

Sturgis Library Archives

MS. 164

Franklyn D. Berry Deed & Document Collection, 1849-1935

Extent: 1 clamshell box

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of 45 deeds and other legal documents, which were owned by Dr. Franklyn D. Berry of Westport, South Dartmouth, and Harwich, Massachusetts. The documents were collected by Elmer B. Lewis, and a number of the deeds and other documents are for land transaction between him and members of the Wixon family.

Historical and Biographical Information: One of the names frequently listed in the documents is Nehemiah Wixon. Nehemiah was born in 1827 and died in 1905. He was the son of Nehemiah and Charity Chase Wixon, and had two siblings: Sophronia Eldredge Wixon West (married to William Burgess West) and a brother George. He went to sea at age 9, and continued his maritime career until retirement in 1878, serving 24 years as a Master Mariner. In 1855, he built a house for his wife Amy (who died in 1895) on Lower County Road in Dennis. After retirement, Nehemiah ran a grocery store on the property until his death in 1905. Elmer Lewis (whose name appears on some of the documents, and whose collection this was before Franklyn Berry acquired it) bought the property and continued the grocery business until 1939 when he sold the business to Henry Carney, a physician. The grocery store was sold, and moved westerly away from the house. The property was eventually sold to Walter Crafts. He and his wife Lily owned and operated Walt & Lil's Chicken Coop Restaurant there from 1957 to 1982. In 2005, the house was purchased and renovated by Jeanne and Douglas MacArthur. The building that was once the Chicken Coop Restaurant is now the Wooden Shoe (2019).

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Acquisition: Donated in memory of Dr. Franklyn D. Berry by his daughter Christine Berry of South Dartmouth, 2015.

Processed by: Lucy Loomis, December 2019.

Contents:

Folder 1: 1849-1878

1. Deed from Joseph Kelley of Harwich to John S Kelly of Dennis, for land in Dennis, 1849
2. Deed from Barnabus Wixon of Dennis and others to Nehemiah Dixon of Dennis, for land in Dennis and Harwich, 1850.
3. Deed from Warren Snow of Dennis to William West for pine brushland in Dennis, 1855.

4. Deed from Remark Wixon of Dennis to William B. West of Dennis for land and a dwelling house at Crocker's Neck, 1856.
5. Deed from Thomas Chase of Dennis to William B. West of Dennis, for a dwelling house in Dennis, 1856.
6. Deed from Reuben Newcomb of Harwich to Sophronia E. West of Dennis for cleared land and a dwelling house in Dennis, 1860.
7. Deed from Almond (or Almon) G. Hinckley and Freeman Rogers of Dennis to Nehemiah Wixon of Dennis for woodland in Dennis, 1863.
8. Deed from Warren Snow of Dennis to William B. West of Dennis for land in Dennis Port, 1865.
9. Deed from Charity, Nehemiah, and George W. Wixon of Dennis to Sophronia E. West of Dennis for land in Dennis, 1865.
10. Deed from Nehemiah and George Wixon of Dennis to Sophronia E. West of Dennis for pieces of land in Dennis, 1865.
11. Deed from Charity, Nehemiah, and George Wixon of Dennis to Sophronia E. West of Dennis for land and a dwelling house in Dennis, 1865.
12. Deed from Nelson C. Wixon of North Providence to Nehemiah Wixon of Dennis for cleared land in Dennis, 1865.
13. Deed from Charity Wixon, William B. West, Sophronia E. West, Nelson C. Wixon, Caroline E. Wixon, and George W. Wixon of Dennis and Ella Wixon of Providence to Nehemiah Wixon of Dennis for cleared meadowland in Dennis, 1869.
14. Deed from Charles W. Nickerson of Dennis to Nehemiah Wixon of Dennis for cleared land in Dennis, 1871.
15. Deed from Sophronia West of Dennis to Nehemiah Wixon of Dennis for brushland in Dennis, 1877.
16. Deed from Charity Wixon, Sophronia West, and George Wixon of Dennis to Nehemiah Wixon of Dennis for cleared land in Dennis, 1877.
17. Deed from George W. Wixon of Dennis to Nehemiah Wixon of Dennis for cleared land in Dennis, 1878.

