

GUIDE TO THE HINSDALE FAMILY PAPERS

The papers of the Hinsdale Family have been donated to the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association from a number of sources. The numbers in superscript that follow some of the names in this guide are those assigned to individuals by George Sheldon in the Allen genealogy in the second volume of his *History of Deerfield* (1895), and the following biographical notes are largely condensations of information found there and in *Hinsdale Genealogy: the Descendants of Robert Hinsdale* (1906).

John Hinsdale, son of John⁵, was born prior to 1675 when his father was killed in the "Bloody Brook massacre." He died in 1705/6, without issue.

His papers consist of an inventory, appointment of Thomas Sheldon as administrator of his estate (with debts owed on the verso), and a probate document re: division of estate.

Mehuman Hinsdale⁸, son of Samuel³ and Mehitable Johnson Hinsdale, born 1673, died 1736. He married Mary Rider; they had five children, two of whom are mentioned below. He was the first White man born in Pocumtuck [Deerfield]. Captured twice by Indians, but was twice redeemed and returned to Deerfield. He was prominent in town affairs and a large land holder.

His papers consist of two plot plans dated 1736; an article of agreement re: Ebenezer's estate, his widow Mary, her 2nd husband George Beale, and remaining children re: land; and estate distribution to children, grandchild, and others.

Ebenezer Hinsdale⁹, son of Mehuman⁸ and Mary Rider Hinsdale, was born at sea during the return trip from captivity in 1706, died 1763. He married Abigail Williams, daughter of Rev. John Williams, in 1730. They had one daughter who died young. He was a missionary to the Indians and chaplain at Fort Dummer (until he left the ministry due to accusations of intemperance). He established the town of Hinsdale, N.H. where he lived and farmed, and also maintained a residence and store in Deerfield. His mulatto slave, Meshick, helped him manage his affairs. Hinsdale was appointed Colonel in the French and Indian wars and his Fort Hinsdale was the center of many events. His wife remarried first to Benjamin Hall, and then Ebenezer Silliman. Her papers are filed with the Williams Family papers, Box 3, Folders 1-3.

His papers consist of partial accounts and account books; receipts, bills, estate documents, wills; two petitions- one for land and one for military support; a writ, a bond for deed, complaints, and appointment as chaplain.

Samuel Hinsdale¹⁰, son of Mehuman⁸ and Mary Rider Hinsdale, born April 24, 1708, died November 23, 1786. Successively married Rebecca Leonard in 1734, Eunice McDowell in 1763, and Sarah ____, no date given. He had eight children with his first wife, two of whom are mentioned below. He was a selectman and settled at Greenfield Meadows.

His papers consist of promissory notes, plot plans, and a statement of poor conduct recorded by Samuel who was the tything representative for Greenfield, Mass.

John Hinsdale, son of John¹¹ and Hannah Arms Hinsdale, born 1737/38, died 1788. Married Eleanor Munn in 1782. He was a soldier in the French & Indian and Revolutionary Wars.

His papers include two receipts, one which designates his share of inheritance from his Aunt Abigail Williams Hinsdale Hall Silliman [Ebenezer's wife], and 2 writs with attachments.

Abigail Norton, daughter of John¹¹ and Hannah Arms Hinsdale, born 1745, died 1806. She married Elias Norton in 1783, widowed in 1790. She lived in Deerfield and left a valuable estate for public use to the Congregational Church and Deerfield Academy.

Her papers include a deed, writ, and writ with attachment.

Samuel Hinsdale Jr.¹², son of Samuel¹⁰ and Rebecca Leonard Hinsdale, born 1741, died 1825. Married Mary Stebbins in 1772; they had five children, one of who is mentioned below. Mary's "high case of draws" is in Memorial Hall Museum. She resided in Greenfield Meadows.

His papers consist of a bill, deeds, and a military commission.

Ariel Hinsdale¹³, son of Samuel¹⁰ and Rebecca Leonard Hinsdale, born 1750 in Greenfield. Married Thankful Severance in 1774; they had 10 children. He was a corporal in the Revolutionary War at the battle of Lexington. Death date is unknown.

His papers include a promissory note and a writ.

Elisha Hinsdale¹⁴, son of John¹¹ and Hannah Arms Sheldon, born 1741, died 1794. Married Sarah Atherton in 1764; they had one daughter. Married Katherine Severance in 1771; they had five children. He married Huldah __, she died 1799. He served in the French & Indian War and lived in Shelburne and Greenfield, Mass.

His papers include a receipt, writ, and administrator agreement for his father John's estate.

Container List:

Box 1

Folder 1: John Hinsdale, son of John⁵, estate documents, 1705/6- 3 items

Folder 2: Mehuman Hinsdale⁸, plot plans, article of agreement, and division of estate, 1736-1745- 4 items

Folder 3: Ebenezer Hinsdale⁹, estate documents, wills, land petition, chaplain appointment, writ, bond for deed, complaints, and petition, 1740-1763- 14 items

Folder 4: Ebenezer Hinsdale⁹, receipts and bills, 1742-1789, n.d.- 27 items

Folder 5: Ebenezer Hinsdale⁹, partial account and account books, list of items from his store, 1740s-1770s, plus biographical sketch from *Sibley's Harvard Graduates*, dated 1951- 31 items

Folder 6: Samuel Hinsdale¹⁰, promissory notes, plot plans, and statement taken by Samuel as tything representative for Greenfield, Mass., 1772-1784, n.d.- 5 items

Folder 7: John Hinsdale, son of John¹¹, receipt, promissory note, writs with attachments, 1769- 1788- 4 items

Folder 8: Abigail Norton, daughter of John¹¹, deed, writ, writ with attachment, 1789-1796- 3 items

Folder 9: Samuel Hinsdale¹², bill, deeds, and military commission, 1769-1814- 6 items

Folder 10: Ariel Hinsdale¹³, promissory note and writ, 1788-1790- 2 items

Folder 11: Samuel, Ariel, Ebenezer and Diana Joint Agreements, deed, or bond for deed, 1769-1792- 8 items. [mostly deeds between Samuel and Ariel].

Folder 12: Elisha Hinsdale¹⁴, receipt, writ, and administrator agreement, 1772-1793- 3 items

Folder 13: Genealogical correspondence and notes, 1877-1993- 54 items

Folder 14: Genealogical chart with letter; one school report and one genealogy typescript re: Hinsdale family; Rising Reunion typescript and Rising Genealogy, 1959-1987- 8 items