

GUIDE TO THE HOYT FAMILY PAPERS

Scope and Content Note

The Hoyt Family Papers have been received by the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association from numerous sources over many years, and number just over 1500 items, dating from 1707 to 2006.

The Collection represents eight generations of the family, descended from Nicholas Hoyt of Windsor, Connecticut, through his son David. The chart on the preceding page names only family members necessary for showing descent of those represented in the collection (the names of the latter are underlined in red). The superscript numbers accompanying names in the notes below refer to the numbers assigned by George Sheldon in genealogical notes on the Hoyt family in the second volume of his *History of Deerfield* (1895). Many of the following biographical notes are from the same source.

Biographical Notes and Description of Series

David Hoyt², son of Nicholas¹, was born in 1651. He was a freeman at Hatfield, Mass., in 1678 and removed to Deerfield on the permanent settlement. His first wife was Mary Wells of Hatfield; she died before September 1676. His second wife, Sarah Wilson, whom he married in 1678, died about 1689. He then married, about 1691, Abigail Cook Pomeroy. David was captured in 1704 and died of starvation at Coos, New Hampshire, in May of that year.

He is represented by two papers, each dated February 4, 1706/7. The first is Samuel Partridge's orders to the administrators for the settlement of David's estate; the second, an inventory of his personal property.

Jonathan Hoyt⁴, son of David and his second wife, Sarah, was born in 1688. He was captured in 1704, and redeemed in 1706. In 1712, he married Mary, daughter of Samuel Field. He was a lieutenant in command of the town at the time of the Bars fight in 1746, and at the head of the party which went to the relief of Shattuck's Fort in 1747. He died in 1779; his widow, the following year.

The collection includes eight of his papers, dated 1711 to 1761; all are deeds to land in Deerfield.

David Hoyt⁵, son of Jonathan, was born in 1722. An inn holder and "maker of wiggs and foretops," he lived in the Old Indian House, which his father bought from Ebenezer Sheldon in 1744. David was an active soldier in the French and Indian wars. In 1743, he married Mercy, daughter of Ebenezer Sheldon; she died in 1751. In 1754, he married Silence King of Northampton, Mass. David died in 1814.

He is represented by 112 papers dating from 1765 to 1814. There is one letter, 26 January 1787, from his son David. The other papers are deeds to land in Deerfield; receipts (six of which are for monies paid by David to his siblings in the settlement of his father's estate); accounts; a gathering relating to the weather and to deaths in Deerfield, 1810-1812; two copies of his will,

one of which is accompanied by receipts from his heirs to his executors. In a separate folder there is a photocopy of the first page of a letter from Justin Hitchcock to David and his wife Silence asking for the hand of their daughter Mercy.

Hannah Hoyt Hamilton, eldest daughter of David and Mercy Sheldon Hoyt, was born in 1744 and married Silas Hamilton in 1763. The collection contains only one of her papers -- a letter she received from her half-brother, Epaphras, in 1837.

Persis Hoyt Sheldon, younger sister of Hannah, was born in 1747, and married John Sheldon in 1769. She is represented in the collection by a copy of a letter she wrote to an unidentified cousin in 1824.

Jonathan Hoyt⁷, brother of Hannah and Persis, was born in Deerfield in 1749. He settled in the part of Deerfield called Wisdom, where he lived until his death in 1825. In 1772, he married Abigail Nash, who died in 1820. Of their seven children, four sons are named below. Jonathan is represented by two business papers (a preliminary note and a judgment), both dated 1815.

Elijah Hoyt¹³, son of Jonathan and Abigail, was born in 1778. He married Sophia Denio in 1802, and some years later, they moved from the Wisdom area of Deerfield to Strongsville, Ohio. One of his papers is in the collection-- a judgment against Thompson Riddle, dated 1820.

Jonathan Hoyt¹⁴, a second son of Jonathan and Abigail, was born in 1781. In 1809, he married Dolly Bennett of Brattleboro, Vt. He died in 1824; his widow died in 1853. Twenty of his business papers are in the collection, mostly consisting of receipts. There are also papers relating to the settlement of his estate by his uncle, Elihu Hoyt, and Richard E. Newcombe. The group as a whole dates from 1814 to 1828.

