NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts
No. 152

Date processed: November, 1985


II. The papers of Eric Thompson Ball and family deposited in the Library in 1980 and 1985, by Eric T. Ball, Ernest E. Ball and Robert H. Ball as a gift.

III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 4 feet
Approximate number of items: 2,730 (including some bound volumes)

IV. Restrictions: None

V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.

VI. Press release was issued on

VII. Biographical note: The Eric T. Ball Papers came to the New Haven Colony Historical Society as two separate gifts. The first collection, donated in 1980 by Eric Thompson Ball (1894-1984) is contained in Boxes 1-6. Processed by Isabelle Gould, the collection emphasizes Eric Ball's lifelong interests- cowering, Fair Haven history, civic activities and research into such historic figures as Titus Coan, Return J. Meigs and Cornelius S. Bushnell, Fair Haven boat builder instrumental in the construction of the Monitor. Boxes 1-3 and Box 7, presented to the Historical Society by Ball's sons, Ernest Elijah Ball (1920- ) and Robert Hutchinson Ball (1922- ), expand and define the entire Ball family tree from three ancestors who served in the Revolutionary War- Joseph Ball (1721-1796), David Ball (d.1743), and Ambrose Smith (1748-1795) through five generations of the Ball family engaged in the Connecticut cyster culture business. Eric T. Ball was an indefatigable researcher, and he traced Ball ancestry to Alling Ball (d.1716) who appeared in the New Haven town records in 1643, and even to John Ball, born in England about 1620. Eric Ball compiled charts and tables to substantiate his family's lineage, and maps of early cyster grounds to mark his family's long devotion to the waters of Long Island Sound. In addition, the 1980 donation brings Ball family history into this century with many letters written by his two sons, dating from 1934 to 1973.

VIII Analysis: The collection consists of 7 boxes, two oversize items: Item 1 is a collection of family photographs and civic organization documents. (Especially interesting are photographs taken in the Colorado gold fields in 1883, The prospector was George N. Thompson, uncle of Eric Ball.) Item 2 is a collection of Fair Haven area maps. Most are copies dated from 1850 to 1893 by Eric Ball. Box 1, Ball Family genealogy and land transactions, includes lineal descent studies dating back to 1620; Boxes 2 and 3, Ball family correspondence (1898-1973); Box 4, Eric Ball's speeches, re-

* and cooking (see Box 7)  ** TRANSFERRED TO BOX 5 FOLDER 0-1
Analysis (continued)

search into historic figures, oysterling; Box 5, material on Fair Haven and its history; Box 6, Eric Ball's recipes and bits of philosophy. Boxes 1-3 contain many manuscript materials, some dating back to 1795. The value of Boxes 4-6 lies in having material on Fair Haven and the oyster business gathered in one place.

Processed by: Eleanor Kelman
Box 1 - BALL FAMILY GENEALOGY AND LAND TRANSACTIONS

- Genealogical chart, 1640-1948

Folder B - Lineal Descent Studies, Joseph Ball (1721-1796)
- Eric Thompson Ball's worksheets and applications for membership in the Society of Colonial Wars by right of descent from Joseph Ball, and in the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution by right of lineal descent from David Ball, son of Joseph Ball, and Ambrose Smith

Folder C - Lineal Descent Studies, David Ball (b. 1743)
- Documents relating to David Ball, including 1795 original lease for sale of land, witnessed by Samuel Davenport; also 1801 deed to Guilford land and misc. leases—use of cow for one year and purchase of shoes (1793-1813)
- Scrap of letters related to David Ball
- Original family records of the Ira Ball family (1774-1813)
- Handwritten genealogy chart, probably by Eric T. Ball
- Ball family group tables for the years between 1722-1843, compiled by Eric T. Ball
- Letters to Eric T. Ball, recounting the excommunication of Evelyn A. Ball from a Fair Haven church for operating a "dram-selling" shop in violation of Temperance Society rules (1835)

Folder D - Lineal Descent Studies, Ambrose Smith (1748-1795)
- Eric T. Ball's worksheets and application to the Sons of the American Revolution listing genealogical references and authorities to establish his relationship to Ambrose Smith
- Smith family genealogical charts tracing Ambrose Smith's ancestry through his parents, Job Smith (1722-1776), married to Lydia Rowe (b. 1726), and his grandparents, John Smith (1693-1738), married to Martha Tuttle (1694-1734), Compiled by Eric T. Ball in 1973
- Request for photocopies of Ambrose Smith's Revolutionary War military service record from the General Services Administration (1965)
- Reproductions of documents from GSA placing Pvt. Ambrose Smith on the Company Muster Roll, 6th Regiment and 4th Regiment, Conn. Line from 1778-1783
Folder E - From John Ball (1645-1655) to Alling Ball (d. 1716) (26)

