



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

### **Manuscript Finding Aid**

Title: Wakeman Family Papers  
Collection #: Ms B104  
Dates: 1660-61, 1851-1928  
Size of collection: Approximately 32 items  
Accession number: L92 Jun 26  
Donor: Esther and Joseph Wakeman  
Restrictions: None  
Processed by: Barbara Austen  
Date: April 1999

#### Biographical/historical note:

John Wakeman (1610-1661) was the progenitor of the family that settled Fairfield, Connecticut. Among his descendants were Andrew Peck Wakeman (1838-1913) who married Cornelia K. Burr (1837-1930) in 1861. Their son Bacon Wakeman (1867-1954) married Helen Whiting Sturges, the daughter of Joseph H. and Mary Whiting Sturges. Joseph H. Sturges was the son of Henry Augustus Sturges (1810-1878) and Jane Osborn (1816-1899).

#### Scope and content note:

The collection primarily consists of personal papers of members of the Wakeman, Sturges, and Nichols families who were related by marriage. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by surname and then first name.

John C. Nichols (b. 1842) is represented by a membership certificate in the International Order of Odd Fellows, 1858, accounts for building a house, n.d., a note, 1863, and copies of his newspaper obituary. Helen Whiting Sturges evidently taught school, for which she wrote a hymn and an entertaining legend in 1886. She also  
Wakeman family

Ms B104

had friends and family sign her autograph book, a gift from her aunt in 1879. Henry A. Sturges, a participant in the Gold Rush to California, wrote two letters to his son Joseph in 1851 and 1852, describing the state, Native American war and burial customs, the California climate, mail service and costs, and his gold prospecting results. Andrew Peck Wakeman's papers include an 1880 deed, a resolution passed at his death in 1918, and a typed history of the Wakeman homestead, n.d. John Wakeman is represented by copies of his will, 1660 and an inventory of his estate, 1661.

Miscellaneous items include genealogical notes, n.d.; papers of assorted family members, and photographs and ephemera. Among the papers of other family members are the marriage certificate of Joseph H. Sturges and Mary Whiting, 1868 and Joseph's essay on "The Old Meeting House" and a deposition by Cornelia Wakeman regarding family property, 1928. The ephemera includes a flyer about the Memorial Library in Fairfield, 1900, signed by Emma Wakeman, and a booklet from the Yale Alumni Association of Fairfield County, 1889.

WAKEMAN FAMILY  
Papers, 1660-61, 1851-1928

- Folder 1. John C. Nichols membership certificate, 1858, house building accounts, n.d., no
- Folder 2. Helen W. Sturges, autograph album, 1879
- Folder 3. Helen W. Sturges, hymn and "The Legend of Van Bibber's Rock," 1886
- Folder 4. Henry A. Sturges, letters, 1851, 1852
- Folder 5. Andrew P. Wakeman, deed, 1880, resolution, 1918, history of Wakem
- Folder 6. John Wakeman, copies of will, 1660, estate inventory, 1661
- Folder 7. Genealogical notes, n.d.
- Folder 8. Assorted family papers:  
Joseph Sturges essay, n.d., marriage certificate, 1868  
Benjamin Wakeman, deed, 1855  
Cornelia Wakeman, deposition, 1928
- Folder 9. Photographs, 1914, n.d.; newspaper article; ephemera, 1889, 1900

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Subject headings

California--Description and travel

California--Gold discoveries

Essays

Nichols family

Photographs

Sturges family

Nichols, John C., b. 1842

Sturges, Henry Augustus, 1810-1878

Wakeman, Andrew Peck, 1838-1913

Wakeman, Bacon, 1867-1954

Wakeman, Helen Whiting Sturges