

GUIDE TO THE WILLARD FAMILY PAPERS

Biographical information on the Willards is taken from *Willard Genealogy, a Sequel to Willard Memoir* edited by Charles Henry Pope, and *A History of Deerfield* by George Sheldon.

Rev. Samuel Willard, son of William and Katherine (Wilder) Willard, was born April 18, 1776 in Petersham, Mass. He graduated from Harvard in 1803 with a Doctor of Divinity degree, and became a teacher and tutor. In 1807, after much debate in the community, he became the pastor of the First Church of Deerfield a position he held until 1829. Willard, who wrote school books, sermons, hymnals, and pamphlets, went blind in 1819. Willard's views on intoxication and the abolition of slavery were outspoken. He married Susanna (Thaxter) Barker of Hingham in 1808; they had three children, two of whom are mentioned below. Husband and wife are buried in the Laurel Hill Cemetery in Deerfield, Mass. His personal papers consist of an intention to marry, "Copy of the Creed of Mr. Samuel Willard which was presented to the Ecclesiastical Council," with a copy of an address read before the Council in Aug. 1807 (24 pp.), and the deed to his house, frequently called the Willard house, but known today as The Manse. Folder 2 of his papers contains a typescript by Patrick Peterson titled "Rev. Samuel Willard: Portrait of a Village Educator."

The Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association library has sermons, readers, hymnals, and pamphlets written by Willard. Other items concerning the minister and church are located in the Deerfield Town papers, First Church papers. An early (1806-1808) diary of his can also be found in the library, along with *Life of Samuel Willard* (1892) edited by his daughter, Mary.

Mary Willard, daughter of Rev. Samuel and Susanna (Thaxter) Barker Willard, born March 1, 1812 in Deerfield; died, unmarried, July 1, 1895. She wrote articles and poetry, and kept a book of reminiscences. She is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Deerfield, Mass., alongside her parents.

Her papers include a newspaper clipping, a manuscript poem and transcription, and a journal (with transcript) written by her for her niece, titled *Anecdotes and Reminiscences. A Small "Labor of Love,"* that includes information on the family, town residents, and local events.

Samuel Willard, son of Rev. Samuel and Susanna (Thaxter) Barker Willard, was born October 8, 1814 in Deerfield, died September 16, 1885 in Hingham, Mass. He graduated from Harvard in 1835, then moved to Hingham and engaged in proof-reading until he lost his sight. He then took up market gardening and became a buyer and shipper of butter to the Boston market. Married Sarah Jane Thaxter in 1848; they had two daughters, one of whom is mentioned below. Willard is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Deerfield, Mass., alongside his parents.

His papers include a deed, letters, and indenture.

Sarah Jane (Thaxter) Willard, daughter of Henry and Harriet (Souther) Thaxter, was born March 26, 1816, died April 24, 1888. She married Samuel Willard in 1848; they had two children, one of whom is mentioned below.

Her papers consist of two items, a letter and a quitclaim document.

Henry and Harriet Thaxter, parents of Sarah Jane Willard, Samuel's wife.

Their papers include a will and mortgage release.

Susan Barker Willard, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Jane Willard, born March 20, 1856, death date unknown. She resided in Hingham and was prominent in D.A.R. matters.

Her papers consist of four letters and a note regarding a gift to Hingham Historical Society.

Susan Willard Lincoln, daughter of Susan Barker (Willard) Lincoln and Luther B. Lincoln, and grand-daughter of Rev. Samuel Willard, was born August 11, 1838, and died unmarried December 1, 1900. Her father was a teacher and her mother was the daughter of the Rev. Samuel Willard.

Her papers consist of three letters. Of particular interest is a letter to the Lend a Hand Society of Deerfield, stating the return of the portrait of the Rev. Samuel Willard to the First Church of Deerfield.

Luther B. Lincoln has a folder in Misc. family papers box.

