

## **Guide to the Comings Family History Scrapbook, 1823-1953, 1971-2004**

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Comings Family History Scrapbook, 1823-1953, 1971-2004

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society  
30 Park Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-228-6688  
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Number:**

2020.050

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Sandra L. Wheeler

**Creator:**

Rivers, Bernard G.

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

1 box ; 0.21 linear feet

**Abstract:**

Between approximately 1971 and 2004, Bernard Rivers conducted extensive research and gathered material about his ancestors, the Comings and Rich families of Cornish, New Hampshire. This is the result of that work, organized by name of the ancestor.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

The Comings Family History Scrapbook was given to the New Hampshire Historical Society by its compiler, Bernard Rivers, in 2020.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by Sandra L. Wheeler in September 2022. The finding aid was written by Sandra L. Wheeler in September 2022. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research.

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

### **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Item title, Comings Family History Scrapbook, 2020.050. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information**

The Comings family was from Cornish, New Hampshire. The progenitor, William Comings (1803-1859), was a bridge-builder and mechanic who worked in the surrounding area (Claremont, Lebanon, etc.). Other surnames associated with Comings and for whom there is information in this collection are Melendy, Rowell, and Rich.

### **Collection Scope and Content Note:**

Bernard Rivers, who researched and gathered this information, concentrated on his own direct line, beginning with William Comings (1803-1859) of Cornish, NH, and tracing it for several generations forward. His information is as complete as was possible, and includes photographs of people, places, gravestones, and a few letters. There is also correspondence with librarians, town clerks, and informants of all kinds, as well as filled-out genealogical forms. His research took place between approximately 1971 and 2004. These dates are represented in the folder list

below. Photocopies and original items (family photographs, correspondence, etc.) compiled during his research date from between approximately 1823 and 1953.

The first section of this scrapbook contains research and notes, including extensive correspondence on the adoption of Georgianna Billings, later known as Anna Amelia Comings, around 1868-1869.

Section eight contains extensive information on Henry Rich (1834-1900), his wife Abby Jane Kelley, and Rich's adoption of Anna Amelia (born Georgianna Billings). This section also includes information about Fred French (1867-1953), an unrelated boy raised by the family. The third folder of this series contains information about Azelia Rich (1848-1906), second wife of Henry Rich, as well as their children, Grace and Helen.

### **Arrangement:**

This scrapbook was in a three ring binder, organized by the creator, Bernard Rivers, into sections, each about an individual ancestor and his or her family. That arrangement has been maintained, with the addition of page numbers penciled in the upper left corner. Items are of a variety of sizes and formats.

The folder titles indicate the section in the binder and name (and dates) of individuals for which information is present, and page numbers given when the pages were removed from the binder in 2022. The date on the far right of the folder is when the research was conducted, mostly in the 1970s with a few additions later. Only correspondence and some genealogical forms are dated; the researcher's notes are undated.

## Contents List

### **Box 1**

Folder 1	Section 1. Research notes and correspondence, pages 1-31, 1971-1979, undated
Folder 2	Section 2. William F. Comings (1803-1859), pages 32-46, 1971-1984, undated
Folder 3	Section 3. Susan Comings Melendy (1837-1914) and David E. Melendy (1828-1904), pages 47-51, 1978-1979, undated
Folder 4	Section 4. Isabel/Belle Comings (1842-1869), pages 52-56, 1971-2004, undated
Folder 5	Section 5. Sarah Comings Rowell (1846-1941), pages 57-79, 1959-1984, undated
Folder 6	Section 6. Wilbur Comings (1850-1887), pages 80-84, undated
Folder 7	Section 7. Darwin (or Darius) Comings (1857-1925), pages 85-94, 1984, undated
Folder 8	Section 8, part 1. Henry Rich (1834-1900), pages 95-117, 1966-1979, undated
Folder 9	Section 8, part 2. Henry Rich (1834-1900), pages 118-125, 1977-1980, undated
Folder 10	Section 8, part 3. Henry Rich (1834-1900), pages 126-142, 1979, undated

## Subject Terms

### **People:**

Billings, Georgianna, 1868-1941  
Comings family

Comings, Anna Amelia, 1868-1941  
Comings, Darwin, 1857-1925  
Comings, Isabel, 1842-1869  
Comings, Wilbur, 1850-1887  
Comings, William, 1823-1859  
French, Fred, 1867-1953  
Melendy, Susan Comings, 1837-1914  
Rich, Abby Jane (Kelley), 1834-1878  
Rich, Azelia, 1848-1906  
Rich, Henry, 1834-1900  
Rivers, Bernard G.  
Rowell, Sarah Comings, 1846-1941

**Subjects:**

Adoption  
Family records  
Genealogy  
Genealogy--Charts, diagrams, etc.  
Maps  
Photography  
Scrapbooks

**Locations:**

Clyde, KS  
Claremont, NH  
Cornish, NH  
Lebanon, NH