in Folder 14.

At least three Jonathan Sturges are represented in the collection. Copies of deeds from 1707 and 1742 are attributed to Jonathan (1679-1744) but may in fact belong to two different people. A letter of appreciation, delivered at New York merchant Jonathan (1802-1874) Sturges' retirement in 1867, is housed in Folder 16. Folder 17 contains the estate records of Jonathan (1816-1892), son of Banks Sturges. Several Peters are also represented in the collection. A deed, 1757, and an estate distribution, 1771, are attributed to Peter (1685-1757) and are stored in Folder 18. Samuel Sturges' papers include two plot maps, 1767, and a promissory note, 1799. These items, in folder 19, may actually belong to two different individuals.

Folders 20-24 contain records relating to a variety of Sturges family members. Folder 20 contains a plot plan, 1767; deeds, 1817, 1833, 1884; estate records, 1729, n.d.; financial records, 1812, 1831, 1907; and Mary's membership certificate in the New York Colonization Society, 1845. Executions of judgment in which Sturges family members were involved in the case or witnessed the settlement, 1773-1790, are organized in Folder 21. A petition to the General Assembly in Folder 22 was written by Jeremiah Sturges "and others of Fairfield" concerning the need for an Insurance Company, 1825. Folder 21 contains genealogical information on the Sturges family.

STURGES FAMILY
Papers, 1707-1954

Box 1

- Folder 1 Abigail Sturges: estate distribution, n.d.; transcript of will, 1748
- Folder 2 Anna B. Sturges: notebook from Golden Hill Seminary, 1864-1875
- Folder 3 Banks Sturges (1780-1867): petition, 1815; correspondence and summons, 1844-1862
- Folder 4 Daniel Sturges (b. 1745): deeds, 1773, 1778
- Folder 5 David Sturges: legal papers, 1771, 1774, 1804
- Folder 6 Eleazar Sturges (b. 1705): deeds, 1745
- Folder 7-8 Frederick Sturges (1802-1874): account books, 1878-1890
- Folder 9 Frederick Sturges (1802-1874): correspondence, 1890-1895
- Folder 10 Frederick Sturges, Jr.: military discharge, 1919; liberty loan receipt, 1919; maps of property, 1954
- Folder 11 Gershom Sturges: ship's register (Eliza), 1818 (copy); lease, 1833
- Folder 12 Henry A. Sturges: ledger, 1836-1845
- Folder 13 Henry Cady Sturges (1846-1922): manuscript history of Mill Plain, n.d.; pedigree chart for cows, n.d.; correspondence about family genealogy, 1914 (photostatic copies)
- Folder 14 Hezekiah Sturges (1756-1840): draft, 1774; account book, 1779-1816; military discharge, 1794; deed, 1822
- Folder 15 Jonathan Sturges (1679-1744): copies of deeds, 1707, 1742
- Folder 16 Jonathan Sturges (1802-1874): letter concerning his retirement, 1867 (copy)
- Folder 17 Jonathan Sturges (1811-1892): estate records, 1892-1893
- Folder 18 Peter Sturges (1685-1757): deed, 1757; distribution of estate, 1771
- Folder 19 Peter Sturges (b. 1770): apprenticeship indenture, 1826
- Folder 20 Samuel Sturges (1744-1784): plot maps, 1767; promissory note, 1799 (different Samuel b. 1766?)
- Folder 21 Deeds, estate records, membership certificate, and financial records, 1729-1907
- Folder 22 Executions of judgment, 1773-1790
- Folder 23 Petition to General Assembly, 1825
- Folder 24 Genealogical research and charts, ca. 1914, n.d.

STURGES FAMILY
Papers, 1707-1954

Subject headings:

Agricultural laborers--Conn.--Fairfield
Agriculture--Conn.--Fairfield
Apprentices--Conn.--Bridgeport
Courts--Conn.--Fairfield
Decedents' estates--Conn.--Fairfield
Eliza (Ship)
Fairfield (Conn.)--Genealogy
Farmers--Conn.--Fairfield
Golden Hill Seminary (Bridgeport, Conn.)
Judgments--Conn.--Fairfield
Maps--Conn.--Fairfield
Mill Plain (Fairfield, Conn.)
Ship registers--Conn.--Fairfield
Writs--Conn.--Fairfield

Sturges, Anna B.
Sturges, Banks, 1780-1867
Sturges, Daniel, b. 1745
Sturges, David
Sturges, Eleazar, 1705-ca. 1774
Sturges, Frederick, b. 1833
Sturges, Frederick, 1874-1977
Sturges, Henry Cady, 1846-1922
Sturges, Hezekiah, 1756-1840
Sturges, Jonthan, 1679-1744
Sturges, Jonathan, 1802-1874
Sturges, Jonathan, 1816-1892
Sturges, Peter, 1685-1757
Sturges, Peter, b. 1770
Sturges, Samuel