Beriah Willard, son of Daniel and Rachel (Wheelock) Willard, born July 9, 1757 in Shrewsbury, died October 9, 1819. Married Catherine Wells in 1783; they had four children, one of whom is mentioned below. Residing in Greenfield, Willard was a trader and tavern keeper. He is buried at the Federal Street cemetery in Greenfield, Mass.

His papers consist of bills, a deed, writ with summons and bill attached, plus a transfer of a title to stage lines running from Springfield, Mass., to Brattleboro, Vt.

David Willard, son of Beriah and Rachel Willard, born August 21, 1790 in Greenfield, Mass., died July 16, 1855. Married Sarah Dickman in 1815; they had 10 children, two of whom are mentioned below. A graduate of Dartmouth in 1809, Willard began practicing law in 1812. He served as Greenfield's town clerk for years, and authored of a brief history of Greenfield (1838). Husband and wife are buried at the Federal Street cemetery in Greenfield.

His papers include a tax receipt, a paid duty receipt to practice law at the Circuit Court of Common Pleas, and three letters. Willard kept a manuscript weather book with notes on births and deaths in Greenfield from 1841 to 1846. The original, in private hands, has been microfilmed and is in the Historic Deerfield Library.

Sarah Dickman Willard, daughter of David and Sarah Willard, was born January 27, 1821 in Greenfield, Mass., and died February 24, 1853 in New York. She married the Rev. George Lewis Platt of South Carolina in 1848.

Her papers consist of 1 item, a court deposition dated 1845.

Henry Cushman Willard, son of David and Sarah Willard, born March 22, 1836 in Greenfield, died December 23, 1899. Married Mary Hubbard in 1868; they had one son. Willard was a druggist who resided in Greenfield.

His papers consist of six letters from Lt. Gov. Henry Cushman to his nephew, and a letter to Jennie Sheldon explaining this gift.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1:

Folder 1: Rev. Samuel Willard, copy of creed, letter, and legal documents, 1807-1829 - 4 items

Folder 2: Rev. Samuel Willard, printed material and notes, 1914-1995, n.d. - 9 items

Folder 3: Mary Willard, clipping, poetry, manuscript re: Anecdotes and Reminiscences 1872-1892, n.d.- 6 items

Folder 4: Samuel Willard, correspondence and legal documents, 1861-1882 - 8 items

Folder 5: Sarah J. (Thaxter) Willard, quitclaim deed and letter, 1879, n.d. - 2 items

Folder 6: Henry & Harriet Thaxter, will and discharged mortgage, 1841, 1880 - 2 items

Folder 7: Susan or Susanna Barker Willard, correspondence and note, 1892-1914, n.d. -5 items

Folder 8: Mary Willard Lincoln, correspondence, 1897-1900 - 3 items

Folder 9: Willard & other correspondence to George Sheldon re: house rental & legal matters, 1874-1893 - 31 items

Folder 10: Letter to Geo. Sheldon re: Josiah Willard, 1913 - 1 item

Folder 11: Beriah Willard, son of Daniel and Rachel Wheelock Willard, legal documents, 1793-1804- 9 items

Folder 12: David Willard, son of Beriah and Catherine Wells Willard, 1827-1851 - 5 items

Folder 13: Sarah Dickman Willard, daughter of David and Sarah Dickman Willard, deposition, 1845- 1 item

Folder 14: Henry Willard, son of David and Sarah Dickman Willard, correspondence, 1856-1934- 7 items

Folder 15: Miscellaneous Willards, receipt, clippings, deed, letter, typescripts, pamphlets, 1823-1981 -7 items

Folder 16: Printed items, notes, poems, clippings, etc., 1778-2006, n.d. - 30 items

Box 2:

Folder 1: Willard Family Association miscellany, 1926-1998- 35 items

Folder 2: Willard Family Association newsletters, 1990+ - 30 items

Folder 3: Willard Family Association newsletters, 1980-1989- 24 items

Folder 4: Willard Family Association newsletters, 1969-1979- 24 items