- Notes about John Ball, born in England and buried in Concord, Mass.
- Letter from New Haven City Burial Ground describing two graves in the West Wall of the New Haven Green, both labelled John Ball
- Genealogy worksheet, Alling Ball, source unidentified
- Donald Lines Jacobus's study of Alling (or Allen) Hall, probably a commander of the East Village Militia
- Testimony given by Alling Ball during 1655 witchcraft trial of Elizabeth Goodman, no source cited
- Index of Revolutionary War pension applications, National Genealogical Society

Folder F - 1901 Ball Family Assembly (9)

- Reports from 1901 Ball Family Assembly in Penn Yan, N.Y. discussing Edward Ball, of Branford, founder of Newark, N.J. (1666)
- Genealogical chart, Edward Ball, no source cited
- Assembly speculation concerning a Capt. William Ball who settled in Virginia and was the father of Mary, mother of George Washington, no source cited

Folder G - Certificate Granted (1)

- National Society of Sons of the American Revolution granted Eric Thompson Ball certificate of membership based on his descent from Ambrose Smith

Folder H - Vital Statistics, Elijah Smith Ball (1872-1899) (8)

- Pages from Mallory family Bible listing Mallory family members and wedding of daughter, Jane Ann Mallory (1819-1898), to Elijah Smith Ball on March 16, 1839. Parents are listed as Jesse Mallory (1739-1859) and Wealthy Gramis (1794-1882). Elijah Smith Ball was the son of Ira Ball (1774-1826) and Lowly Smith Ball (1778-1843)
- Death certificates of Elijah Smith Ball and Jane Ann Mallory Ball
- 1972-73 letters tracing ancestry of Wheaton-Ball families through Amelia Ball, a daughter of Ira Ball, Lowly Smith Ball. Letters from Eric Ball's cousins studying genealogy

Folder I - Vital Statistics, Ernest Elijah Ball (1861-1948) (33)

- Spelling book, 1878
- 1883 Wedding invitation, Ernest Elijah Ball to Flora E. Thompson (1863-1958), daughter of Mrs. George N. Thompson of East Haven
- Thompson Coat of Arms
Box 1 - continued

- Ball-Thompson wedding license (copy)
- Letters of condolence on death of child (n.d.)
- Notes on Thomson family genealogy, came to United States from Ireland. The spelling was later changed to Thompson
- Handwritten Thompson family record (1778-1829)
- Biographical material, Austin David Thompson (1842-1895)
- 1884 Invitation to wedding of Edward F. Thompson and Lottie J. Lancraft, in Fair Haven, Edward was the brother of Flora Thompson Ball
- 1877 Cemetery bill to O. W. Thompson

Folder J - Floral Album, 1879

Folder K - Vital Statistics, Elijah S. Ball (1895-1975)

- Will of Elijah S. Ball, including cash bequests and disposition of oyster grounds (Sept. 13, 1974)
- Reminiscences of Elijah S. Ball, last views of his days on earth (n.d.)
- Newspaper obituaries, Elijah S. Ball
- List of donations made to the Church of Christ, Stony Creek, Conn. in memory of Elijah S. Ball
- 1977 Auction notice of the Elijah S. Ball estate, and sales receipts

Folder L - Vital Statistics, Eric Thompson Ball (1894-1984)

- Birth certificate, Eric Thompson Ball
- Handwritten baby records by Flora T. Ball
- Copies of The Reservist, publications of the Second Naval District, Newport, R.I. (1918), and Newport Recruit (1918)
- Eric T. Ball’s civic activities, awards and citations
- Wedding license to Ruth Hutchinson
- Divorce papers filed by Ruth Hutchinson Ball (1933)
- Marriage license, Eric T. Ball and Rose Biral (1945)
- Will of Eric T. Ball and attorney’s receipt (1979)
- Death certificate, Eric T. Ball and newspaper obituary notice
- Auctioneer’s notice, estate Eric T. Ball
- Newspaper obituary notice, Ruth Ball Hemingway (1892-1985) first wife
- Newspaper article listing sites of military graves in Guilford, Madison and Branford (1933)
- Composition about Eric Ball written by student Catherine A. Quinn (1978)
- Transcript of taped interview with Eric T. Ball made by Rich Willets, March 29, 1981 (see card catalog)
Box 1- continued

