NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
LIBRARY

Manuscripts
No. 133

Date processed: October, 1981 and revised: June, 1988

I. Title English Family Collection, 1716-1987


III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 5
Approximate number of items: 1,000 (includes 7 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V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the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: See Page 2

VIII. Analysis: Collection is housed in four boxes and six oversize items. It consists of records of land transactions of family members over all the years of the collection; maps and drawings of their properties; business and legal documents; maritime papers; genealogical charts and records; business and personal correspondence; photographs; and scrapbooks. Items are arranged as follows: Series I: Papers of individual Family Members, (Box I listed alphabetically by christian name Box 4:K)

Series II: Papers of English Family collectively (Box 4:L-Q)

Series III: Papers of families other than English (Box 4:R-U)

Processed by: Anne Willard, 1981
Patricia Bromley, 1988
Biographical Note:

The English family in New Haven began with Benjamin English, (1676-1725), who moved to New Haven around 1700 from Salem, Mass. on the occasion of his marriage to his second wife, Rebecca Brown (1684-1768) of this city. His son, Benjamin (2) (1705-1779) married Sarah Dayton (1716-1769). He was killed during the British invasion in 1779. Benjamin (3) (1742-1809) married Abigail Doolittle (1749-1794), daughter of Isaac Doolittle (1721-1800), and was a ship master in the West Indian trade. Their daughter Abigail married Imanuel Hopkinson, who, with his family, is represented with material in this collection.

The eighth child of Benjamin and Abigail was James (1784-1850) who married Nancy Griswold. Their fourth child was James Edward (1812-1890). He is the member of the family to have received most public recognition and who figures largely in this collection.

At an early age James Edward established a successful lumber business and then turned his entrepreneurial talents to other fields - the New Haven Clock Company, The Goodyear Metallic Rubber Shoe Company, the First New Haven National Bank - to name three among many. His real estate holdings in the city were also extensive. He served in many city, state and national government offices. He was Governor of Connecticut in 1867, 68 and 70.

With his first wife, Caroline Fowler (d. 1874), he had four children of whom only Henry Fowler (1851-1957) survived. His second wife was Anna R. Morris (1849-1898), whom he married in 1885.

Henry Fowler English carried on his father's business and real estate activities and served as a Life Member of the Park Commission, also a favorite city improvement of his father who donated land and money. The son continued these philanthropies and in 1893 gave a new building for the NHCHS on Grove Street as a memorial to his parents. When this had to be torn down to make way for Silliman College he supported the present building at 114 Whitney Avenue, which opened in 1931.

Henry Fowler and Alice (Kimball) English had two sons, Harold K. (1891-1950) and Philip Henry (1893-1983) and a daughter Alice M. (Mrs. Paul Valle, b. 1894).

Philip Henry and Katharine (Dana) English (1896-1986) had two sons: James Dana (1932- ) and Richard, n.d., both of whom reside in New Haven. The World War I service of Philip H. is described in his diary which may be found in the Whitney Library.
Biographical Note: (Continued)

Henry English (1816-1847), a brother of James Edward, married Grace Emeline Fowler in 1839. Their son, Benjamin Rice English (1842-1915) is responsible for the bulk of this collection. He married Teresa Farren (1845-1919). Their son Benjamin Farren (1873-1923) was the donor of most of the material in the original part of this collection. He married Augusta Jennie Moeller (b. 1875) in 1903. They had two children, Augusta Teresa (b. 1905) and Benjamin Farren, Jr. (1906- ). Benjamin Farren, Jr. was the donor of the remainder and largest part of this collection in 1986. He resides in Hamden, Connecticut.

Benjamin Rice figures in, or is responsible for, the largest portion of this collection. He carried on in many of the family business interests such as the lumber company, the New Haven Clock and the management of real estate with his cousin, Henry Fowler. He was Postmaster of New Haven from 1885 to 1889. His philanthropic service was in great part to St. Paul's Church and church-related activities.

Benjamin Rice English is responsible for all of the genealogical material in the collection. He traced families which had married into the English family. As well he kept copious notes and charts and records of English family members. There was no genealogy material in the original collection.

NOTE: The Benjamin F. English Collection of Photographs (1,520 items) was transferred to the Photographic Department of NHCHS in 1981.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Broach, Elise L., In the footsteps of Immanuel Hopkinson: a journey through the Town of New Haven in the year 1800, New Haven, 1983


Holt, Mrs. Hollis H., Benjamin English and his Descendants, N.p. 1959?

