

**Maine Historical Society****Coll. 2820****Weston and Woodman family collection
1821-1963****Accession number:** 1997.391**Processed:** August 2015 by Jane Cullen, Volunteer**Access:** Unrestricted**Copyright:** Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be directed to MHS Image Services Coordinator.**Size:** 1 linear ft. + 2 oversized boxes**Biographical note:**

The Weston and Woodman family collection consists of materials related to Walter and Mary E. Weston Woodman, and their family:

Weston family: James Partelow Weston (b. 14 July 1815) was a Universalist Minister who graduated from Bowdoin College with two degrees in 1840 and 1843. He served as President of Westbrook Seminary (College) in the 1850s and then served as president of Lombard University in Galesburg, Illinois for a number of years. In 1841 James married Eliza Elden Woodman (b. 30 March 1816) and they had one child, a daughter, Mary Emeline Weston, born 25 January 1849 in Gardiner, Maine. **Mary E. Weston** married her second cousin, **Walter Woodman**, in 1883.

Woodman family: **Walter Woodman** was the son of Cyrus Woodman (1814-1889) and Charlotte Flint (1814-1828). Walter graduated from Harvard in 1875 and Harvard Medical School in 1883. After practicing medicine for only one year in Alfred Maine, he left the profession due to ill health. Walter Woodman married Mary E. Weston in 1883 and they had four children before Mary died in 1888. Their second child, Elizabeth Woodman, married Charles Henry Conrad Wright in 1914. A lifelong Unitarian, Elizabeth was active in the First Parish Church of Cambridge.

Wright family: Charles Henry Conrad Wright (1869-1957) was born in Chicago Illinois to Charles Henry Wright and Margaret B. Wright. He graduated from Harvard in 1891 and Trinity College/Oxford University in 1895; he became a Professor of French Language and Literature at Harvard. In 1914 he married Elizabeth Woodman and together they had three sons: Walter Woodman Wright, C. Conrad Wright and Brooks Wright. Walter Woodman Wright also graduated from Harvard, in 1937, and went on to attend Columbia University School of Library Science. He worked as a Librarian at Harvard College, Ohio University, and Dartmouth, as well as the Harvard Club of New York, Johns Hopkins, and Penn State. In 1941 he married a Norwegian woman, Aagot Horn (1915-2008), a fellow student at Columbia School of Library Science. Upon Walter's death in 1995, his wife Aagot donated the family collection to the Maine Historical Society.

There is also a collection of Stone, Silsbee, and Johnson family letters, which may be connected to the Weston and Woodman family. It includes letters to Mary Silsbee from Thomas and Laura

Stone. Thomas Treadwell Stone (1801-1895) was an American Unitarian pastor, abolitionist, and Transcendentalist.

Scope and Content note: Scrapbooks, diaries, school compositions, autograph books, diplomas, deeds, correspondence, and bound ledgers.

Processing note: Since this collection has been in backlog since 1997, it's possible that the collection may have been confused in the almost 20 years before being processed. We can't find a connection between the original donation (see source file) and the Silsbee family letters, and the bound ledgers of medical information. The bound ledgers, especially, may not be part of the original collection.

Series I and II: the Weston family collection and the deeds – can be linked to the original gift in 1997 (1997.391) but the others cannot. By 2015 they were marked as being with the collection, but there is no documentation about series.

Series:

Series I: Weston and Woodman family papers and memorabilia (Box 1, and Oversized Boxes 1 and 2)

Series II: Washington County deeds, 1821-1849 (Box 2)

Series III: Correspondence of Samuel and Mary Silsbee and Samuel Johnson, 1832-1849 (Box 2)

Series IV: Ledgers of infectious diseases and epidemiology statistics and graphs, 1911 - 1963 (Box 2, and Oversized Box 2)

Series I: Weston-Woodman family papers and memorabilia including a scrapbook and diary of Eliza E. Woodman Weston, and school compositions written by Mary E. Weston and scrapbooks, autograph books and a college diploma for Mary E. Weston. A series of children's books from the mid nineteenth century, belonging to Mary E. Weston, is now cataloged separately in the Library stacks (an author search under *Woodman, Mary E.* in Minerva will bring up the books owned by her).

Series II: Washington County property deeds includes a number of property deeds and legal paperwork related from 1821-1849. Both purchasers and sellers for these properties as well as the legal signatures noted on the deeds are not known family members in the Weston, Woodman or Wright families.

Series III: Correspondence of Samuel and Mary Silsbee, Samuel and Mary Anne Johnson, and Thomas and Laura Stone, 1832-1849. Included in this category are letters from Pastor Thomas Stone and his wife Laura Stone to the Silsbees. Thomas Stone was a Unitarian Minister who was from Maine and attended Bridgton Academy in Maine and then was the President of Bridgton Academy, where one of his students could have been James P. Weston. At the time of these letters he was in East Machias, Maine, writing as "your pastor" to Samuel and Mary Silsbee. From 1832 to 1846 Stone and his family resided in East Machias, Maine, where he was pastor of the Union Church. The letters from Samuel Silsbee were written while a student at Bowdoin College.

Series IV: Infectious diseases and epidemiological statistics and graphs which includes loose and bound ledgers of graphs and statistics about the incidence of certain infectious diseases in Maine from 1911-1963. There is no mention of who collected this data and tabulated the graphs.

