

INVENTORY OF THE
COOK FAMILY PAPERS
IN THE NEW BEDFORD WHALING MUSEUM
RESEARCH LIBRARY

Content: Personal papers of New Bedford, Mass., family, 1839-1940

Volume: 1 box; 10 inches; 26 cm

Provenance: Gift of Barbara Groves in memory of Helen Cook, 18 May 1987

Retrictions: None

Processed by: Judith M. Downey, 21 July 1993
Leigh Fought, 15 October 2004

INTRODUCTION

This collection was donated to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society by Barbara Groves in memory of Helen Cook on 18 May 1987.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The Cook family of New Bedford had its origins in Newport, R.I. Thomas Cook (1801-1890) made the move to New Bedford in 1824 at an early age and engaged in partnership with Loum Snow in 1828 which continued for a number of years. They were wholesale and retail dealers in dry goods, merchant tailors and outfitters in addition they served as owners and agents to several whaleships. His son, William, was born in New Bedford in 1834. William Cook attended school in Sandwich and joined his father's firm of Cook & Snow. By 1859, he became a partner in the firm. With the outbreak of the Civil War, William enlisted in the local guard unit and was commissioned into the Massachusetts Militia in June of 1863. He was stationed in Washington, D.C. and was discharged in July 1864. In 1855, William married Cornelia Augusta Seabury (1836-1921) of New Bedford whose family was formerly from Little Compton, R.I. They had five children. William Cook died in 1876.

The youngest son of William and Cornelia Cook, Otis Seabury Cook, was born in 1873 in New Bedford. He attended the local public schools and Friends Academy. He graduated from Harvard in 1896 and earned a law degree from Boston University in 1897. He entered the law firm of Knowlton & Perry and soon after became a partner in the firm. He was active in many civic agencies and served on the boards of numerous local companies. In 1899, he married Katherine Lee Mathews (1870-1951), formerly of New Bedford but then residing in Ansonia, Connecticut. They had five children. Otis S. Cook continued to practice law until his death in 1939.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Papers in this collection reflect the activities of several members of the Cook family of New Bedford, Massachusetts, between 1839 and 1940. William Cook's papers consist of correspondence and his military records for his service during the Civil War, 1863-c. 1873. The records contain certificates and a list of supplies for the regiment, 1863-1864. His correspondence is a letter to his son, Otis, and the verso is an additional letter to Otis from his brother, Clarence Augustus Cook, (1856-1919).

Papers for Otis Seabury Cook contain correspondence, legal documents and travel notes, 1883-1935. The correspondence is written to family members, 1883-1935. The letters dated 1883 are to his sister and brother-in-law while on a trip to Washington, D.C., with the rest of the family. The majority of the letters are written to his mother, Cornelia Augusta Seabury Cook (1836-1921), describing a trip to Europe that he made in the company of his wife in 1902. Stops on that trip include London, Paris, Naples, Belgium and Switzerland. Letters from 1928 and 1935 are from a relative seeking information for

a family genealogy. The legal document is a copy of his birth certificate, 1926. The travel notes c. 1902, detail and itinerary and provide helpful suggestions based on his European trip.

There are also papers for his wife, Katherine Lee Mathews Cook from 1891 to 1940. These papers consist of correspondence, legal documents, a birthday book and clippings. The correspondence, 1899-1940, includes a series of letters to her mother, Katherine Treadway Macomber Mathews, describing the 1902 European tour. There are letters from another cruise aboard a Cunard Vessel in 1913.

The Genealogy notes and clippings include material relating to the history of the Cook, Seabury, Gray and Bailey families. The Cook family items include clippings glued to scrapbook pages. The Seabury family items include handwritten genealogy notes, a typescript of the history of the ship *Monogahela*, wallpaper scraps, a transcription of a deed to 77 Walnut Street with handwritten notes, and newspaper clippings. The Gray/Bailey family items are handwritten notes and copies of notes on the genealogy of the two families, including genealogical charts.

DESCRIPTION

Sub-group 1. Sarah Bailey Rhoades Papers, 1839-1857

Series A. Correspondence, 1839-1857

Folder 1. 1839-1842

Folder 2. 1851-1857

Sub-group 2. William Cook Papers, 1863-c. 1873

Series A. Correspondence, c. 1873

Folder 1. c. 1873

Series B. Military Records, 1863-1864

Folder 1. 1863-1864

Sub-group 3. Otis Seabury Cook Papers, 1883-1935

Series A. Correspondence, 1883-1935

Folder 1. 1883-1884, 1899

Folder 2. 1902

Folder 3. 1902

Folder 4. 1928, 1935

Series B. Legal Documents, 1924

Folder 1. Birth certificate copy, 1924

Series C. Travel notes, c. 1902

Folder 1. c. 1902

Sub-group 4. Katherine Lee Mathews Cook Papers, 1891-1940

Series A. Correspondence, 1899-1940

Folder 1. 1899, 1902

Folder 2. 1899, 1902

Folder 3. 1913-1917, 1929

Folder 4. 1940

Series B. Legal Documents, 1926

Folder 1. Copies of birth certificates, 1926

Series C. Birthday book and clippings, 1891-1899

Folder 1. Birthday book, 1891

Folder 2. Clippings, 1899

Sub-group 5. Genealogy notes and clippings, c. 1857-1947

Series A. Cook family, 1876-1947

Folder 1. Clippings, 1876-1947

Folder 2: *Genealogy notes*

Series B. Seabury Family, 1857-1939

Folder 1. Notes [c. 1857-n.d.]

Folder 2. Clippings, 1922-1939

Folder 3: *Genealogy notes*

Series C. Gray/Bailey families, [n.d.]

Folder 1. Photocopied notes and charts [n.d.]

Folder 2: *Genealogy notes*

ADDED ENTRIES

Bailey family
Bailey, Sarah Gray, 1783-1865
Birth certificates
Birthday books
Cook, Cornelia Augusta Seabury, 1836-1921
Cook, Katherine Lee Mathews, 1870-1951
Cook, Otis Seabury, 1873-1939
Cook, William, 1833-1876
Cook family
Genealogy – Family – Bailey
Genealogy – Family – Cook
Genealogy – Family – Gray
Genealogy – Family – Seabury
Gray family
Monongahela (ship)
Rhodes, Sarah Bailey, b. 1821
Seabury family
Travelers – Europe
U.S. – History – Civil War, 1861-64
Women Travelers – Arizona