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**BOX 1**

**Folder A: B. and J. E. English**

(A merchant firm run by partners James E. English (1812-1890) and Benjamin English, (1809-1839)

- **1835** - Lease with Elihu Sanford, New Haven, to rent land for a lumber yard.
- **1835** - Indenture (lease) with Edward H. Leffingwell, New Haven, for land and building on Water Street
- **1836** - Aetna Insurance Company policy against loss or damage by fire to their lumber yard
- **1838** - Petition of William Ives to be declared insolvent debtor, with list of his creditors which includes B. and J. E. English.
- **1838** - Letter from James E. English to Benjamin about their business.

**B: Benjamin English (1676-1725)**

- **1716** - Bond for loan to Nathaniel Collings of New Haven

**C: Benjamin English (1742-1809)**

- **1769** - List of crew of Sloop Nancy, Benjamin English, Master
- **1768-1772** - Letters to family
- **1787-1809** - Deeds, New Haven
- **1798** - Registration of Ship Eliza, Benjamin English, Master (copy)
- n.d. List of his children and birth dates
- n.d. Description of deaths of Abigail and Benjamin English
- Personal record book, 1774-1779

**D: Benjamin English (1809-1839)**

- **1830** - Insurance Policy and order to make coffin to English & Peckham

### No. of Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B. and J. E. English</th>
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<td>Benjamin English (1676-1725)</td>
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<td>Benjamin English (1742-1809)</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin English (1809-1839)</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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BOX 1 (Cont.)

Folder D: Benjamin English (1809-1839) (Cont.)

1831 - Exclusive right within New Haven to make and sell bedsteads according to a patent owned by William Bell of Lexington, Ky.

1835 - Bill of lading for chairs from Rogers & Haskell, Boston, shipped on Schooner Frank

1839 - Letter from sister

E: Benjamin Farren English (1873-1923)
    See also Oversize Items #1 and #5

    1888 - his account of the Great Blizzard (when he was fifteen years old)

F: 1885-1906 Correspondence with his father (32)

G: Memorabilia:

    1903 - Letter to Mrs. Benjamin Farren English (Augusta Jennie Moeller, b. 1875) from her father Constant Moeller.

    1915, 1916 - School report cards for his children: Augusta Teresa, b. 1905, and Benjamin Farren English, Jr., b. 1906

H: Specifications for cottage, Pine Orchard, Everett V. Meeks, New York, Architect, 1917 (See Oversize Item #5)

I: Drawings, include: architectural drawing

    19 Whitney Avenue, 1921; Plan for china closet, 334 Edwards Street, C. S. Palmer, Architect, n.d.

J: Benjamin Rice English (1842-1915)
    See also Oversize Item #1.

    Civil War Correspondence and other documents includes letters from friends serving in the war, 1862; Draft notice, July 1863; Certificate of exemption from military duty, August, 1863; appointment as Sergeant in State Militia, December, 1863

K: Correspondence re Postmastership, 1885-1889 (54)
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BOX 1 (Cont.)

Folder L: Benjamin Rice English (1842-1915) (Cont.)

- Correspondence as Postmaster, 1885-1890
  (Contained in bound letter-copy book) (1v.) 999 p.
- Correspondence re St. Paul's Church
  from Edwin S. Lines (1845-1927),
  Rector of St. Paul's from 1879-1903, then
  Bishop of Newark (M) (57)
- Correspondence and other documents re
  St. Paul's, 1863-1915 (N) (12)
- Business and legal documents and correspon-
  dence, 1864-1912 (O) (15)
- Real Estate Documents, 1883-1914 (P) (9)

BOX 2

Folder A: Community Activities, 1893-1914 (14)

- List of household and Personal Expenses,
  1866-1881 (B) (1)
- Personal correspondence and list of old
  furniture and other items belonging to him,
  1852-1906 (C) (22)
- Memorabilia: School report for November,
  1854, New Haven Collegiate and Commercial
  Institute; Passport of his wife, Teresa
  H. English (Nee Farren) (1845-1919), 1889 (D) (2)
- Pages from a scrapbook of Sons of the American
  Revolution Washington's Journey Pilgrimage,
  Philadelphia to Cambridge, 1914 (E) (38)
- Autobiography, written in 1915 (F) (1 v.)
- Photographs: Joseph Earle, Assistant
  Postmaster and John C. Punderford, Cashier, n.d.;
  Post Office staff, ca. 1889, Identification
  on back; BRE taken with life-size photo of President
  Taft, n.d. (G) (3)
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BOX 2 (Continued)

Folder H: Benjamin Rice English (1842-1915) Continued

Miscellaneous material from a scrapbook, n.d. 6

I: Pages from Genealogy notebook, includes 148
   Family Record, newspaper clippings re Family
   births, marriages and deaths

J: Genealogies and Family Histories, primarily 93
   for the English Family but includes the
   following families: Bell, Brown, Deighton/Dayton,
   Doolittle, Edwards, Foote, Fowler, Griswold,
   Guy, Moss, Todd, Townsend and Tuttle