Theodore B. Hoyt¹⁵, a third son of Jonathan and Abigail, was born in 1786. He was a saddler, and settled in Bernardston, Mass. Sophia Whipple, whom he married in 1815, died in 1868; Theodore died in 1874. The collection contains only one of his papers, a letter from his daughter, Maryett, dated 1839.

Richard H. Hoyt and **Maryett Hoyt**, son and daughter of Theodore B. and Sophia, were born in 1820 and 1824, respectively. They are represented by four family letters, dated between [1836?] and 1841, when they were minors.

Gilbert Hoyt¹⁶, youngest child of Jonathan⁷ and Abigail, was born in 1789 and became a wheelwright. About 1810, he married Prudence, daughter of Solomon Sheldon of Bernardston. Sometime after 1817 the couple moved to Buffalo, New York. There are three papers of Gilbert in the collection, dating between 1810 and 1813: two promissory notes and a defaulted judgment on one of those notes.

David Hoyt⁸, son of David⁵ and Silence King Hoyt, was born in 1757. He was an inn holder, surveyor, and farmer. In 1781, he married Elizabeth, daughter of John P. Bull, and they had seven children, several of whom are named below. David died in 1803; his widow died in

1840. David is represented by seven papers, dated from 1787 to 1803, including two deeds, two receipts, an undated bill for the schooling of his daughter Polly, a letter he wrote to Jonathan Magee of Colrain, Mass., in 1802, and his appointment paper as justice of the peace the following year. An additional item, a letter he wrote to his father, David⁵, is in his father's papers. David's widow, **Elizabeth Bull Hoyt** (born 1761), is represented by two items relating to the settlement of her estate, dated 1840 and 1841.

John Churchill Hoyt, eldest of seven children of David and Elizabeth Bull Hoyt, was born in 1786, and settled in Greenville, South Carolina. Nine of his papers, dated 1808 -1833, are in the collection. The earliest is a release by his sister Betsy of her part of their father's estate; the last is a letter from a niece or nephew informing him (John) of the death of Elihu Hoyt. Other items include promissory notes and judgments.

Horatio Hoyt¹⁷, younger brother of John Churchill Hoyt, was born in 1790 and resided on Lot 17. He married Hannah Starr in 1818, and they had six children, two of whom are mentioned below. Both Horatio and Hannah died in 1877. Horatio's papers consist of 42 items, dated 1812-1873. Most are business papers such as receipts, promissory notes, deeds, and mortgages. Also included is Horatio's certificate for membership in the Franklin County Agricultural Society; an 1840 letter from his son, David Starr Hoyt, describing his trip from Deerfield to Shaftsbury Hollow, Vt.; letters from his brother John; and a release from John of the latter's share of their father's and grandfather's estate.

Hannah Starr Hoyt (1794-1877), wife of Horatio, was born in Newton Lower Falls, Mass., and attended Deerfield Academy in 1808. She is represented by five items: an 1819 letter of condolence for the death of her infant from her mother, S[ylv]ia Starr, and sister, Helen Starr, marked 'to be burnt'; an 1845 letter from her son, David Starr Hoyt, written from Mottville, NY; an award from the Hampshire, Hampden & Franklin Agricultural Society for growing "pure Canton mulberry" seeds; and two gatherings of writings/translations, dated 1849.

David Starr Hoyt²³ (1821-1856), son of Horatio and Hannah Starr Hoyt, was born in 1821. He served in the Mexican War in 1846, moved to Illinois in 1849 and married there. In 1853, he worked as a surveyor for the trans-continental Northern Pacific Railroad. He later returned to Deerfield where he did local surveys. In 1856 he transported rifles to Kansas in aid to the anti-slavery cause. He was killed there by pro-slavery "border ruffians" in August 1856. He is represented by six essays (numbered 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 & 9) on various topics, written while a young person; an 1844 letter from his father and brother, Ebenezer Starr Hoyt; an 1850 receipt for taxes from the town of Deerfield, two receipts for shipping boxes to and from New Orleans, an 1855 survey of a crossroads in Deerfield, and a copy of the Westfield (Mass.) *News Letter Extra* with news from Kansas and the "Hampden colony," dated Oct. 15, 1856.

