

## GUIDE TO THE WATSON FAMILY PAPERS PVMA LIBRARY

Biographical information taken from *A History of Leverett, Massachusetts Together with a Genealogy of its Early Inhabitants* (1996) by Ruth Ellen Field.

**William Watson**, born 1745; died 1813 in Shutesbury, Mass. Married Phebe (Garfield) c. 1765; she died in New Salem, Mass., Jan. 31, 1813.

His papers include letters, legal documents including estate, deed, receipts, and letters from his son, **Joseph** (born Oct. 4, 1774, in Spencer, Mass.; moved to Hudson, New York, by 1803; died c. 1862).

**Samuel Watson**, son of William Watson and Phebe (Garfield) Watson, born January 8, 1769, in Spencer, Mass.; died April 22, 1850. He purchased Elijah Montague's farm in 1796. Watson married Betsy Jones of Leverett, on December 26, 1793. Betsy was born April 23, 1771, in Braintree, Mass., daughter of Samuel and Mary Jones. This union produced eight children; five of whom are mentioned below.

His papers consist of military, tax, and court documents, receipts, promissory notes, deeds, legal documents and a student's copy book. Receipt of Betsey Watson for textiles also included.

**Pamela Watson**, daughter of Samuel and Betsy, born October 28, 1794, in New Salem, Mass. She married Stephen Graves in 1822. **Daphne Watson**, daughter of William and Betsy, born July 13, 1796, in New Salem; died September 11, 1886, unmarried.

Their papers consist of 1 receipt and 6 letters.

**Horatio Nelson Watson**, son of William and Betsy, born July 27, 1800, died November 30, 1880. Married Sarah Leach of Shutesbury, Mass., c. 1805. Horatio was a chair manufacturer and a politician, serving as a selectman and state representative.

His papers consist of one letter and one bill.

**Amos Watson**, son of Samuel and Betsy, born March 17, 1807, died April 13, 1904. Married Amanda Kendrick of Colrain, Mass., in 1846; married Lydia Johnson of Colrain in 1849; married Lucy Taylor of Colrain in 1851. Two children resulted in these unions; one child is mentioned below.

His papers include receipts, certificates of marriage, military appointments and dog licenses. For joint papers with his brother Ira, see Ira's folder. The papers of his wives (**Amanda Kendrick**, **Lydia Johnson**, and **Lucy Taylor**) include letters, poetry, a partial daybook, and a genealogy note.

**Ira Watson**, son of William and Betsy, born October 1, 1810, died November 2, 1884. Married Emily Montague in 1841; married Elvira Taylor, c. 1850. Three children resulted from these unions.

His papers jointly involve his brother Amos and include 3 deeds, tax receipts and a pew bill.

**John Wesley Watson**, son of Amos and Amanda, was born April 14, 1854, died April 25, 1937. Usually addressed by his middle name, Wesley. Married Charlotte Perkins in 1877; they had 4 children, one of whom is mentioned below. John maintained a general store in Leverett. This grew into one of the largest department stores in Franklin County, which burned in 1909. Numerous account books from the store are in the collection.

His papers include membership certificates, bills, clipping, deed, and miscellany in one folder and correspondence in the second folder. In folder 2 is an undated letter from Arthur Marion Noakey to Wesley that contains a watercolor of a woman.

**Charlotte Perkins Watson**, wife of John Wesley, born in Bangor, New York, 1856. Died Leverett, 1919.

Her papers consist of letters from her husband, written between 1888 and 1910 while on business trips, and one letter from her son, Glon.

**Spencer Watson**, son of John Wesley and Charlotte; born May 21, 1878; married Marian Kretchner Dec. 23, 1903. Spencer died in Boston Oct. 1918, possibly of Spanish flu. **Verdi Watson**, daughter of John Wesley and Charlotte; born Aug. 26, 1888; died June 25, 1950. Married Clarence Brett. **Glon Watson**, son of John Wesley and Charlotte; born May 28, 1895; died 1972. Married Ruth Hooper of Troy, NY, in 1903.

Their papers consist of letters from their father, written between 1888 and 1910.

In addition to the above letters and documents, there is one folder of pamphlets (song books), a sermon (1817), *Constitution of the New-England Anti-Slavery Society* (1832), order of class day exercises at Harvard (1851), materials on Leverett, drawings of the Watson coat of arms, and three photos taken in Italy.

#### **CONTAINER LIST:**

##### **Box 1**

- Folder 1: William, legal papers, deeds, letters, receipts, 1768-1813- 28 items
- Folder 2: William, will, inventory and estate documents, 1807-1822- 20 items
- Folder 3: Samuel, military and tax documents, bills, receipts, deed & legal documents, copybook, wife's receipt, 1793-1829- 61 items
- Folder 4: Pamela and Daphne, receipt, letters, 1814-1871- 7 items
- Folder 5: Luther, four receipts, 1813; Horatio, invoice, 1826 - 5 items
- Folder 6: Amos, receipts, military and legal documents, certificates, licenses, etc., 1837- 1874- 17 items
- Folder 7: Amanda Kendrick, Lydia Johnson and Lucy Taylor: wives of Amos, letters, poems, partial daybook, and genealogy, 1821-1881, n.d.- 8 items
- Folder 8: Ira, [and Amos jointly], tax receipts, pew bill, deed, 1842-1871- 6 items
- Folder 9: John Wesley, receipts, clipping, certificates, etc., 1886-1930 - 13 items
- Folder 10: John Wesley, correspondence, 1873-1929, n.d.- 41 items
- Folder 11: John Wesley, letters addressed to "friends" at home, 1873-1890 - 10 items

Folder 12: Charlotte Perkins Watson, correspondence, 1888, 1910 - 35 items

Folder 13: Papers of Spencer, Verdi, and Glon Watson, 1888, 1910 - 21 items

Folder 14: Miscellaneous receipts, accounts, letters, etc., 1795-1912, n.d. - 31 items

Folder 15: Miscellaneous printed items and photographs - 13 items

## Box 2

Samuel Watson (1769-1850), account book, 1797-1832

Amos Watson (1807-1904), account book, 1826-73

John Wesley Watson (1854-1937):

diary, Jan. 1-July 31, 1878

daybooks, Aug. 3, 1875-Jan. 9, 1877; Feb. 26-Sept. 29, 1877 (with personal and family accounts and inventory of goods on Jan. 1, 1876); Oct. 1, 1877-Sept. 28, 1878; Oct. 1, 1878-May 31, 1879; June 21-Dec. 31, 1879; Jan. 1-May 31, 1880; Dec. 1, 1893-May 31, 1895; June 1, 1895- Nov. 14, 1896; Nov. 16, 1896-Nov. 2, 1897

cash book, Jan. 1-June 11, 1879

account books, Dec. 1875-Dec. 1876

"purchase book," Feb. 1877-March 1879 (misc. accounts)