

## Guide to the Swasey Family Papers, 1823-1885

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Swasey Family Papers, 1823-1885

**Repository:**

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

**Collection Number:**

1983.019

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing

**Creator:**

Swasey family

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

1 box ; 0.33 linear feet

**Abstract:**

The Swasey Family Papers include family correspondence, school papers of Nathaniel Swasey, legal papers, loose accounts and receipts, and two account books: one for a lawyer and one for a farmer.

## Access and Use

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

The Swasey Family Papers were a gift of Mrs. William Berkeley on December 9, 1982. One letter from S. Swasey to Nathaniel Swasey, dated October 16, 1831 was added in 1991. This letter has no further accession information.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date and reformatted by Korrena Cowing in March 2020. 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 material 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, Swasey Family Papers, 1983.019. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH.  
Date accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information:**

Nathaniel Merrill Swasey was born on June 4, 1815, son of Obadiah and Nancy (Merrill) Swasey. Obadiah had lumber and grist mills in Haverhill, NH. Nathaniel succeeded his father in ownership of the family farm and resided in a brick house near the Square. He also ran an insurance business, and was active in town politics serving as town clerk, treasurer in 1844 to 1846, and selectman in 1863. He represented the town in the legislature of 1872 and 1873.

Obadiah died in July or August 1836. He devised a considerable amount of his estate to his wife Nancy, and a portion to Nathaniel, with cash payments to his other children. Nancy ran her household until her death at the end of 1850 at age 71. She bequeathed her personal possessions to her many children, and ordered all of her real estate be sold with the proceeds to be divided between all of her daughters and two of her sons.

Nathaniel married Mary M. Angier on September 19, 1841 at Haverhill. Born in Vermont on April 11, 1817, Mary was the daughter of John N. and Mary (Mann) Angier. Nathaniel and Mary had one child, Mary Blanche, born February 28, 1851 at Haverhill. She married John Vail Brooks, son of Nathaniel Prentice and Mary. E. (Vail) Brooks, on May 23, 1877 at Haverhill. Mary Blanche died October 6, 1933 at Montpelier, VT. John died at the same place on March 11, 1923.

Nathaniel and Mary ran their Haverhill farm and mills into the 1880s with their value constantly increasing. Grafton County deeds in 1884 and 1887 show them as Haverhill residents. Available Montpelier deeds before 1890 do not show the couple; the date of their relocation is unknown. Nathaniel died at Montpelier on December 30, 1890, and Mary on December 24, 1897. Both are buried at Green Mount Cemetery in Montpelier.

**Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The Swasey family papers include an indenture of William and Joseph Atkinson, 1849; a deposition of Rev. Kimball and Sarah Hadley regarding Rev. Charles Clark of Lyman, 1850; four letters from Mary Swasey to husband Nathaniel, 1876; as well as other items.

Nathaniel Swasey's school papers include writings on topics such as the bee, slothfulness, and "on the improvement of time." The following names occur in the legal papers: Ezekiel B. Hibbard, Joel Angier Jr., Shepard H. Norris, and Mary R. Jewett.

The bulk of Nathaniel Swasey's papers are accounts. The loose accounts are detailed and varied personal accounts covering entries such as maple syrup, carding, use of a horse, relief of the Irish famine (May 7, 1847), blueberries, and mending wife's shoes. Names of many local tradesmen are included. One of the account books in folder 9 concerns filing writs and recording mortgages. The other appears to be farm accounts for items such as eggs.

Other materials include receipts regarding newspapers and insurance (folder 11). This folder also includes a notice for a town meeting in North Brookfield, MA, dated February 2, 1885.

There are interesting billheads from businesses such as C.M. Weeks groceries in Woodsville, NH (1875); R. Holmes lumber in Littleton, NH (1876); and Hills *New Hampshire Patriot* (1842).

**Arrangement:**

The materials in this collection are organized into folders by subject.

**Contents List**

**Box 1**

- Folder 1 Swasey family correspondence, 1849-1876
- Folder 2 Nathaniel Swasey correspondence and school papers, 1831-1834, undated
- Folder 3 Nathaniel Swasey legal papers, 1840-1848
- Folder 4 Nathaniel Swasey accounts, 1843-1847
- Folder 5 Nathaniel Swasey accounts, 1848-1853

Folder 6 Nathaniel Swasey accounts, 1854-1857  
Folder 7 Nathaniel Swasey accounts, 1858-1860  
Folder 8 Nathaniel Swasey accounts, 1860-1876  
Folder 9 Nathaniel Swasey accounts books, 1844-1847  
Folders 10-15 Nathaniel Swasey receipts, 1836-1885

## Subject Terms

### People:

Angier, Joel Jr.  
Atkinson, William  
Clark, Charles  
Hadley, Kimball  
Hadley, Sarah  
Hibbard, Ezekiel B.  
Swasey family  
Swasey, Nathaniel, 1815-1890

### Subjects:

Account books  
Accounts  
Contracts  
Courts  
Insurance  
Newspapers  
Receipts (Acknowledgements)  
Schools

### Locations:

Haverhill, NH  
North Brookfield, MA  
Philadelphia, PA

### Occupations:

Farmers  
Lawyers