Folder 2: 1880-1898

18. Deed from John Kelley of Dennis to Fernandes Kelley of Dennis for land in Dennis Port, 1880.
19. Deed from Fernandes Kelley of Dennis to Sophronia Kelley of Dennis, for land in Dennis Port, 1880.
20. Deed from Abby E Higgins, widow of Samuel Higgins, late of Chatham and A. Clementine Higgins, sole heirs to the estate of said Samuel Higgins, to James E West for land in Dennis, 1881.
21. Deed from the heirs of Isaiah Wixon of Dennis to Nehemiah Wixon for woodland in Dennis, 1882.
22. Deed from Sylvester Baker, Henry H. Fisk, Isaiah B. Hall, Overseers of the Poor for the Town of Dennis, to Nehemiah Wixon of Dennis for brush, woodland, and a homestead in Dennis, 1885.
23. Deed from David Fisk of Dennis to Nehemiah Wixon of Dennis for land in Dennis Port, 1885.

24. Deed from Thomas Ellis of Harwich to Jeremiah Wixon of Dennis for cranberry swamp in Harwich, 1885.
25. Deed from Ella L. Reed of Middleborough to George Wixon, Dennis Port, 1894.
26. Deed from Bass River Savings Bank of Dennis to Nehemiah Wixon of Dennis for cleared land in Dennis, 1895.
27. Deed from Nelson C. Wixon of Providence, RI to Elizabeth D. Lewis of Dennis for cleared land in Dennis, 1898.
28. Deed from Albert Rogers of Dennis to Elmer Lewis of Dennis for land in Bells Neck, Harwich, 1898.

Folder 3: 1903-1935

29. Last will and testament, Nehemiah Wixon of Dennis, 1903.
30. Probate document relating to the last will and testament of Nehemiah Wixon of Dennis, 1906.
31. Probate document relating appointing Elmer B. Lewis as the administrator of the estate of Nehemiah Wixon of Dennis, 1906.
32. Discharge of mortgage, Cape Cod Five Cent Savings Bank, James E. West, 1906.
33. Deed from James E. West of Dennis to Elizabeth D. Lewis of Dennis for cleared land in Dennis, 1906.
34. Probate document relating to the last will and testament of James B. Hopkins of Dennis, 1906.
35. Deed from Elmer B. Lewis of Dennis to Isaac Kelley of Dennis for pastureland in Dennis, 1913.
36. Deed from Thomas B. Howes of Dennis to Elmer B. Lewis of Dennis for land, cranberry bog, and buildings in Harwich at John Daniels Neck, 1913.
37. Deed from Thomas S. Howes in Dennis to Elmer B. Lewis of Dennis for land and cranberry bog in Harwich at John Daniels Neck, 1913.
38. Deed from Alice B. Whidden of Lowell to Elmer B. Lewis of Dennis for land in Dennis Port, 1913.
39. Deed from Thacher Lewis and Elizabeth Lewis of Dennis to Elmer B. Lewis of Dennis for land in Dennis, 1914.
40. Deed from Elmer B. Lewis of Dennis to Elizabeth D. Lewis of Dennis for cleared land in Dennis, 1917.
41. Deed from Susan H. Rogers of Dennis Port to Judah Wilton Berry of Dennis Port for a home in Dennis Port, 1917. Also refers to Adelia C. Linnell.
42. Deed from Elizabeth D. Lewis of Dennis to Elmer B. Lewis of Dennis for land and buildings in Dennis, 1930.
43. Agreement between Baldwin Memorial Service of Quincy and Elmer B. Lewis of Dennis Port to build a headstone for Thacher and Elizabeth Lewis, 1932.
44. Deed from Elmer B. Lewis of Dennis to Charles B. Long of Dennis for woodland near the beach in Dennis Port, 1933.
45. Deed from Charles B. Long of Dennis, Trustee, Log Cabin Trust, to Elmer B. Lewis of Dennis for woodland near the beach in Dennis Port, 1935.