K: Family Record, 1870 (with copy) 2

L: Miscellaneous Genealogy notes - English Family 15

BOX 3

Folder A: Henry English (1816-1847) 8
   and his wife Grace Emeline Fowler English (1817-1886)

Admission into Independent Order of Odd Fellows, 1846
   (Harmony Lodge No. 5, New Haven)

Fire Insurance policy from Middlesex Mutual
   Assurance Company of Middletown, Conn. for house
   at Whitney and Grove in name of Grace E. Fowler
   English, 1886

Letter to Grace English from Julia Mahon,
   Port Chester, N.Y., 1853

Letters to Sister Grace from Caroline Fowler
   English, 1852 and 1862

B: Henry Fowler English (1851-1947) 33

Letters to Benjamin Rice English and Aunt
   Grace from a European trip, 1875

C: Letters to Benjamin Rice English from Lake
   Placid and Maine, 1904, 1905
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BOX 3 (Continued)

Folder D: Henry Fowler English (1851-1947) Continued

Printed For Rent Signs, apply to Henry F. English, 92 Orange Street 2

E: Announcements of resignation from the management of real estate business and notice that his son, Benjamin Rice English, would assume that position. 2

F: Portrait, n.d.; news articles, 1937 4

G: Autobiography, n.d., with addendum entitled Donation to Public Park covering the years 1897 to 1942 31

H: Captain Isaac English, (1782-1826)

Business and legal documents, and correspondence, 1803-1821 16

I: Maritime documents, 1801-1815, concerning Brig Prospect which he commanded and receipts and bills for shipment of goods 11

J: Real Estate - Deeds, 1810-1820 10

K: James English, 1784-1850

Correspondence:
1822 from William B. Thomas, Bridgeport
1829 from Eli English 2

L: Business and legal documents, 1818-1842 includes 2 copies of his will; stock certificates for Farmington Canal Co., New Haven Tontine Company, Hampshire and Hampden Canal Company and Ocean Insurance Company; 16

M: Real estate documents: Deeds, etc. 1810-1847 includes inventory of stock in store of Grindley Harrison (1786-1862) sold to James English, 1825 24

N: James E. English (1812-1890) See also Oversize Items 2 and 3

Biographical sketch, written by T.N. Parmelee, 1870 10

O: Correspondence, 1862-1876 4
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Box 3 (Continued)

Folder P: James E. English (1812-1890) Continued

Copy of Charter Number Two: The Centennial History of the First New Haven National Bank, of which he was a founding father. (1)

Q: Business papers
Includes 1847 agreement of dissolution of partnership with Henry English; uncut bank notes of the Quinnipiac Bank, New Haven (7)

R: Photographs:
James E. and Caroline Fowler English (his 1st wife); Anna Morris English, 1849-1898 (his 2nd wife); Caroline Augusta Fowler English, 1811-1874 (3)

S: Photographs: Governor James E. English, n.d. (8)

Box 4

Folder A: James Edward English (1812-1890) Continued

In Memoriam - James Edward English by Anna Morris English, privately printed, 1891 (1 vol.)

B: Scrapbook of newspaper clippings about death of JEE (3)

C: Resolution of General Hospital Society of Connecticut on death of JEE (1)

D: Restoration of James English Building, 1987 - newspaper clipping (2)

E: James Edward English, b. 1868
Portraits of him and Gertrude Mather Worth on their wedding day, 1896 (3)

F: Certificate - Sons of the American Revolution, 1898 (1)

G: James Gourley English, 1834-1895
Account book of funds received for him from John English, and record of expenditures made for him, 1839 - 1850. Also includes records of rents for houses, 1850-1865, no name of person keeping accounts. (1 vol.)

H: John Todd English, 1773-1801
Letter from Samuel Beach, 1797 (1)
BOX 4 Continued

Folder I: Nancy Maria English, 1823-1905
  (m. William Bradley Pardee, 1821-1893)
  Photo of house where she was born,
  address not given

J: Philip Henry English, 1893-1985
  Note: See also World War I Diary of Philip H.
  English, 1st Lieutenant, 102nd U.S. Infantry,
  26th (Yankee) Division (N.P., 1917-1919)
  in the Whitney Library
  Letter to his father written from France, 1918
  His portrait, undated; and newspaper clippings
  which include his obituary and that of his
  wife, Katharine Dana English, 1896-1986

K: Sarah Dayton English, 1716-1769
  (Mrs. Benjamin English)
  Deathbed letter to her children - original
  and one copy made by her great-granddaughter
  Arabella Frances Hopkinson, n.d. and 1 transcript

English Family

L: Legal documents, 1792-1867

M: Real Estate: Index to Book of Deeds,
  Oversize Item #4

N: Real Estate: Drawings of proposed moving
  picture theatre at corner of Dixwell Avenue
  and Munson Street, 1935, Walter R. Shiner,
  Architect, New Haven

O: Real Estate: MSS maps of some New Haven
  properties 1866 and 1900, others not dated

P: Photographs - miscellaneous, some identified

Q: Memorabilia
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BOX 4   Continued

Hopkinson Family

Folder R:    Imanuel Hopkinson, 1779-1811
Note: See also In the footsteps of Imanuel Hopkinson: a journey through the Town of New Haven in the year 1800, 1983, by Elise L. Broach, in the Whitney Library.