Folder M - Vital Statistics, Rose Biral Ball (1899-1975) (22)
- Birth certificate
- Death certificate, Sept. 8, 1975
- Memorial tribute, the Rev. David K. Sloatman
- Probate court documents, listing stocks and funeral costs
- Legal papers transferring MITE stock to surviving husband, Eric T. Ball (1977)
- Bills for probate, legal fees, and funeral expenses
- Newspaper obituary notice, Rose Biral Ball

Folder N - Ball Family Land Transactions, 76 Pearl St. Fair Haven (11)
- List of original specifications for building 76 Pearl St., Fair Haven in 1851 by the W. J. Megin Co., at cost of $1,905.
- Tax bills, 1889, 1890

Folder O - Ball Family Land Transactions, Quinnipiac Ave., Fair Haven (35)
- Construction bills for 482 Quinnipiac Ave. (1947)
- Plan for proposed location of mooring piles at Hawkins' home, neighbors (1947)
- Survey map of Quinnipiac Ave., properties
- Drawing of section of Fair Haven, compiled from aerial photos (1964)
- Properties at 482 and 490 Quinnipiac Ave., listed for sale
- Mortgages and mortgage release documents for 482 Quinnipiac Ave. Riparian rights specified
- Tax bill, 1974

Folder P - Oyster Bed Locations (27)
- Location of oyster beds, depicted in 1935, 1936 maps showing shoals, safe locations for winter survival, land markers for old and new beds and safe areas for planting oyster seeds
- Stationery, Ball Oyster Co.

Folder P 2 1906 Oyster beds Long Island Sound (4)
Box 2 - BALL FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE

Folder A - Flora Thompson Ball and her brother, George Thompson, letters written between 1898-1914
- Letter seeking whereabouts of George Thompson, 1898

Folder B - Ruth Hutchinson Ball to her sons, Ernest Elijah(1920-21) and Robert Hutchinson(1922-24) from Reno, Nev. while Ruth Ball established residency to obtain divorce from Eric T. Ball. Sociological comments on status of divorced women during the 1933-1934 period.
- Letter appears to be written by Ruth Ball to husband Eric T. Ball (n.d.)

Folder C - Ernest Elijah Ball to his father, Eric T. Ball while son was student at Suffield Academy. Comments on 1938 hurricane. (1934-1938)

Folder D - Robert Hutchinson Ball to his father, Eric T. Ball (1939-1941)

Folder E - Ernest E. Ball to his father (1939-1940), covers years while Ernest E. was student at Dartmouth College.

Folder F - Robert H. Ball to his father (1940-1942)

Folder G - Ernest E. Ball to his father (1941-1942)

Folder H - Robert H. Ball to his father (1942-1944) during period Robert H. entered the U.S. Naval Service

Folder I - Ernest E. Ball to his father (1943) during period Ernest E. entered U.S. Naval Service and trained at Newport, R.I.

Folder J - Robert H. Ball to father (1943-1946) while Robert H. served in the submarine division of the U.S. Navy and then returned to Colgate

Folder K - Notes from Flora Thompson Ball to her son, Eric T. Ball (1943-1951)

Folder K2 Flora Thompson Ball notes on Elijah Smith Ball
Box 3 - BALL FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE

Folder A - Ernest E. Ball to his father (1944) while Ernest E served in the Pacific Theater during World War II. (42)

Folder B - Ernest E. Ball to his father (1945) while son was stationed in the Pacific Theater. Comments on the use of the atomic bomb. Letters written after landing on the Pescadores Islands, the first Americans to land there, and their encounter with Chinese troops. (82)

Folder C - Ernest E. Ball to his father (1946-1980), including period Ernest E. was recalled into service in 1951. (28)

Folder D - Nancy Ball (Mrs. Ernest E.) to Eric T. Ball and his wife, Rose Biral Ball (1972-1973), letters written from Iran. (12)

Folder E - Rose Biral Ball to her nephews (1960-1961). (48)

Folder F - Rose Biral Ball (1960-1961), family correspondence. (60)

Box 4 - OYSTERS AND FAIR HAVEN HISTORY

Folder A - Eric Ball correspondence, 1932-1959
  - Letters from Gilbert Grosvenor, editor of National Geographic, July, 1949

Folder B - Correspondence, 1960-1968

Folder C - Correspondence, 1971-1979
  - Letter from R. Sargent Shriver to Mrs. Ball, May, 1974

