

Guide to the Taylor Family Papers

These papers represent several generations and branches of the Taylor Family of Buckland, Deerfield, Montague, Northfield, Northampton, Shelburne, and Sunderland Massachusetts, and Windsor, Connecticut.

Aaron Taylor, son of Samuel and Marion Keet Taylor, was born in Montague, Mass., May 20, 1721. He first married Marian [---]; and later Ruth [---]. In legal documents, Aaron was described as a farmer.

His papers contain a promissory note, 4 deeds to land, and a judgment against him.

Mariam Taylor, daughter of Samuel and Mariam Keet Taylor, was born in Sunderland, Mass., in Feb. 1714. She married Elijah Smith of Sunderland in 1748.

Her papers consist of probate documents, in which she is identified as "spinster," appointing her guardian of minor siblings and ordering to prepare a list of her father's possessions after he died intestate.

Eldad Taylor, son of the Rev. Edward Taylor and Ruth Wyllis Taylor, was born in Westfield, Mass., in 1708. In 1732 he married Rhoda Dewey; after her death, he married Thankful Day in 1742. He served as a justice of the peace in Montague, Mass., and was a representative to the General Court. He died in Boston in May 1777.

His papers consist of a letter to Dr. John Edwards of Hartford, Ct., and 3 documents relating to legal complaints or proceedings.

Rev. James Taylor, son of James and Mary Mosely Taylor of Westfield, was born in 1783. He attended Williams College; graduating in 1804, then studying theology with Rev. John Taylor of Deerfield. In July 1807 he was ordained pastor of the Congregational Church in Sunderland, Mass.

His papers consist of gatherings of lengthy sermons.

John Taylor, son of John and Mary Nims Taylor, was born in Deerfield in July 1752. In 1779 he relocated to Shelburne, Mass., where he farmed. He married Mary Woodward of Hadley, Mass., in June 1792; and later, Sarah, the widow of Cephas Briggs.

His papers contain a receipt for corn, a warrant against Moses Scott for unpaid debt, and a charge of theft against a vagrant.

John Taylor arrived in Windsor, Ct., in Aug. 1639, possibly coming from Boston where he joined other emigrants from England. He owned a house lot in 1640, and is said to have operated a ferry at Windsor. He died onboard a ship bound for England in Jan. 1646.

His papers consist of a copy of his will, done by J.S. Taylor, in 1871.

Lemuel Taylor, son of Othniel and Martha Arms Taylor, was born in Deerfield in 1748. He moved to Buckland, Mass., where he married Eunice Longley. Taylor served in the American Revolution. He died in Buckland in July 1834.

His papers include a commission as quartermaster of Hampshire militia, a loan instrument with Hugh Maxwell, a judgment against John Hinkley of Guilford, Vt., a receipt for payment of taxes, a property conveyance, the conditions of a loan from William Smith of Boston, and 5 copies and versions of his will.

Samuel Taylor, son of John and Thankful Woodward Taylor, was born in 1688 in Deerfield where he kept a store and tavern on Lot 33. He married Sarah Munn, and later Mary Hitchcock of Springfield, Mass.

His papers consist of 2 plans of his property done after his death, 4 deeds of land, and a 19th-century copy of his will.

Samuel Taylor, son of Othniel and Martha Arms Taylor, was born in Deerfield in 1744. After serving in the American Revolution he moved to Buckland, Mass., where he was the first town clerk. He married Esther White of Leominster in 1769. Samuel died in 1837.

His papers consist of a letter to his wife Esther, written from Dorchester Heights on Oct. 18, 1776, a judgment against John Hinkley of Guilford, Vt., and "An account of the Notes in favor of Samuel Taylor."

Thomas Taylor, son of John Taylor (b. 1641) of Windsor, Ct., was born in Northampton, Mass., Nov. 4, 1680. He moved to Deerfield 1707 or 1708. Thomas moved to Northfield in 1716, where he held several civic offices. He drowned in the Connecticut River in Nov. 1717.

He is represented by one bond, dated Aug. 1717, between himself and Joseph Kellogg.

Taylor, Isadore Pratt, daughter of Josiah and Catherine Hall Pratt, was born in Shelburne Falls, Mass., in 1850. She studied art in Europe, and later taught at Lake Forest College in Illinois. After marrying Homer Taylor, the couple moved east to Greenfield, Mass. where she became very active in the Deerfield Valley Art. Assn., the Greenfield Drama Club, and numerous other groups. She died in Shelburne in April 1943.

Her papers consist of extensive groups of letters from Catherine Yale, and Catherine's daughter, Madeline Yale Wynne. Her diaries are also part of the collection.

Container List:

BOX 1

folder 1: Papers of Aaron Taylor, 1748-1771	(5 items)
folder 1a: Papers of Mariam Taylor, 1740-1742	(3 items)
folder 2: Papers of Eldad Taylor, 1759-1769	(5 items; 2 partial)
folder 3: Sermons of Rev. James Taylor, 1806-1826	(11 items)
folder 4: Papers of John Taylor, 1766-1789	(3 items)
folder 4a: Papers of John Taylor, [1645]	(1 item)
folder 5: Papers of Lemuel Taylor, 1788-1825	(11 items)
folder 6: Papers of Samuel Taylor, 1730-1736	(6 items)
folder 6a: Papers of Samuel Taylor, 1776-1791	(3 items)
folder 7: Papers of Thomas Taylor, 1717	(1 item)

- folder 8: Misc. receipts, commissions, and legal documents, 1756-1897 (21 items)
- folder 9: Papers of Isadore Pratt Taylor, letters from Catharine B. Yale, 1883-97 (39 items)
- folder 10: Papers of Isadore Pratt Taylor, letters from Madeline Yale Wynne, 1874-1917 (82 items)
- folder 10a: Papers of Isadore Pratt Taylor, obituary, essay on Hall Tavern, and misc. (4 items) copies
- folder 11: Miscellaneous copies of Taylor-related items
- folder 12: Transcriptions of two Taylor documents; correspondence with George Sheldon and others regarding the Taylor family, 1871-1994
- folder 13: Misc. Taylor genealogy

BOX 2

Taylor Family genealogy research compiled by W. O. Taylor

See also:

Taylor, Isadore Pratt (1850-1943)

Diaries and notebooks, 1890-1943. 24 vols.

Diaries and notebooks describing events in the artist's active life. Taylor was a jewelry designer who lived in Greenfield and Shelburne, Mass. The diaries detail her various jewelry projects, as well as painting and embroidery that she did. Taylor was active in the arts and crafts movement and many civic groups, including the Greenfield Garden Club, Greenfield Women's Club, and a drama club. The Deerfield Valley Art Assn. features prominently in later diaries. Taylor also reports on family and friends, local events, such as the opening of the Mohawk Trail in 1929, world events (e.g., the war in Europe), and her travels. Marie Alexander, a local painter and friend, is mentioned frequently.

In Diary Collection