Correspondence with parents, 1800-1810

S:    Sample of handwriting by Mary Hopkinson, age 6, 1796;
MSS by Arabella Newton Hopkinson, 1749-1824
a spiritual/religious paper, n.d.

Letters describing death of Abigail English Hopkinson, d.1835

Genealogical notes

T:    Fowler Family

Deeds and legal documents, 1830-1902;
includes Probate records for George Fowler, 1885
and William H. Fowler, 1818-1902

U:    Genealogical notes - Fowler family.
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OVERSIZE ITEMS

ITEM #1. Scrapbook of Benjamin Rice English and Benjamin F. English, 1884-1919  1 v.

2. Memorials to James E. English, 1890, from Connecticut Savings Bank and New Haven Chamber of Commerce

3. Memorial to James E. English, 1890, from New Haven Colony Historical Society, signed by Simeon Baldwin, President


4. Book of Deeds (with Index), 1797-1919  1 v.

5. Blueprints and Maps:
   - Store Building for B. F. English at Dixwell Ave., Lester J. A. Julianelle, Architect, New Haven, 4-25-29
   - Dixwell-Orchard-Munson Streets triangle, Surveyed by Alexander Cohn, New Haven, Nov. 1912, Feb. 1919
   - Map of proposed widening and straightening of Fitch Street, Hamden, Sept. 1899, Office of Albert B. Hill, Consulting Engineer

6. Maps and Drawings:
   - Map of property owned by estate of William H. Fowler, (Dixwell Avenue, Orchard Street, Shelton Avenue, Munson Street) Albert B. Hill, Consulting Engineer, 1902
ITEM #6. Maps and Drawings: (Continued)

Map of property belonging to heirs of George G. Fowler, New Haven and Hamden, June 1908
Albert B. Hill, Consulting Engineer

Map of property belonging to estate of George G. Fowler, Pine Rock, Hamden, 1902
1902 Albert B. Hill, Consulting Engineer

Map of property lines at Pine Rock, Hamden, May 15, 1911 Office of Albert B. Hill, C. E.

Drawing - Vanderbilt Square (Grove-College-Wall-Temple Streets), Sheffield Scientific School.
Surveyed by Class of 1929 in Engineering, June 1926. Drawn by B. F. English (member of Class
of 1929 Sheffield.)
Materials added to the collection - Gift of Jane English

5/A Diary (1896) of Gertrude Worth English, including list of wedding gifts.

Diaries of James E. English, 1902, 1903, 1905.


5/C Photograph album - James E. & Gertrude W. English with their twins Worth & Grace.

6/A Photograph album - James E. & Gertrude W. English with children Worth, Grace & Benjamin.

6/B Miscellaneous papers concerning building of home on 31 Edgehill property (1898) including: deeds, building contracts, and list of expenses.

Information about the sale of the same, 1923.

6/C Estate Papers:

Inventory of the Estate of James E. English, December 6, 1907.
Will of Benjamin R. English, November 30, 1912.
Inventory of the Estate of Benjamin R. English, November 19, 1917.
Trustees Account of the Estate of Benjamin R. English, April 16, 1918.

Miscellaneous papers including:

Invitation to the dedication of the New Haven Colony Historical Society building, 1893.

6/D Photographs:

Gertrude W. Worth - marriage photograph, 1896.
Worth, Grace & Benjamin English

6/E Photographs of James E. English.

6/F Ridgefield School - Photographs and miscellaneous papers.

6/G Framed photograph of Worth, Grace & Benjamin English.
6/H   Miscellaneous photographs including:
Pine Orchard - Hurricane 1938.
Interior of 31 Edgehill Road, Emma Page, Worth, Grace & Benjamin English
New Haven Grays (James E. English)

Inventory of wedding silver by Paul Worth
Material from Wedding

6/J   Photocopies of newspaper clippings regarding English family

6/K   Memorial book for the Rev. Frank Dana Sargent (1844-1918)

Mrs. Philip English (Katherine Dana) was a descendent of Benjamin Silliman.
The following three folders contain material relating to her Silliman ancestry.

7/A   Genealogical Notes

7/B   Correspondence of Benjamin Silliman and other family members

7/C   Miscellaneous material including photocopies of newspaper clippings