Folder D - Eric Ball Speeches, 1968-1974
  - Speeches deal with oyster industry and early days in Fair Haven

Folder E - Notes for Speeches (n.d.)
  - Speeches about oystering and Fair Haven

Folder F - Grand Ave. Congregational Church
  - History of the church, 125th anniversary, talk on Fathers' Day, misc. papers

Folder G - Governor's Foot Guard
  - Misc. papers, 1957

Folder H - Sportsmen's Council, 1959-1960
  - Marine Resources Workshops, 1959, 1960, workbooks and 1959 tape
  - Newsletters, workshop notices, agendas, newspaper clippings, addresses of sportsmen

Folder I - Connecticut Shellfish Commission, 1960-1976
  - Paper by commission, 1962
  - Conn. Laws Relating to Shell Fisheries (49 p. + index)
  - Ball's renomination to Shellfish Commission, 1955-1967
  - Index to oyster grounds, 1968 (22 p.)
  - Memo on boating and water pollution, 1970
  - Article on John Barber, state Aquaculture Director, Telephone Bulletin, 1976
  - Articles on Norwalk clam dredging (n.d.)
Folder J - Yale University Christian Assn. Workshop
- 1978 Workshop in which Ball participated

Folder K - Drawings by Ball (n.d.), Fair Haven scenes

Folder L - Research on Titus Coan (1801-1882)
- Newspaper articles, copies of Coan letters,
  article from American Board of Missionaries,
  pamphlet on Hilo, Hawaii (c.1966)

Folder M - Research on Return Jonathan Meigs (1740-1823)
- Biographies of Meigs, newspaper articles,
  genealogies, history of Southampton and Sag
  Harbor

Folder N - Research on Cornelius Scranton Bushnell (1826-1896)
- Biographical material on Fair Haven boat builder,
  instrumental in constructing the Monitor

Folder O - Personal Papers
- Certificates of membership in Masonic chapters,
  notes on West Haven burial ground, Dartmouth
  Club
- MSS of trip to Prince Edward Island, 1960

Folder P - Newspaper Articles About Ball
- Interviews concern oysters, Fair Haven history,
  Ball's interest in cooking, 1966-1977

Folder Q - Fair Haven Bicentennial Festival, June 12, 1976
- Press releases re celebration, committee lists,
  minutes of program committee, itinerary of
  Festival bus tour

- Organizational chart, booklet "Historic Fair Haven",
  minutes organization meeting
- King Block for sale, photos

Folder S - Fair Haven Events, 1977-1979
- News clipping re renewal efforts, Grand Ave.
  bridge, historic district
Box 5 - FAIR HAVEN - OYSTER INDUSTRY - PHOTOGRAPHS

Folder A - Fair Haven History, Printed Material

- "Fair Haven: An Historic Sketch", 1894 (36 p.)
- "Historical Sketch of Old Fair Haven", Curtis C. Bushnell, 1916 (24 p.)
- "History of New Haven County", p.190-196
- Mimeographs of outline history of Fair Haven, walking tour of Fair Haven (n.d.), misc. newspaper articles
- "Leading Businessmen of New Haven" (n.d.)

Folder B - Fair Haven History, Newspaper Clippings from

New Haven Register and Advocate, 1949-1964

Folder C - Fair Haven and Oyster Industry

- Articles on oystering by Rose Esposito (n.d.) and on Fair Haven oystering by Michael P. Looney, 1975

Folder D - Fair Haven - Miscellany

- 1837 Deed for slip in Methodist Episcopal Church
- History of Fair Haven Union Cemetery Assn. 1923
- Thanks to Erle T. Ball from Foote School students for talk on Fair Haven
- Fair Haven East News, 1950
- Broadside, "Fair Haven: A Journey Through Time", by Doris B. Townshend
- Pilgrim Congregational Church program, 1976

Folder E - New Haven Harbor - Maps and Articles

- Photostat maps of harbor
- Harbor article by H.H. Townshend, c.1948-1949
- New Haven Register clipping on Dellfant harbor paintings, 1975

Folder F - Oyster Industry - New Haven Area

- Articles on oysters from New York Times Magazine, Yankee Magazine, 1972, from New Haven Register and The Advocate

Folder G - Oyster Industry - Conn. and Long Island

- Articles from commercial fisheries publications and newspapers on the oyster industry in Conn.
Box 5 - continued