Horatio Hoyt Jr.²⁵, younger brother of David, was born in 1831. He was a carpenter who lived on Lot 17. In 1860 he married Henrietta, daughter of John Piper of Dublin, New Hampshire. They had three sons, one of whom died in infancy.

The collection contains four of his papers: a deed to a pew in Deerfield's First Congregational Church, a deed to land from his parents, a rent agreement pertaining to the land, and a notice of the death of Henrietta Hoyt.

Clarence Piper Hoyt, son of Horatio and Henrietta, was born in 1868. An architect, he designed a number of public buildings. He is represented by seven items, six of which are papers of his maternal grandfather, John Piper, dated 1825 to 1842. The seventh is a letter received from a cousin, Florence Bodge, in 1931.

Epaphras Hoyt⁹, son of David⁵ and Silence King Hoyt, was born in 1765. He served in various ranks in the Massachusetts militia and in several town offices. He was also a surveyor, student of natural sciences, antiquarian, and author. He died in 1850; his wife, the former Experience Harvey, died in 1833. His papers date from 1789 to 1833, and include four of his writings, the titles of which are given in the Container List below. Most of his other papers are commissions to ranks in the militia and to town and county offices, and certificates of copyright relating to several of his writings. There are three letters he received: one from his brother Elihu (1813), one from Franklin Wright (1831), and a photocopy of an 1812 letter from architect Levi Weeks. Additional commissions as well as letters written at the time of the death of his daughter Fanny are pasted in the scrapbook of his son, Arthur W. Hoyt, mentioned below; there is also a paper in a separate folder relating to the death of Fanny.

Arthur Wellesley Hoyt¹⁹, son of Epaphras and Experience, was born in 1811 and died in 1899. He became a civil engineer. His first wife, the mother of his two children, was Elizabeth Henry of Halifax, Vermont. After her death in 1863, he married Mary Ann Jones of Templeton, Mass. His papers include four letters of introduction written by Daniel Webster and addressed (but apparently never presented) to John McLuer of Wheeling, West Virginia, Jared Bennett and S. Fales of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Josiah Spalding of St. Louis, Missouri. A fifth letter by Webster is pasted into Hoyt's scrapbook, which also contains copies of several letters he wrote, newspaper clippings, commissions of his father, Epaphras Hoyt, and copies of letters his father wrote and received at the time of the death of his daughter Fanny, wife of David F. Dickinson. A separate folder contains a photocopy of the title page of a biography of Robert Fulton, once owned by Epaphras, then Arthur W. Hoyt, and now in a Smithsonian Institution library. Another scrapbook focuses on President Garfield's Assassination in 1881.

Elihu Hoyt¹⁰, son of David⁵ and Silence King Hoyt, and younger brother of Epaphras, was born in 1771. He served in the Massachusetts militia and in many town and county offices, and between 1803 and his death in 1833, with the exception of three years, he served the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as representative, senator, or council member. In 1794 he married Hannah, daughter of the Reverend James Taylor; they had six children, three of whom died in infancy. The three who lived to adulthood are named below.

Elihu Hoyt's papers form the major part of the Hoyt family collection. There is an extensive correspondence, beginning in 1790 and continuing until the year of his death. Principal correspondents include his father, brothers, and children; Charles, Edward, and Justin Hitchcock; Ephraim and Stephen West Williams (who asked for information on books and legislative proceedings, and commented on Anti-Masonry and town affairs); John Wilson (regarding books for his library and providing local news); Samuel C. Allen reporting from Washington, D.C.; William H. Dearborn, with information relating to the Vermont legislature's project for improving the Connecticut River; Aaron Fuller, regarding the fund the legislature provided for his deaf-mute sons, Augustus and Aaron; the trustees of Sanderson Academy of Ashfield, Mass.,

asking him to intercede for renewal of funds granted them by the legislature in 1825; certain inhabitants of Whately, Mass., who were seeking to become part of Deerfield, and were asking for the establishment of a line between the two towns; and numerous neighbors, who wrote asking him to perform errands for them in Boston. There are copies of letters Hoyt wrote to Jabez Upham and Laban Wheaton in Washington, asking for information on national affairs (and their replies), to Alden Bradford, on several occasions, declining an appointment to the Governor's Council, because he wished to remain a member of the Senate; and to the Lieutenant Governor seeking appointment as a commissioner to explore the possibilities of a canal from Boston to the Hudson River. On behalf of a committee appointed by a convention of members of the legislature, Hoyt wrote for continuing John Quincy Adams in office as President. There is a strong thread of Federalism and Anti-Masonic feeling throughout the correspondence.