In Museum:**Objects and memorabilia related to Series I:**

Handkerchief with James P. Weston's autograph

Signal Flag from Walter Woodman's private Yacht "Dorothy Q"

Related collection: The Wright family papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society:

<http://www.masshist.org/collection-guides/view/fa0136>

Provenance: This collection is a gift of Aagot C. Wright (Mrs. Walter Woodman Wright)

Inventory

Box 1:**Series I: Weston Family Papers and Memorabilia**

Folder 1: Manuscript copy of a well-known letter to Citizen Danton from Thomas Paine, 6 May 1793 Given to Cyrus Woodman from Elihu B. Washburn 26 October 1816

Folder 2: Eliza Elden (Woodman) Weston's journal and scrapbook, 1835

Folder 3: Album of school friends, trip to Paris, sketches and belonging to Mary E. Weston, 1857 - 1859

Folder 4: Well wishes from Family and Friends to Mary E. Weston, 1859

Folder 5: "Book of Thanks" belonging to Mary E. Weston, 1861

Folder 6: Compositions written by Mary E. Weston, 1861-1880

Folder 7: Diary given to Mary E. Weston on her birthday by her father James P. Weston, 1863

Folder 8: J. P. Weston's Diary of "Trip East," 6 July 1868 to 2 August 1868

Folder 9: Handwritten Recipe for Soft Gingerbread, 1875

Folder 10: "Voices of Faith: A Birthday Book" by J. W. Hanson, 1885 Given to Mary E. Weston

Folder 11: "Our Baby" Composition by Mary E. Weston, Undated

Folder 12: Abstracts on "Butter's Analogy: Introduction and Chapters 1-6 Plus Conclusions," Undated

Folder 13: Deed, Descriptions, and Letters Related to the Land Purchase in Deering on College Street, 1881-1891

Folder 14: Receipts Filed to the Estate of James P. Weston, 1885 - 1892

Folder 15: Receipts Filed to the Estate of Eliza E Weston, 1892

Folder 16: Handwritten Genealogy Notecards

Books and Ledgers Related to Series I (located in Oversized Box 1)

v. 1: Scrapbook of Mary E. Weston, 1857-1859

v. 2: Bookkeeping and Patient Ledger from Dr. Walter Woodman's Medical Practice in Alfred Maine, 1882-1883

Oversized materials related to Series I (located in Oversized Boxes)

Diploma from Lombard University, Galesburg, Illinois for "Mariam Emelinam Weston,"

Signed by "Jacobus P. Weston," 1868, all in Latin (**Oversized Box 2**)

Westbrook Seminary and Junior College Commemoration Exercises, One Hundredth Year, June 29, 1931 (rolled, along with original box entitled "Mary's College Diploma" – located in **Oversized Box 1**)

Box 2:

Series II: Washington County Property Deeds, 1821-1849

Folder 1: List of names and charges by book and number for R. Whidden Esq., 1829 -1837

Folder 2: Washington County, Maine Deeds, 1821-1828

Folder 3: Deeds Filed in Washington County, Maine, 1831-1838

Folder 4: Washington County Maine Deeds Filed, 1838 - 1841

Folder 5: Collector's Deeds: Pearl Howe to N. Wilson, 1839 Washington County, Maine

Folder 6: Deeds from Washington County, Maine, 1841- 1849

Series III: Correspondence of Samuel and Mary Silsbee and Samuel Johnson, 1832-1849

Folder 7: Letters from Samuel Silsbee, while at Bowdoin College, to his aunt, Mary Ann Johnson, 1832 -1838

Folder 8: Letters to Mary Silsbee from her pastor, Thomas Stone and or his wife Laura, in East Machias, 1834 – 1849

Folder 9: Letters from Samuel Silsbee, while at Bowdoin College, to his mother and brother, 1836 – 1840

Folder 10: Letters from Samuel Johnson, while at Bowdoin College, to his sister Mary Ann Johnson, 1836 – 1841

Folder 11: Letters from Samuel Johnson, while in Jackson, Maine, to his friend William B. Smith of Machias, 1846 - 1847

Series IV: Infectious Disease and Epidemiology Graphs and Statistics

Folder 12: Graphs of Cases of Typhoid and Paratyphoid in Maine by Month, 1933- 1935

Folder 13: Cases of Infectious Hepatitis by County in Maine, Jan 1961- Nov 1963

Folder 14: Handwritten Notes, Graphs, and Statistics of Cases of Infectious Hepatitis in Maine, 1960 - 1963

Oversized Items Related to Series IV (located in Oversized Box 2)

v. 3 Unbound Ledger: Measles by Age Group, 1923 – 1953; Communicable Diseases – Cases and Deaths by Months and Counties, 1923 – 1953; Scarlet Fever by Age Groups, 1945 – 1951
Hepatitis Infectious Weekly Incidence, 1953 – 1956.

v. 4 Bound Ledger: Diphtheria statistics, 1910-1949

v. 5 Bound Ledger: Communicable Diseases Color Coded by County and Year: Typhoid, Paratyphoid, Shigellosis, and Salmonellosis, 1959 (loose and secured papers)