

**Finding Aid to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 406
Fellows Family Papers, 1796-1856**

By
Taylor McNeely

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: Fellows Family Collection, 1797-1856

Creator: Taylor McNeely

Quantity: .5 cubic feet

Abstract: This collection includes personal and legal documents, which belonged to Daniel Fellows Jr. Esq. These documents contain personal correspondences and personal records, deeds and records of investments, and official appointments to public office. The collection also includes records of an indenture and personal account books, all owned by Daniel Fellows Jr. Esq.

Acquisition Information: The Fellows Family Papers, 1796-1856 were acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum in 2011 from Mrs. B. Caulkins Clarke.

Processing Information: Taylor McNeely, 2012

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

Preferred citation for publication: Martha's Vineyard Museum, Record Unit 406, Fellows Family Collection, 1796-1856

Index Terms

Fellows, Daniel

Fellows, Samuel W.

Dukes County Mining Company

Coleman, Almira

Vinlon, Samuel

Curtis, Jared

Osborne, Abraham

Fellows, William

Hutchinson, Israel

Smith, Sophronia Augusta

Dunham, Sally Osborne

Series and Subseries Arrangement

Series I: Correspondence

Subseries A: Official Correspondence
Subseries B: Personal Correspondence
Series II: Legal Documents
Series III: Financial Records
Series IV: Genealogy
Series V: Misc

Biography Note:

Daniel Fellows Jr. (1778-1856) was the Clerk of Courts in Dukes County, Guardian of Indians, County Commissioner, Justice of the Peace, and an advocate of Temperance. Born in Caanan, CT to Daniel Fellows Sr. and Sally/Sarah [Richards?], he had one brother, Samuel W. Fellows, who he kept in contact with later in his life. Daniel attended William's College in the mid 1790s, and married Sally Osborn Dunham, widow of Isaiah Dunham and sister of John Osborn in 1800.

Soon after his marriage he moved to Edgartown, MA. With Sally O. Dunham he had five sons and five daughters; all but one of whom [Frederick Plum Fellows] he outlived. During this time he was a strong advocate for the Temperance movement and gave several speeches at Society meetings, a possible copy of one of these speeches is included in the collection. When his wife Sally died in 1842 he remarried to Sophronia Augusta Smith in 1845, with whom he had one daughter Ellen. After Daniel died Sophronia engaged in an ongoing legal battle with Frederick and Ellen, as he had left no will.

Fellows was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1822, Guardian of Indians in 1828, Country Commissioner in 1835, Clerk of Judicial Courts in 1838, and Notary Public in 1841. In all of these public offices he was a diligent worker who studiously kept track of events and finances.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains documents of Daniel Fellows Jr. Esq. from 1796 to 1856. Included are personal letters, official appointments to public office, deeds, and financial records. Of particular note is the paper recording the indenture of Almira Coleman, alias Quarry, to Fellows in 1825. Also of interest is a copy of the speech, which Fellows gave at a Temperance Society convention.

Series Descriptions:

Series I: Correspondence

Box 1 of 1

Subseries A: Official Correspondence

Box 1 of 1

Folder 1: Business Correspondence 1838-1843

Folder 2: Public Notice

Subseries B: Personal Correspondence Out

Folder 3: Letter From Daniel Fellows to Israel Hutchinson

Subseries C: Personal Correspondence In

Folder 4: Letters From Samuel W. Fellows and William A. Fellows to Daniel Fellows Esq. 1812-1837

Folder 5: Personal Correspondence In, from Samuel Vinlon, Jared Curtis, Abraham Osborne, and William Fellows 1796-1826

Series II: Legal Documents

Subseries A: Appointments to Public Office

Folder 6: Notary Public 1841-1855

Folder 7: Justice of the Peace 1822-1842

Folder 8: Clerk of Judicial Courts 1835-1853

Folder 9: Guardian of Indians and People of Color 1828-1832

Folder 10: Dukes County Commissioner 1835

Subseries B: Deeds 1832-1848

This subseries includes deeds to Daniel Fellows Esq.'s personal property. One is a deed for a piece of property owned by his father-in-law Henry Osborne.

Folder 11: Deeds 1832-1848

Subseries C: Investment Documents

This subseries includes legal documents relating to investments in the Vineyard Bank.

Folder 12: Vineyard Bank 1854

Subseries D: Indentures

This subseries includes an indenture in which Daniel Fellows Esq. is taking on Almira Coleman as an indentured servant.

Folder 13: Almira Coleman (Quary) Indenture 11/5/1825, original document plus typed transcription

Series III: Financial Records

Box 1 of 1

Folder 14: Daniel Fellows Account Books

Folder 15: Bills and Receipts 1790-1846

Folder 16: Daniel Fellows Guardian of Indians Accounting 1835

Series IV: Genealogy

Folder 17: Genealogy

Series V: Miscellaneous

Folder 18: Dukes County Mining Company

Folder 19: Land Maps

Folder 20: School

Folder 21: Temperance Document and Calculations Sheet

Series VI: Research Notes

Compiled by K. Mayhew includes genealogical notes and copies of probate documents.

Folder 22: Genealogical Notes and Copies of Probate Documents