There are separate files of Hoyt's commissions, deeds, and other business papers, and of papers relating to public affairs. His commissions (1798-1831) cover appointments to various ranks in the militia and to various town, county, and state offices. Deeds (1795-1829), which relate to land in Deerfield, are accompanied by an agreement between Hoyt and Charles Hitchcock in regard to land (1810). Miscellaneous business papers – promissory notes, receipts, and accounts – cover the years 1793 to 1833, and his memorandum books, journals, and daybooks cover approximately the same period (a detailed list is included in the folder containing this material). There is a file of papers (1817-1818) relating to the suit for slander brought against Hoyt by Consider Dickinson. In addition to miscellaneous memoranda relating to public affairs, (1807-1832), there are files containing grand jury lists and minutes of proceedings of the Court of Common Pleas (1806-1816), and papers relating to State Printing (1822-1829) while Hoyt served on the committee in charge of this function (papers for the last two years of this period largely concern the case of John Keyes vs. David L. Childs).

Files of his writings include a sketch of the Hoyt Family, a memorandum of a trip to New York State in 1827, and drafts and a partial printed text of his sketch of the first settlement of Deerfield.

The final folder includes a tribute printed in the *Christian Herald* at the time of his death, an inventory of his estate, and papers relating to its settlement.

Hannah Taylor Hoyt, wife of Elihu, was born in 1772, a daughter of the Reverend James and Mary (Field) Taylor. She survived her husband for more than thirty years, and died in 1864 at the age of 92.

Her papers, more than 200 items, consist almost entirely of letters she received from her husband while he was serving in public offices in Boston in the years 1804 to 1832. They are the best source in the collection for detailing his actions in the Massachusetts legislature.

Julia Hoyt, oldest child of Elihu and Hannah to reach adulthood, was born in 1798. She lived in Deerfield all of her life and died, unmarried, in 1863.

Her papers, which date from about 1809 to 1834, include letters from her father and her brother Charles, from various friends – among them an M.H. Wilson who wrote from Northampton and Boston – and various writings which appear to have been school compositions.

Charles Hoyt, son of Elihu and Hannah, was born in 1804. He became a physician and died, without issue, in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1835.

His papers include a brief account pertaining to his medical practice in Deerfield, but most of the items are letters he received from his father between 1825 and 1833.

Henry King Hoyt, younger brother of Charles, was born in 1810. He served in many town offices and was a member of the Massachusetts constitutional convention of 1850. The preceding year he had married Catherine, daughter of Quartus Wells. He died without issue in 1863.

His papers from 1820 to 1833 consist almost entirely of letters from his father, although there are a few letters from his brother Charles. Later items include business papers – deeds, accounts, and receipts – and also papers pertaining to his guardianship of Henry M. and Mary D. Bissell, minors.

Jonathan Hoyt⁶, grandson of David² and younger brother of David⁵, was born in 1728. He was a Tory, and moved to the Cheapside section of Deerfield about 1775, where he built a large house which he named the “White Horse Tavern.” In 1751 he married Experience Childs; they had ten children. Jonathan died in 1813; his widow the following year.

He is represented by only one paper: a 1788 order to pay, addressed to James Robbins of Little Cambridge, Mass.

Cephas Hoyt¹¹, son of Jonathan and Experience, was born in 1759. He lived on his father’s place at Cheapside and died there in 1829. In 1799, he married Eunice Skinner of Shelburne, Mass.; some time after her death in 1803 he married Anna Childs, alias Anna Howard, who was the mother of his two children.

His papers consist of nineteen items dated between 1816 and 1831. There are deeds to land near Deerfield and a few promissory notes, but most of the items pertain to the settlement of his estate (including an inventory) by his administrators, Elihu Hoyt and H. O. Newcombe.

