

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. 133

Date processed: October, 1981 and
~~REVISED~~ June, 1988

- I. Title English Family Collection, 1716-1987
- II. The papers of the English Family of New Haven deposited in the Library by Benjamin F. English and Philip H. English in 1981, and by Benjamin F. English, Jr. in 1986.
- 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- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the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)

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~~¹⁹⁴⁷) 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

English, Philip Henry, *World War I diary of Philip H. English, 1st Lieutenant, 102nd U.S. Infantry, 26th (Yankee) division*, N.p., 1917-1919.

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

Dictionary of American biography, Vol. VI, pp 165-166, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1928

TABLE OF CONTENTSNo. of ItemsBOX 1

<u>Folder A:</u>	<u>B. and J. E. English</u>	(5)
	(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:	<u>Benjamin English (1676-1725)</u>	(1)
	1716 - Bond for loan to Nathaniel Collings of New Haven	
C:	<u>Benjamin English (1742-1809)</u>	(12)
	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	
C, D:	<u>Benjamin English (1809-1839)</u>	(4)
	1830-Insurance Policy and order to make coffin to English & Peckham	

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)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) (1)
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: (8)
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 (19)
(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. (4)
- J: Benjamin Rice English (1842-1915)
See also Oversize Item #1.
Civil War Correspondence and other documents (14)
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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TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)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. |
| M: | Correspondence re St. Paul's Church
from Edwin S. Lines (1845-1927),
Rector of St. Paul's from 1879-1903, then
Bishop of Newark | (57) |
| N: | Correspondence and other documents re
St. Paul's, 1863-1915 | (12) |
| O: | Business and legal documents and correspon-
dence, 1864-1912 | (15) |
| P: | Real Estate Documents, 1883-1914 | (9) |

BOX 2

- | | | |
|------------------|---|--------|
| <u>Folder A:</u> | Community Activities, 1893-1914 | (14) |
| B: | List of household and Personal Expenses,
1866-1881 | (1) |
| C: | Personal correspondence and list of old
furniture and other items belonging to him,
1852-1906 | (22) |
| D: | Memorabilia: School report for November,
1854, New Haven Collegiate and Commercial
Institute; Passport of his law wife, Teresa
H. English (Nee Farren)(1845-1919), 1889 | (2) |
| E: | Pages from a scrapbook of Sons of the American
Revolution Washington's Journey Pilgrimage,
Philadelphia to Cambridge, 1914 | (38) |
| F: | Autobiography, ^{hand} written in 1915 | (1 v.) |
| G: | 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. | (3) |

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TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONTINUED)BOX 2 (Continued)

<u>Folder H:</u>	<u>Benjamin Rice English (1842-1915)</u> Continued)	
	Miscellaneous material from a scrapbook, n.d.	6
I:	Pages from Genealogy notebook, includes Family Record, newspaper clippings re Family births, marriages and deaths	148
J:	Genealogies and Family Histories, primarily for the English Family but includes the following families: Bell, Brown, Deighton/Dayton, Doolittle, Edwards, Foote, Fowler, Griswold, Guy, Moss, Todd, Townsend and Tuttle	93
K:	Family Record , 1870 (with copy)	2
L:	Miscellaneous Genealogy notes - English Family	15

BOX 3

<u>Folder A:</u>	<u>Henry English (1816-1847)</u>	8
	<u>and his wife Grace Emeline Fowler English (1817-1886)</u>	
	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:	<u>Henry Fowler English (1851-1947)</u>	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	19

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	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:	<u>Captain Isaac English, (1782-1826)</u>	
	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:	<u>James English, 1784-1850</u>	2
	Correspondence: 1822 from William B. Thomas, Bridgeport 1829 from Eli English	
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:	<u>James E. English (1812-1890)</u> 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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TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONTINUED)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 (7)
Includes 1847 agreement of dissolution of partnership with Henry English; uncut bank notes of the Quinnipiack Bank, New Haven
- R: Photographs: (8) 4
James E. and Caroline Fowler English (his 1st wife);
Anna Morris English, 1849-1898 (his 2nd wife);
Caroline Augusta Fowler English, 1811-1874
- S: Photographs: Governor James E. English, n.d. (8)

Box 4 James Edward English (1812-1890) Continued

- Folder A: **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 (3)
Portraits of him and Gertrude Mather Worth on their wedding day, 1896 (3)
- F: Certificate - Sons of the American Revolution, 1898 (1)
MOVED TO OVERSIZE ITEM #3
- G: James Gourley English, 1834-1895 (1 vol.)
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.
- H: John Todd English, 1773-1801 (1)
Letter from Samuel Beach, 1797

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- Folder I: Nancy Maria English, 1823-1905 (1)
 (m. William Bradley Pardee, 1821-1893)
 Photo of house where she was born,
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- J: Philip Henry English, 1893-1985 (2)
- 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 (4)
 (Mrs. Benjamin English)
- Deathbed letter to her children - original
 and one copy made by her great-granddaughter
 Arabela Frances Hopkinson, n.d. and 1 transcript
- English Family
- L: Legal documents, 1792-1867 (15)
- M: Real Estate: Index to Book of Deeds,
 Oversize Item #4 (7)
- N: Real Estate: Drawings of proposed moving
 picture theatre at corner of Dixwell Avenue
 and Munson Street, 1935, Walter R. Shiner,
 Architect, New Haven (2)
- O: Real Estate: MSS maps of some New Haven
 properties 1866 and 1900, others not dated (6)
- P: Photographs - miscellaneous, some identified (6)
- Q: Memorabilia (8)

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BOX 4 Continued

Hopkinson Family

- Folder R: Imanuel Hopkinson, 1779-1811 (7)
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; (15)
- 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 (35)
- Deeds and legal documents, 1830-1902;
 includes Probate records for George Fowler, 1885
 and William H. Fowler, 1818-1902
- U: Genealogical notes - Fowler family. (10)

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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 2 v.
3. Memorial to James E. English, 1890, from New Haven Colony Historical Society, signed by Simeon Baldwin, President ~~3~~ 5
 • CERTIFICATE SONG OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION 1898
Photographs: James E. English, n.d.; Mrs. James E. English and children outside of 38 Hillhouse Avenue, n.d.
 • THE NORTHEAST CALENDAR OR LABORERS WATCH, 1799
 2 interior photographs - location uncertain.
4. Book of Deeds(with Index), 1797-1919 1 v.
5. Blueprints and Maps: 13
 Store Building for B. F. English at Dixwell Ave. Lester J. A. Julianelle, Architect, New Haven, 4-25-29
 House for B. F. English, Pine Orchard, E.V.Meeks, Architect, 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, January 17, 1917
 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: 5
 Map of property owned by estate of William H. Fowler, (Dixwell Avenue, Orchard Street, Shelton Avenue, Munson Street) Albert B. Hill, Consulting Engineer, 1902

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OVERSIZE ITEMS (Continued)

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
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.)

Box/FolderMaterials 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.
Account book - James E. English, 1893-1906.
- 5/B Photograph album - Honeymoon photographs James E. & Gertrude W. English, 1896.
- 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.
Certificate of Marriage, James E. English and Gertrude Mather Worth, January 14, 1896.
- 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.

Box/Folder

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)

6/I Wedding invitations Gertrude Worth & 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