

Guide to the Whitcomb and Momyer Family Papers, 1805, 1862-1955

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Whitcomb and Momyer Family Papers, 1805, 1862-1955

Repository:

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

Collection Number:

2022.039

Author of Finding Aid:

Korrena Cowing

Creator:

Momyer, Harry Eastman, Jr., 1880-1962

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box ; 0.33 linear feet

Abstract:

The Whitcomb and Momyer Family Papers consist primarily of correspondence between Harry E. Momyer, Jr., of Philadelphia, PA, and William H. Coon of Batavia, NY. The correspondence details their efforts to learn more about their Whitcomb ancestors, which trace back to New Hampshire. The materials in this collection are dated 1805 and 1862 to 1955.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Whitcomb and Momyer Family Papers were a gift of Robert K. Momyer on April 5, 2023.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Korrena Cowing in September 2023. The finding aid was written by Korrena Cowing in October 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, Whitcomb and Momyer Family Papers, 2022.039. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Harry Eastman Momyer, Jr., was born on July 29, 1880 in Fayette County, PA, to Henry Eastman and Jessie Blanch[e] (Whitcomb) Momyer. In 1894, the family moved west to the Klamath Indian Reservation in Klamath, OR, where his father worked as an Indian Agent and owner of a general store. While his parents and sister remained in Klamath Falls for the rest of their lives, Harry married Ethel Sophia Wilson (1880-1963) on October 8, 1903 in Oregon before moving to California. Their children, Harry C. (1905-1906), Louis Eugene (1908-1973), and an unnamed daughter were born in California, and in 1918, his draft card notes he was living in Sacramento, CA, working as an accountant.

Ethel and Harry divorced and in 1917 and Ethel went on to marry Michael O'Hare in California. In the 1920 census, Ethel and Harry remained divorced, but by 1930, Ethel had divorced her second husband and remarried Harry. They are listed as married in the 1930 census, living in East Orange, NJ. By 1932, they were living in Philadelphia, PA, where they resided for the rest of their lives. The bulk of the correspondence from Harry in this collection is from his

Philadelphia home, beginning in 1932. Harry died there on December 20, 1962 and Ethel in July 1963.

Though never living in New Hampshire himself, a few of Harry Momyer's ancestors lived in New Hampshire for a time. This includes three generations of Joseph Whitcombs, who lived in Swanzey, NH; his grandparents, William Pitt Whitcomb and Mercy Ann Brown of Stratford, NH, who married in Nashville [Nashua], NH, on June 16, 1848; and his mother, Jessie Whitcomb, who was born in Stratford.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The bulk of the Whitcomb and Momyer Family Papers consists of correspondence to, from, and collected by Harry E. Momyer, Jr. of Philadelphia, PA. The letters deal primarily with family genealogy and the quest to "fill in the holes," as stated in a note in the first folder of correspondence. The correspondence was placed in chronological order, though as the note describes, it did not arrive in any particular order.

Harry Momyer writes to family, potential relatives, government officials, and genealogical societies to inquire about information concerning his ancestors including the location and dates of marriages, births, and deaths. Many of the letters are in search of information on William Pitt Whitcomb's marriage to Mercy Ann Brown of New Hampshire.

The majority of the correspondence is between Harry Momyer and William H. Coon, an attorney in Batavia, NY, and Momyer's third cousin. Their correspondence details their efforts in learning more about the Whitcomb family, as well as providing details on their childhoods and lives. Through the letters, we learn Momyer is a member of the Masons, and Coon is a member of the Baptist Church, Masonic Lodge, Odd Fellows Lodge, Elks Lodge, Kiwanis, Spanish War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and others.

The letters show the growth of their research, enlisting relatives near and far, in the search for information. In a letter dated April 9, 1933, Coon writes that as soon as he received letters and photographs from Mrs. Odell of "the folks in Oregon" and letters from Mr. Momyer, he shared them with his Uncle Ernest C. Hawkins and Cousin Josiah T. Whitcomb. In the correspondence, they work through the lines of old letters to piece together where family members were living and visiting. A letter from May 2, 1933, shows Momyer thinking of someday taking a genealogical trip through western Pennsylvania, up to New York to visit Coon, and on to New England. This trip is discussed in detail, both planning and afterwards, in 1941, as it appears he and his wife made the trip in July of that year.

Other correspondence notes the acceptance of Momyer's mother (Jessie Whitcomb) and sister into the Daughters of the American Revolution after they proved their descent from Lieutenant Joseph Whitcomb of New Hampshire, and his work to join the Sons of the American Revolution.

Over time Coon and Momyer further expand to discussing current activities and daily life, in between the family research. Coon, for instance, discusses music and concerts, even going into detail on his thoughts in a 1936 letter on "the darn gold flute" (a Haynes Company flute) which he feels doesn't have the same tone as the silver flute, despite it being "pretty." These

discussions correlate to music ephemera in this collection, including Batavia Festival Orchestra programs and newspaper clippings on flutists. Another letter from Coon, dated September 12, 1933, tells of the recent death of Ernest Hawkins, who died by suicide, and includes transcriptions of the notes he left behind for the family.

Other materials in this collection consist of programs for plays, a drawing of the family crest, a newspaper clipping on William Coon, and photographs of gravestones and houses of ancestors in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are organized alphabetically by type, then chronologically.

Contents List

Box 1

- Folder 1 Correspondence, 1862-1863, 1895-1898
- Folder 2 Correspondence, 1932
- Folder 3 Correspondence, 1933 January-April
- Folder 4 Correspondence, 1933 May-August
- Folder 5 Correspondence, 1933 September-December
- Folder 6 Correspondence, 1934-1936
- Folder 7 Correspondence, 1937-1940
- Folder 8 Correspondence, 1941 January-July
- Folder 9 Correspondence, 1941 August-December
- Folder 10 Correspondence, 1942
- Folder 11 Correspondence, 1953
- Folder 12 Ephemera: music, 1929-1932, 1953-1955, undated
- Folder 13 Ephemera: New Hampshire, 1897, 1942
- Folder 14 Ephemera: William H. Coon, 1933, undated
- Folder 15 *The Freemason's Monitor; Or, Illustrations of Masonry: In Two Parts*, 1805
[Presented to William H. Coon on May 10, 1951]
- Folder 16 Genealogy, 1914, undated
- Folder 17 Photographs, undated
- Folder 18 Whitcombe family crest, undated

Published Material:

Webb, Thomas Smith. *The Freemason's Monitor; Or, Illustrations of Masonry: In Two Parts*. 1805.

This list is not exhaustive.

Subject Terms

People:

- Barrère, Georges, 1876-1944
- Brown, Loyal P., 1881-1961

Coon, William Hawkins, 1876-1953
Hawkins, Ernest C., 1858-1933
Kincaid, William, 1895-1967
Momyer, Harry Eastman, Jr., 1880-1962
Momyer, Jessie B., 1856-1944
Whitcomb family
Whitcomb, Josiah T., 1860-1935
Wright, Ellen M., 1828-1910

Organizations:

Batavia Festival Orchestra
Daughters of the American Revolution
Freemasons
Sons of the American Revolution

Subjects:

Correspondence
Families
Flute
Genealogy
Gravestones
Heraldry
Music
Photographs
Suicide
Travel

Locations:

Argyle, NY
Batavia, NY
Grafton, VT
Lancaster, MA
Philadelphia, PA
Stratford, NH
Swanzey, NH
Washington, DC

Occupations:

Flute players
Lawyers