

Guide to the Demeritt and Bean Family Papers, circa 1850-1985

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Demeritt and Bean Family Papers, circa 1850-1985

Repository:

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

Collection Number:

2022.040

Author of Finding Aid:

Mylynda Gill and Korrena Cowing

Creator:

Bean family
Demeritt family

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box ; 0.42 linear feet

Abstract:

The Demeritt and Bean Family Papers, circa 1850-1985, is a small collection of estate papers, correspondence, deeds, financial papers, and newspaper clippings from members of these two families. The bulk of the papers are from Joseph L. Demeritt, who also served as administrator to the estates of Furber and Otis family members.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Demeritt and Bean Family Papers were a gift from the Dorothy A. Bean Revocable Trust on July 1, 2022. A daguerreotype and two tintypes were transferred from the museum to this collection on May 6, 2023 from a March 15, 2023 donation by the Dorothy A. Bean Revocable Trust.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Mylynda Gill from April through July 2023 and Korrena Cowing in August 2023. The finding aid was written by Mylynda Gill from April through July 2023 and Korrena Cowing in August 2023. 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, Demeritt and Bean Family Papers, 2022.040. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Mark Demeritt was born in Farmington, NH, to Paul and Betsey (Davis) Demeritt on June 6, 1792. He married Abigail Emma Leighton (1799-1881) on July 21, 1816 in New Durham, NH. Abigail Leighton was born on January 28, 1799 to Joseph and Hannah (Babb) Leighton in Farmington. Together, Mark and Abigail had nine children: Charles M. (1818-1897), Hannah M. (1820-1892), John F. (1822-1904), Samuel G. (1826-1840), Joseph L. (1831-1915), Paul J. (1833-1898), Lois S. (1835-1921), Emily A. (1838-), and Emma B. (1840-).

While Mark and Abigail owned and operated a farm in Farmington, Mark also served in the New Hampshire Militia in 1814 and 1830; was a justice of the peace; was a member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives in 1835 to 1837, 1848, and 1857; and was the director of

the Farmington Bank from 1855 to 1857. Mark died on October 22, 1875 in Farmington, and his wife, Abigail, died there on May 6, 1881. They left their farm to their son Joseph L. Demeritt.

Joseph L. Demeritt was born on May 22, 1831 to Mark and Abigail Demeritt in Farmington. He lived his entire life in Farmington, working on the family farm. He also served as the treasurer of the Strafford County Riverside Trotting Park Association from 1871 to 1873 and as a selectman for the town in 1878. Joseph died there on October 29, 1915, leaving the family farm to Ivory U. Bean.

Ivory U. Bean was born on May 4, 1868 to Ivory Bean and Roxana “Roxie” Gage. By the 1890 census, Ivory was living with his mother Roxana (Gage) Nutter and his step-father, James Matthew Nutter in Farmington. He married Ida Mae Wyatt (1871-1941) on January 17, 1893 and together they had two children: an unnamed child (1900-1900) and Joseph Demeritt Bean (1904-1990). By 1900, they were living with Joseph L. Demeritt working on Demeritt’s farm in Farmington. In the 1910 census, Ivory is listed as the owner of the dairy and beef farm, with Joseph L. Demeritt, listed as his uncle, living with him. Ivory worked the rest of his life on this farm. Ida M. Bean died on October 16, 1941. Ivory died on February 26, 1960 in Rochester, NH. He left the farm to his son, Joseph Demeritt Bean.

Joseph Demeritt Bean was born on April 21, 1904 to Ivory U. and Ida M. Bean in Farmington. By 1930, he had moved to East Orange, NJ. He married Donna May Otey on October 3, 1931 in Brooklyn, NY. Together they had one daughter: Dorothy A. Bean (1937-2021). Joseph’s World War II draft card lists his address as Millburn, NJ. At this time, he was working as an equipment inspector for the Western Union Telegraph Co. in New York, NY. After his parents’ deaths, he inherited the 340-acre farm in Farmington. Joseph died on September 3, 1990 in Boston, MA.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Demeritt and Bean Family Papers is a small, varied collection of family papers, though the bulk of materials consist of financial papers, real estate records, and estate papers of several members of the Demeritt family and Bean family of Farmington, NH. The Demeritt family is represented by Mark, his wife Abigail E., and their son Joseph L. The Bean family is represented by Ivory U. and his son, Joseph D.

