

MARBLEHEAD



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BENJAMIN ABBOT (1795-1872)

PAPERS, 1835-1875

MSS 1

Processed by: Lee Jacoby
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Accession #s: 0000.925
0000.1884.001–0000.1884.090
1934.50
1934.86

Volume: 2 boxes
1.7 linear feet

Provenance: Part of this material was donated by Mrs. William I. Proctor on April 16, 1934. The provenance of the remaining material is unknown.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Benjamin Abbot was born on September 7, 1795, in Marblehead, Massachusetts, the son of Benjamin and Marcia (Martin) Abbot. As a boy he was apprenticed to a master cooper in Salem, Massachusetts, for six years. Following two years in the West Indies, he opened a cooper's shop in Boston. The shop was successful, and Abbot became a wealthy man. He was married to Olivia Welch (1795-1870) for 42 years. Abbott died in Boston on September 29, 1872. In his will he bequeathed \$103,000 to the town of Marblehead, a portion of which funded the construction of a new town hall, named Abbot Hall, which was completed in 1877.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains papers of Benjamin Abbot, a cooper in Boston, Massachusetts, who left a generous bequest to his birthplace, Marblehead, Massachusetts. The collection includes correspondence, legal documents, estate papers, account and receipts, and an account book.

The business correspondence to Benjamin Abbot is largely from woodcutters in New Hampshire and Vermont, who supplied Abbot with high quality barrel staves (or shooks) for the construction of barrels. The personal note is a blessing signed by Abbot. The legal documents include deeds for his shop on Medford Street in Boston, for his house on Charlestown Street in

Boston, and for a gravesite in Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The estate papers include a copy of Abbot's will, probate court documents, cash accounts, and inventories of Abbot's real estate, and other personal properties.

The Henry Kneeland papers pertain to Henry Kneeland's death from drowning in Provincetown harbor in 1867. Abbot was appointed administrator of the estate, and the papers include probate court documents, cash accounts, expenses incurred for the burial, and a draft of an epitaph written by Abbot for the gravestone.

The accounts and receipts pertain to the purchase of staves for barrels, the maintenance of Abbot's gravesite at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, and the preparation of his will. Also recorded are loans to Abbot from Ebenezer Francis. Finally, the collection includes a detailed account book spanning the years 1866 to 1872. In the same book there is an inventory of household items in Abbot's home following his death in 1872.

RELATED COLLECTION

Abbot family bible with record, 1828 (acc. #1935.172).

CONTENTS LIST

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Business correspondence	1856-1858
	2	Business correspondence	1859-1860
	3	Personal note	undated
	4	Legal document	1864
2(OS)	1	Mortgages for land on Medford St., Boston, and house lot on Charlestown St., Boston	1835-1851
1	5	Estate papers	1872-1875, undated
	6	Henry Kneeland papers	1867-1871, undated
	7	Accounts and receipts	1835-1872, undated
	8	Account book	1866-1872