There is a separate file, consisting of sixteen items (1778-1845) which were found among the Hoyt Papers by previous processors and not identifiable as belonging to any of the individuals named above.

The final file includes correspondence by George Sheldon and others relating to the Hoyt family, with a few genealogical chart. The items date from 1876 to 1976.

Container List

Box 1

Fol. 1:	Papers of David Hoyt ²	1706/7	(2 items)
Fol. 2:	“ Jonathan Hoyt ⁴	1711-1761	(6 items)
Fol. 3:	“ David Hoyt ⁵	1765-1788	(33 items)
Fol. 4:	“ David Hoyt ⁵	1789-1795	(36 items)
Fol. 5:	“ David Hoyt ⁵	1796- 1814	(42 items)
Fol. 6:	“ David Hoyt ⁵	1779	(1 item)
Fol. 7:	“ Hannah Hoyt Hamilton,	1837	(1 item)

Fol. 8:	“	Persis Hoyt Sheldon, 1824	(1 item)
Fol. 9:	“	Jonathan Hoyt ⁷ , 1815	(2 items)
Fol. 10:	“	Elijah Hoyt ¹³ 1820	(1 item)
Fol. 11:	“	Jonathan Hoyt ¹⁴ 1814-1828	(20 items)
Fol. 12:	“	Theodore B. Hoyt ¹⁵ 1839	(1 item)
Fol. 13:	“	Richard H. and Maryett Hoyt, 1836-41	(4 items)
Fol. 14:	“	Gilbert Hoyt ¹⁶ 1810-1818	(3 items)
Fol. 15:	“	David Hoyt ⁸ 1787-1803	(8 items)
Fol. 16:	“	Elizabeth Bull Hoyt, 1840-1841	(2 items)
Fol. 17:	“	John Churchill Hoyt, 1808-1833	(9 items)
Fol. 18:	“	Horatio Hoyt ¹⁷ 1812-1873	(42 items)
Fol. 19:	“	Hannah Starr Hoyt, 1819-1849	(5 items)
Fol. 20:	“	David Starr Hoyt ²³ 1844-1856 & undated	(11 items)
Fol. 21:	“	David Starr Hoyt ²³ – misc. copies, transcriptions	(15 items)
Fol. 22:	“	Horatio Hoyt Jr., 1859-1885	(4 items)
Fol. 23:	“	Clarence P. Hoyt, 1825-1842; 1931	(7 items)

Box 2

- Fol. 1: Papers of Epaphras Hoyt⁹: Miscellaneous Writings: 1789-1847 (52 items)
- Fol. 2: “Astronomical observations made at Deerfield on the comet of 1811” (18 pp. plus copies of published information re: the comet)
- Fol. 3: “Review of the military operations in the northern campaign in the states of New York & Vermont in 1773” (229 pp. with diagrams & maps bound in one vol.)
- Fol. 4: “Mathematical, Astronomical, Philosophical & Literary journal, and miscellaneous matter as it occurs to my mind, commencing April 1804” (12 pp.) followed by copies of letters to and from his son-in-law, David F. Dickinson.
- Fol. 5: “Address delivered at Northampton before the Agricultural Society, Oct. 25, 1821” (47 pp.)

Box 3

- Fol. 1: Paper regarding the death of Fanny Hoyt, daughter of Epaphras (1 item)
- Fol. 2: Papers of Arthur Wellesley Hoyt ¹⁹ 1837-1857 (5 items)
- Fol. 3: Photocopy of title pg. *Life of Robert Fulton* by Cadwallader Colden (New York, 1817)
- Fol. 4: Scrapbook of Arthur Wellesley Hoyt ¹⁹ (1 vol.)
- Additional scrapbook of newspaper clippings kept by Arthur Wellesley Hoyt ¹⁹ 1881-1885, with later loose papers inserted. (1 vol.)