Dating from circa 1850 to 1985, the bulk of materials are from Joseph L. Demeritt and consist of deeds, stock certificates, bills, receipts, and an account book titled “Treasurer’s Account with the Strafford County Riverside Trotting Association.” Also included is a small volume detailing his travel routes in 1888 and 1889. The back of this volume provides a list of family births, marriages, and deaths. Serving as administrator to the estates of Emerson Furber, Mary Furber, and Serena Otis, Joseph L. Demeritt’s papers also include some records on these families. Though Ivory U. Bean served as the administrator of Joseph L. Demeritt’s estate, these papers are filed under Joseph L. Demeritt.

Other materials in this collection include a War of 1812 pension application from Abigail E. Demeritt for Mark Demeritt’s service, estate papers of Mark Demeritt, photographs of Abigail and Mark Demeritt, an account book and diary of Ivory U. Bean, and real estate records for the

Farmington estate by Joseph D. Bean. There is some correspondence in this collection, which primarily deals with finances, estates, and real estate.

Arrangement:

The Demeritt and Bean Family Papers are organized alphabetically by person, then subject.

Contents List

Box 1

- Folder 1 Bean, Ivory U. account book #3 with E. T. Willson, groceries, 1926-1928
- Folder 2 Bean, Ivory U. bills and receipts, 1913-1976
- Folder 3 Bean, Ivory U. correspondence, 1916-1946
- Folder 4 Bean, Ivory U. diary, 1916
- Folder 5 Bean, Joseph D. correspondence and financial papers, 1960-1985
- Folder 6 Bean, Joseph D. deeds, floor plans, and real estate records, 1959-1977, undated
- Folder 7 Demeritt, Abigail E. papers, circa 1870-1881
- Folder 8 Demeritt, Joseph L. deeds, 1875-1915
- Folder 9 Demeritt, Joseph L. estate papers, 1915-1917
- Folder 10 Demeritt, Joseph L. estate papers of Emerson and Mary Furber, 1895-1916
- Folder 11 Demeritt, Joseph L. estate papers of Serena Otis, 1895-1897
- Folder 12 Demeritt, Joseph L. financial papers and correspondence, 1877-1915
- Folder 13 Demeritt, Joseph L. travel and vital records volume, 1888-1889
- Folder 14 Demeritt, Joseph L. Treasurer's Account with the Strafford County Riverside Trotting Association, 1871-1874
- Folder 15 Demeritt, Mark estate papers, 1874-1875
- Folder 16 Demeritt, Mark estate papers, 1876-1877
- Folder 17 Mark Demeritt papers, circa 1850-1870
- Folder 18 Newspaper clippings, 1956, undated
 - “Early Homes of Farmington” by Ned L. Parker, 1956
 - “Who Are You? A Wyatt?” by Ruby Haskins Ellis, undated
- Folder 19 Statement of property on hand, 1899-1904

Separated Materials:

The following daguerreotype was moved to the Encased Photograph Collection:

Mark Demeritt daguerreotype, circa 1850
(Sixth plate; Case: 3.75” x 3.25” x 0.625”; Plate: 3.25” x 2.75”)

The following framed tintypes were moved to hanging storage:

Mark Demeritt tintype, circa 1870
(Oval frame: 12” x 10” x 1.25”; Sight dimensions: 6.25” x 4.375”)

Abigail Leighton Demeritt tintype, circa 1870
(Oval frame: 12.25” x 10.125” x 1.25”; Sight dimensions: 6.25” x 4.375”)

Subject Terms

People:

Bean family
Bean, Ivory U., 1868-1960
Bean, Joseph Demeritt, 1904-1990
Demeritt family
Demeritt, Abigail E., 1799-1881
Demeritt, Joseph L., 1831-1915
Demeritt, Mark, 1792-1875
Furber, Emerson, 1817-1895
Furber, Mary, 1814-1901
Otis, Serena H., 1843-1897
Willson, E.T.

Organizations:

Strafford County Riverside Trotting Park Association

Subjects:

Account books
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
Correspondence
Deeds
Estates (Law)
Farm life
Finance, Personal
Genealogy
Photographs
Probate records
Real property
United States-- History-- War of 1812
Wills

Locations:

Farmington, NH

Occupations:

Farmers

Related Materials

Museum

A number of items were donated to the museum from the Demeritt and Bean family. See museum accession numbers 2022.009, 2022.015, and 2023.006. A sample of these items are listed below:

Sword, 2022.009.01 a-b
Musket, 2022.009.02
Buckle, 2022.015.01
Hat, Top, 2022.015.03
Wallet, 2022.015.04