

Guide to the Rice Family Papers

PVMA Library

Scope and Content Note:

The Rice family was one of the earliest to have settled in Charlemont, Franklin Co., Mass. After their arrival from England, early members of the family spread west from Middlesex County, Mass. The papers in this collection concern that branch of the family that lived in Worcester County (principally Brookfield, Mass.) and Franklin Co. (Charlemont, Shelburne, and Conway, Mass.). Many of the items described herein were the gift of Stewart I. Childs of Sunderland, Mass., and DeBoyd L. Smith of Sixes, OR.

Elisha Rice, son of Abraham and Anna How Rice, was born in Marblehead, Mass., in 1690. He received a grant of land in Brookfield, Mass., in 1714, and relocated there. He married Martha Rice in 1720; the couple had seven children.

His papers consist of deeds and other legal documents.

Moses Rice, son of John and Tabitha Stone Rice, was born in Sudbury, Mass., in 1694. He married Sarah King in 1719; the couple had seven children. For some time he kept a tavern in Worcester before moving farther west in 1742 to become a founder of Charlemont, Mass. Moses lost his home and other property during frontier fighting of King George's War (1744). He and his family rebuilt in 1749 after hostilities ended, and remained in Charlemont. In 1755, Rice was killed near his home.

His papers consist of a photostatic copy (and an 1868 hand-written copy) of a petition from Rice to Mass. Gov. William Shirley, dated Feb. 1743, in which he asks for assistance with settling his township (i.e., Charlemont).

Aaron Rice, son of Moses and Sarah King Rice, was born in Jan. 1724/5. He married Freedom French of Deerfield, Mass., in 1754. The couple lived in Charlemont and had ten children.

He is represented by a 1752 promissory note.

Cyprian Rice, son of Peter and Rebecca How Rice, was born in Marlborough, Mass., in 1693. There he married Lydia Rice in 1721; the couple had six children, two of whom are mentioned below. The couple moved to Brookfield; she died in 1755, he and 1773.

He is represented by two land deeds, a copy of his will, and a probate court document witnessing his will.

Solomon Rice, son of Cyprian and Lydia Rice, was born in Marlborough, Mass., in Jan. 1727/8. He married Mary-- ; the couple had eight children. He resided in Brookfield where he died in July 1800.

His papers consist of his last will and testament, and two land deeds.

Moses Rice, son of Solomon and Mary Rice, was born in Brookfield, Mass., in Jan. 1761. He married Martha Dodge of Brookfield in April 1789. The couple had four children, three of whom are mentioned below. He died in 1843

His papers include a copy of his will, a "Plan of Moses Rice farm Surveyed by Barnum Nye" (1844), and appraisal of the division of his lands,

Dexter Rice, son of Moses and Martha Dodge Rice, was born in Brookfield, Mass., in 1790. He married Nancy Bemis in 1820; the couple had two children.

His papers include a copy of his will (dated Oct. 1860), a receipt, and a document relating to his estate.

Seth Rice, son of Moses and Martha Dodge Rice, was born in Brookfield, Mass., in 1796. He married Harriet Brooks of Sturbridge, Mass., in 1839. He died in Brookfield in 1869.

His papers consist of a copy of his will.

Baxter Rice, son of Moses and Martha Dodge Rice, was born and resided in Brookfield, Mass. He died there in 1873. He married Experience Boyden of Sturbridge, Mass., in 1818. The couple had five children, one of whom is mentioned below.

His papers consist of invoices, legal documents, a survey, correspondence, a copy of his will, and various estate documents, including one for his father-in-law for whom Rice was executor. Many of the estate papers are addressed to Baxter's son and executor, Henry Warren Rice.

Henry Warren Rice, son of Baxter and Martha Rice, was born in Brookfield, Mass., in 1826; he died in Warren, Mass., in 1909. In ??? he married Ann Eliza Rice.

His papers include receipts, invoices, land deeds, and a probate court document.

Jael Fellows Rice, daughter John and Mary Kellogg Fellows, was born in March 1789 in Shelburne, Mass. She married Zebina Rice of Conway, Mass., in March 1806. The couple had six children. They eventually moved to western New York (Geneva; Waterloo; Bergen). She died in Byron, NY, in 1822.

Her papers consist of letters she received from family members.

Eunice Rice, possibly wife of Moses Rice Jr. of Deerfield, Mass. Eunice Mendall, born c. 1801, married Moses Rice Jr. in 1818.

Her papers consist of an undated complaint against Thomas Binney for attempted rape.

John Rice, son of Moses and Sarah Walker Rice, was born in 1766; by 1797 he had relocated to the Wisdom section of Deerfield. He married Prudence Dodge in 1796; the couple had nine children.

His papers consist of a land deed.

Nathaniel Rice, born in July 1768, married Amy Clark in 1790. He lived the majority of his life in Charlemont, where he died in 1825.

His papers consist of a land deed.

Samuel Rice, son of John and Prudence Dodge Rice, was born in Deerfield, Mass., in March 1803. He married Lucina Dibble in Oct. 1831; the couple had six children.

His papers consist of two land deeds.

Container List:

Box 1

folder 1: papers of Elisha Rice, 1719-1765	(21 items)
folder 2: papers of Moses and Aaron Rice, 1743	(3 items)
folder 3: papers of Cyprian and Solomon Rice, 1767-1824	(7 items)
folder 3: papers of Moses, Dexter, and Seth Rice,	(7 items)
folder 5: papers of Baxter Rice, 1832-1873	(36 items)
folder 6: papers of Henry Warren Rice, 1871-1907	(6 items)
folder 7: papers of Jael Fellows Rice, 1808-1816	(25 items)
folder 8: papers of Jael Fellows Rice, 1817-1821	(22 items)
folder 9: papers of Jael Fellows Rice (transcriptions)	(23 items)
folder 10: papers of Eunice, John, Nathaniel, and Samuel Rice, 1768-1834	(8 items)
folder 11: family genealogy	(16 items; many multiple pages)
folder 12: miscellaneous (modern corres., deeds, broadside, photocopies, etc.)	(13 items)