



BHC-MSS 0207
Guide to the Papers of Benjamin Swan
by Meg Rinn
March 2022

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Swan, Benjamin

Title: Papers of Benjamin Swan

Dates: 1836-1890

Quantity: 2 manuscript boxes

Abstract. Benjamin Swan served as the minister for a number of congregations in Fairfield and New Haven counties in the 1830s through the 1890s. While this collection has some material related to his personal life, it primarily contains the genealogical research he conducted for various local families, typically colonial. He was an active member of the Fairfield County Historical Society.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Processed and arranged by Martha Rockwell

Biographical History:

According to Samuel Orcutt's *History of Stratford and Bridgeport*, "Rev. Benjamin L. Swan was born in Medford, Ma., July 1813; entered College in the Junior Class, but was providentially hindered from completing the course. He received the honorary degree of A.M. from Yale in 1844. He was ordained pastor of the Church in Fair Haven, Conn., in 1836; was installed pastor of the Church in Littlefield, Conn. In 1846. He was acting pastor at the South Church in Bridgeport from June, 1856 to November, 1858. In September, 1858, he accepted the invitation of this Church [Congregational Church of Stratford] and was installed in October, 1858, and dismissed in 1863. In the spring of 1866, he became pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Oyster Bay, NY, where he labored until the Autumn of 1857, when domestic bereavement and ill health obliged him to resign the pastorate."

He was later the pastor of the Monroe Congregational Church from 1880 to 1883. He was an historian and genealogist, and the first to be elected to the Fairfield County Historical Society.

Scope and Content note:

Material has scant records of Swan's own work, and focuses mostly on land records, cemetery inscriptions, and individual family genealogies.

Arrangement Note:

Series I contains Swan's personal material. Series II contains genealogical research, divided into three subseries: general, cemetery inscriptions, and genealogies.

Administrative information:

Provenance: 1995.24, found in collections

Preferred Citation:

Papers of Benjamin Swan (BHC-MSS 0207), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal names

Swan, Benjamin

Corporate names

Fairfield County Historical Society

Subject tracings

Genealogy

Easton, Conn.

Stratfield, Conn.

Baptisms, marriages, and deaths

Fairfield county, Conn.

New England genealogy

Detailed box/folder listing

Box 1

Series I, Personal papers

1. Marriages and baptisms, 1836-1880
2. Books presented to Fairfield County Historical Society, 1897

Series II, Genealogical research

Subseries 1, General

3. Fairfield County probate record abstracts, undated
4. Joseph Booth's account book, genealogical abstracts, and abstracts from colonial records of Connecticut, undated

Subseries 2, Cemetery inscriptions

5. Unidentified cemetery inscriptions, undated
6. Easton cemetery inscriptions, A-B, 1820s-1890s
7. Easton cemetery inscriptions, C-Hubbell, 1820s-1890s
8. Easton cemetery inscriptions, Hull-P, 1820s-1890s
9. Easton cemetery inscriptions, T-W, 1820s-1890s
10. Stratford, abstracts of land records, lots 1-15, undated
11. Stratford, abstracts of land records, lots 16-30, undated
12. Stratford, abstracts of land records, lots 31-48, undated
13. Stratford, abstracts of land records, lots 59-68, undated
14. Stratford, abstracts of land records, lots 71-74, undated
15. Unidentified cemetery transcripts, A-H, undated

Subseries 3, Genealogies

16. Genealogy, various family names, undated
17. Correspondence, various family names 1859-1890
18. Swan genealogy notes, undated

19. Genealogical notes, undated [included in Orcutt's genealogies]

Box 2

1. Early marriages and deaths, Stratford, CT, undated
2. Genealogy, Beardsley family, undated
3. Genealogy, Beardsley family, undated
4. Genealogy, Beardsley family, undated
5. Genealogy, Beardsley family, undated
6. Genealogy, Bennett family, undated
7. Genealogy, Blakeman, Blackman family, undated
8. Genealogy, Burritt family, undated
9. Genealogy, Burroughs family, undated
10. Genealogy, Burton family, undated
11. Genealogy, "C", undated
12. Genealogy, Chapman family, undated
13. Genealogy, Crissey family, undated
14. Genealogy, Curtis family, undated
15. Genealogy, "D", undated
16. Genealogy, Edwards family, undated
17. Genealogy, Fairfield family, undated
18. Genealogy, Gillett, Graham families, undated
19. Genealogy, Hawley family, undated
20. Genealogy, Hill family, undated
21. Genealogy, Hubbell family, undated
22. Genealogy, Jackson family, undated
23. Genealogy, Judson family, undated
24. Genealogy, Knowles family, undated
25. Genealogy, Lake, Lyon families, undated
26. Genealogy, Mallett, Morehouse, Moss families, undated
27. Genealogy, Northrop family, undated
28. Genealogy, Peetee, Porter families, undated
29. Genealogy, Sanford family, undated
30. Genealogy, Wheeler family, undated
31. Genealogy, Worden family, undated