Box 4

- Fol. 1: Papers of Elihu Hoyt¹⁰, 1790-1803 (29 items)
- Fol. 2: Papers of Elihu Hoyt, 1804-1805 (31 items)
- Fol. 3: Papers of Elihu Hoyt, 1806-1807 (36 items)
- Fol. 4: Papers of Elihu Hoyt, 1808-1810 (35 items)
- Fol. 5: Papers of Elihu Hoyt, 1811-1813 (23 items)
- Fol. 6: Papers of Elihu Hoyt, 1814 (23 items)
- Fol. 7: Papers of Elihu Hoyt, 1815-1821 (33 items)
- Fol. 8: Papers of Elihu Hoyt, 1822-1826 (39 items)

Box 5

- Fol. 1: Papers of Elihu Hoyt¹⁰, 1827-1828 (31 items)
- Fol. 2: Papers of Elihu Hoyt, 1829 (25 items)
- Fol. 3: Papers of Elihu Hoyt, 1830-March 1831 (31 items)
- Fol. 4: Papers of Elihu Hoyt, 1831, May 1833 (34 items)
- Fol. 5: Papers of Elihu Hoyt, Undated (59 items)
- Fol. 6: Papers of Elihu Hoyt, Undated (11 items)
- Fol. 7: Papers of Elihu Hoyt, Commissions 1798-1831 (21 items)
- Fol. 8: Papers of Elihu Hoyt, Deeds 1795-1829 (19 items)

Box 6

- Fol. 1: Elihu Hoyt, business papers, 1793-1833 (120 items)
- Fol. 2: Elihu Hoyt, Memorandum books, day books, journals, 1790-1833 (37 items)
- Fol. 3: Elihu Hoyt, Papers re: suit, Consider Dickinson vs. Hoyt, 1817-1818 (16 items)
- Fol. 4: Elihu Hoyt, copy of his School Atlas (c. 1815) (1 item)

Box 7

- Fol. 1: Elihu Hoyt, Papers re: Court of Common Pleas, 1806-1816 (12 items)
- Fol. 2: Elihu Hoyt, Memoranda by Hoyt et. al. re: Public affairs, 1807-32 (41 items)
- Fol. 3: Same, undated (31 items)
- Fol. 4: Papers re: State Printing, 1822-1829 (34 items)
- Fol. 5: His sketch of the Hoyt family (1822); and memorandum of a trip to New York State (1827) (2 items)
- Fol. 6: Drafts and partial printed text of his sketch of the first settlement of Deerfield (1829?) (27 items)
- Fol. 7: Tribute printed in *Christian Herald*; and inventory of his estate and papers re: its settlement, 1833-1838 (22 items)
- Fol. 8: Certificate of membership, Bunker Hill Monument Assn. (1 item)

Box 8

- Fol. 1: Papers of Hannah Taylor Hoyt, 1804-1807 (24 items)
- Fol. 2: Papers of Hannah Taylor Hoyt, 1808-1817 (28 items)
- Fol. 3: Papers of Hannah Taylor Hoyt, 1818-1819 (23 items)
- Fol. 4: Papers of Hannah Taylor Hoyt, 1820 (20 items)
- Fol. 5: Papers of Hannah Taylor Hoyt, 1821 (23 items)
- Fol. 6: Papers of Hannah Taylor Hoyt, 1822-1823 (23 items)
- Fol. 7: Papers of Hannah Taylor Hoyt, 1824-1825 (22 items)

Box 9

- Fol. 1: Papers of Hannah Taylor Hoyt, 1826-1829 (22 items)
- Fol. 2: Papers of Hannah Taylor Hoyt, 1830-1832 (21 items)
- Fol. 3: Papers of Charles Hoyt, 1825-1832, 1935 (18 items)
- Fol. 4: Papers of Henry K. Hoyt, 1820-1831 (27 items)
- Fol. 5: Papers of Henry K. Hoyt, 1832-1843 (35 items)
- Fol. 6: Papers of Henry K. Hoyt, 1844-1869 (48 items)
- Fol. 7: Papers of Julia Hoyt, ca. 1809-1834 (25 items)

- Fol. 8: Papers of Jonathan Hoyt⁶, 1783 (1 item)
Fol. 9: Papers of Cephus Hoyt¹¹, 1816-1831 (19 items)
Fol. 10: Miscellaneous items found among the Hoyt papers, 1778-1851 (19 items)
Fol. 11: Correspondence of George Sheldon and others re: Hoyt family; also genealogical charts, 1876-2006 (35 items)