Folder H - Oyster Industry - U.S. - 1947-1977

- Clippings from newspapers throughout the U.S. re oyster production

Folder I - Oysters - Background Articles from Journals

- Articles from commercial fisheries journals as well as general periodicals on the oyster industry

Folder J - Oysters - Pamphlets (bound)

- Pamphlets discussing development of oyster culture, from technical journals

Folder K - Oyster Boats - Articles and Pictures

- Notes by E. Ball (n.d.)
- Magazine articles on oyster boats and their development
- New Haven Register articles on "sharpies", 1959, 1974
- Copies of photographs of sharpies, including definition of bugeye and sharpie

Folder L - Oysters - Miscellany

- Song, "Tale of the Oyster", by Cole Porter; 1894 bill from Indian River Fish & Oyster Co., Titusville, Fla.

Folder M - Photographs - Rose and Eric Ball

" M-1: Old family portraits
" M-2: Photos - Family members, 20th Century
" M-3: " Groups (with Eric Ball)
" M-4: " Places

Folder N - Photos - Boats and Oystering

- Photos of dugouts, sharpies and copies of photos

Folder O - Photos - Misc.

- The Richard Peck, Governor's Foot Guard parade, Capt. Samuel E. Borst, #5 Engine Co., East Pearl St. plus unidentified persons and places

Folder O-1: Photos - George Nathan Thompson (b. 1840) taken in Colorado gold fields, 1883-1884.

Folder P - Photos - Fair Haven - 19th Century
Box 6 - PHOTOS

Folder A - Fair Haven - early 20th century to ca. 1940 (18)
" B - Fair Haven, 1970's and 1980's plus negatives (53)
" C - Fair Haven Days, 1977 and 1981 (16)
" D - 1938 Hurricane - New Haven (18)
" E - Homoguin and Savin Rock (11)
" F - Hartford (17)
" G - Madison (11)
" H - Branford, Guilford, Clinton (13)
" I - Essex, New London, Unionville (11)
" J - Long Island (16)
" K - Postcards, New England (3)
" L - Unidentified (5)

Box 7 - ERIC T. BALL'S PHILOSOPHY, RECIPES (909)

- Personal notes, aphorisms, many handwritten (approx. 500). Divided by brown alphabetical cards
- Recipes, with emphasis on New England cooking (approx. 350). Divided by blue alphabetical cards
- Addresses (approx. 50). Divided by white alphabetical cards
- Cards containing family members' names, genealogical connections, including Ball and Thompson families (approx. 9)

OVERSIZE - Item 1 Photographs (21)

- Ensign Eric T. Ball, 1920
- Booth Preparatory School class (n.d.)
- Family Photographs, unidentified
- Reunion, Class of 1911, Cheshire Academy, 1938
- Photos of civic organizations
- Centennial Legion, 1956
- Official documents appointing Eric T. Ball to Conn. Shellfish Commission
- Photo of Quinnipiac River dock, Fair Haven, 1975

OVERSIZE - Item 2 (map roll)

- Piece of Fair Haven maps (one original, one copy) Streets, homes, businesses, boarding houses, oyster dealers, ship builders marked (1850)
- Fair Haven map denoting 11th, 12th and 14th wards. Dated 1855 by Eric Ball
- Coast and Geodetic Survey Map (Guilford to Blackstone Rocks) Original compilation between 1850-1855; reissued 1903.
- Fair Haven street map, Plate 29. Residents on streets
Oversized Item #2 (cont.)

identified, dated 1912 by Eric Ball

- Fair Haven Plate 40 map. Marked 1912 by Eric Ball
- Middlesex County map by League of Women Voters, 1923
  denotes historical points of interest

Oversized Item #3

- Mansfield Oyster Company, ledgers
Additions: April 18, 2000, contributed by Ernest E. Ball

Box 8 - JEREMIAH SMITH AND SONS, INC.

(showing location of the oyster beds)

Folder B - Map of oyster grounds, 1906
- Birth and death dates of five Smith family members
- Pay scale of employees
- Shells to plant, 1911
- Typescript page of Ranges for Bay Rock Bed, Providence, Rhode Island (sections copied from Ranges record book)
- Envelope
- Correspondence, 1677
- Jeremiah Smith & Sons, Inc. stationary
- Ball Oyster Company business card (Ernest E. Ball, Chief Executive Officer)

- Quit Claim Deed 1906 Smith 2
- Charlotte Lims, daughter, 1906 Deed

Folder C Branford Oyster Grounds 1867, 1877

Box 9

Folder A Henry Rowe Letter Book