Manuscripts
No. B24

Date processed: May, 1980

I. Title Connecticut Vital Statistics, 1754-1865

II. The papers of Various W.P.A. Researchers deposited a gift.

III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 3 1/2'
Approximate number of items: 7,000

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V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of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 1.

VIII. Analysis:

see page 1.
VII. Biographical note:

The collection began with material gathered by Charles R. Hale, starting in 1916. Mr. Hale was originally concerned with recording the name, date of death, and military service of Civil War veterans. The state librarian persuaded him to expand the search to other wars.

During the Great Depression, grants from F.E.R.A. and afterward from the W.P.A. carried through the copying of essential information from every headstone in the entire state. These listings, which are indexed, were done during the period 1932-1934. Two copies were deposited in the State Library.

Copies of the listings for the area towns of Cheshire, Fairfield, Guilford, Madison, Clinton, New Haven, Orange and Woodbridge were presented to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.

The second part of the collection consists of death notices, probate filings, and marriages recorded in Connecticut newspapers from 1755 to 1865. The work was done under federal government grants, largely in 1934. The original collection is filed in the Connecticut State Library.

VIII. Analysis:

The headstone collection has been kept in the arrangement made by the Connecticut State Library. It should be noted that the collection is the work of a number of people, and, on occasion, the same code number appears twice. In such cases, the material is indeed a duplication, but sometimes one set is more complete than the other. The researchers signed their work, so that one may identify the source. (i.e. "Collins" or " Supernor") The more complete source is placed first in the file.

The folder marked Fairfield comes from a different source than the others. It consists of copies from a collection given to Yale University entitled "manuscripts presented to Yale College Library by Winthrop H. Perry 1880. Names and dates copied from tombstones of all those who were born before or during 1760 from old cemeteries of Fairfield, Greenfield, Pougannock, West Farms, Upper and Lower Northfield, and Easton, Conn."

Vital statistic information from early Connecticut newspapers is arranged by title of the publication with sub-headings showing the subject covered (i.e. Deaths, Legal, Marriage) and the inclusive dates of the materials (i.e. July 12, 1784 to April 23, 1807).

When a publication consists of more than one folder, the folders are lettered "Folder A", "Folder B", etc. Occasionally, there are incomplete duplications signed by a different researcher. These are placed in a folder designated "Folder A (1)" etc., and are filed immediately following the more complete collection.

The first page in each folder gives the name of the publication (i.e. American Mercury), the statistics covered (i.e. Deaths), the inclusive dates of each section (i.e. July 12, 1784 to April 23, 1807) and the original page numbers and coding as they were filed in the Connecticut State Library.

Occasionally, single sheets with information that seems irrelevant to the general collection were found mixed in with the main source. For example, there is a single sheet giving the information
copied from a gravestone in the Barbadoes of a New England sea captain. It is retained with the material with which it was filed by the Connecticut State Library and noted in the table of contents of the folder.

The collection as received from the State Library contained material from newspapers of which only one or two issues are extant. They have been kept in the arrangement made by the State Library. The folder is designated by the name of the publication with the most numerous issues, and the titles of the other publications are listed in the table of contents of the folder.

The last folder contains an index of the issues of old Connecticut newspapers that are on file in the Yale University Library.
Connecticut Vital Statistics 1754-1865
MSS. #B24

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