

Bacon Family Collection, 1837-1847
1984.32



Old Sturbridge Village
Research Library

1 Old Sturbridge Village Road
Sturbridge, MA 01566
508-347-0204

Collection Overview

Repository: Old Sturbridge Village Research Library, Sturbridge, MA

Creator: Unknown

Title: Bacon Family Collection

Dates: 1837-1847

Extent: one box, 0.5 linear feet

Abstract: The Bacon Family Collection includes personal and political papers of the Bacon Family. The personal papers include several deeds, mortgage, deposition, and fire insurance policy. The political papers contain a speech from a lyceum debate and papers relating to the 1840 election, the politics of Andrew Jackson, and the Whig party organization.

Location: OSV Vault, August 2018

Language: English

Biographical Sketch

Jonathan Bacon was born in Bedford, Massachusetts on April 15, 1775 (?), [note from editor: census records indicate birth was 1785] the son of Thompson and Martha (Hosmer) Bacon. He married Abigail Clark, July 15, 1806 and they had nine children between 1807 and 1831. Bacon's occupation is listed in different sources as Whitesmith and Yeoman, although most significant to this collection was his position as chairman of the Town of Bedford Whig Committee. Jonathan Bacon's son Frederick is mentioned several times in this collection. He was born July 1811 and was also a whitesmith. Some of Reuben Bacon's Papers are also included in the collection and he is either Jonathan Bacon's uncle born in 1752 or his younger brother born November 25, 1788 and died November 2, 1857 [note from editor: Ancestry reports that Thompson's brother was born in 1757 and died in 1775 at the age of 18, therefore the materials in this collection would have to be Reuben Bacon (1788-1857)].

The papers include many circulars of the Whig Party which was one of the two major political parties involved in the 1840 Presidential election. That election was the first that emphasized the importance of party organization and the campaigning process. The Whigs supported candidate William Henry Harrison and created a colorful campaign around him, both on the national and local level.

Brown, Louise. *Wilderness Town; the story of Bedford, Ma.* Madison: University of Wisconsin, 1968.

Thompson Bacon Esq. Sr. (1760-1833)

Martha Hosmer (1762-1847)

- Reuben Bacon (1784-1785)
- **Jonathan Bacon (1785-1856)**
- John Bacon (1786-1875)
- **Reuben Bacon Esq. Sr. (1788-1857)**
- Nancy Bacon (1793-1876)
- Octa Bacon (1795-1811)
- Thompson Bacon (1797-1838)
- Eliza Bacon (1799-1813)
- Eldridge Bacon (1800-1848)
- Albert Bacon (1802-1894)

Jonathan Bacon (1785-1856)

Abigail Clark (1787-1851)

- Abigail Bacon (1807-1880)
- **Frederick Bacon (1811-1875)**
- Caroline Bacon (1813-)
- Warren Bacon (1822-1868)
- Emma A. Bacon (1835-)
- Jerome Augustus Bacon

Genealogy created and added to finding aid in 2018

Scope and Content

The collection includes personal papers of the Bacon family as well as a large number of political papers. The personal papers include several deeds and a mortgage, a meetinghouse pew deed, a depositions signed by Reuben Bacon J.P., and an insurance deed from Frederick Bacon. The political papers include a speech from a lyceum debate on the politics of President Andrew Jackson and a number of circulars concerning the organization of the Whig Party on Local County and state level. The largest single group of circulars concerns the 1840 election, although the inclusive dates are 1837-1847. The collection gives an idea of the political attitudes and involvement on the local level.

This collection is organized into 12 series:

- Series 1: Land Deed. Three documents, 1835-1837. Two deeds refer to same lot of land in Bedford, MA and the third (undated) refers to a portion of the same lot of land.
- Series 2: Meetinghouse pew deed. One document, 1844. Sale of pew by First Congregational Society of Bedford, MA to Jonathan Bacon.
- Series 3: Insurance Policy. One document, 1836. Fire insurance sold by Reuben Bacon, agent, to Frederick Bacon, Bedford, MA.
- Series 4: Deposition before Justice of Peace Reuben Bacon. One item, 1843. Deposition given by Henry Staples.
- Series 5: Lyceum debate speech. Three items, author and date unknown.
- Series 6: Essay on progress. One item, author and date unknown.
- Series 7: Facsimile of expunged resolution. One item, 1837. Concerns resolution passed in 1834 and expunged in 1837.
- Series 8: Bedford, MA Voters list. One item, no date. Signed by Jonathan Bacon.
- Series 9: Order from Massachusetts House of Representatives to Jonathan Bacon. One item, 1837.
- Series 10: Political Papers concerning Whig Party and election of 1840. Seven items, 1839-1840. Letters and circulars mailed to Jonathan Bacon as chairman of the Whig Committee of Bedford, MA.
- Series 11: Formation of Bedford Republican Association 1840. One item, 1840.
- Series 12: Political Papers dated after 1840. Seven items, 1841-1848. Letters and circulars from Whig Committee, an advertisement written by Jonathan Bacon, and an undated circular.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Use is limited to available Library hours and staff. Copies and scans are done at the discretion of the library staff and condition of materials.

Search Terms

Personal Names

Bacon, Frederick (1811-1875)
Bacon, Jonathan (1785-1856)
Bacon, Reuben (1788-1857)

Genre

Deeds
Policies
Political Circulars

Geographic Names

Bedford, (Mass.)
Boston, (Mass.)

Subjects

1840 Election
Whig Party
Whig State Central Committee

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Item, Collection Title, Collection number (accession number with extensions for box and folder numbers). Old Sturbridge Village Research Library, Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Date Accessed.

History of the Collection

The collection was acquired in 1984 and processed in 1985; series appear to be organized according to type of material. A finding aid was created in 1985 and in 2018 it was converted to a new format and updated. Materials were also rehoused in 2018.

Processing information

Collection originally processed and finding aid created: Eileen O'Brien, February 1985
Finding aid transferred into new format and genealogy added by Amy Hietala, August 2018

Related Collections

Items that identify Bacon family in OSV Research Library, these may or may not be the Bacon family of Bedford, MA-more research needs to be done to confirm relation, if any

1951.34 Hartwell family, includes a Benjamin Bacon
1962.8 Pickering family, includes Bacon's of Charlton

Contents

Box #	Folder #	Accession #	Description
Series 1: Land Deeds			
1	1	1984.32.1.1	Deed from Hannah Reed, Bedford, MA to Frederick Bacon, Bedford, MA for 7/8 acre of land in Bedford, MA ; September 9, 1835
		1984.32.1.2	Deed from Frederick and Jonathan Bacon, Bedford, MA to John A Merriam, Bedford, MA for 7/8 acre land (with Buildings) in Bedford, MA. Land is encumbered by mortgage to trustees of Hopkins Charity Fund and is sold with understanding that Jonathan Bacon can buy it back in one year by paying 6% interest to Meriam. Mortgage is discharged in 1846; January 25, 1837
		1984.32.1.3	Deed from Frederick Bacon, Boston, MA to Jonathan Bacon, Bedford, MA for ½ acre land in Bedford, MA; no date

Series 2: Meetinghouse Pew Deed			
	2	1984.32.2	Deed from First Congregational Society in Bedford, MA (Reuben Bacon, Treasurer) to Jonathan Bacon, Pew-First Congregational Meetinghouse, Bedford, MA; June 23, 1849
Series 3: Insurance Policy			
	2	1984.32.3	Insurance Policy sold by Reuben Bacon, agent of the Middlesex Mutual Fire Insurance Co., to Frederick Bacon, Bedford, MA for protection of his house and shops. Property is encumbered by mortgages to Hannah Reed and Hopkins Charity Fund; October 15, 1836
Series 4: Deposition			
	2	1984.32.4	Deposition given by Henry Staples, Bedford, MA stating that father-in-law Robert Edwards has been evading the payments of his debts by transferring mortgages and debts to Edwards' brother-in-law, Litchfield; August 22, 1843
Series 5: Lyceum Debate Speech			
	3	1984.32.5.1	Jackson debate in lyceum. Addressed question, "Has the public course of Andrew Jackson tended to promote republican principles?" Answers in the negative; Date and author unknown (included among papers of Bacon family)
		1984.32.5.2	Continuation of Jackson debate; date and author unknown
		1984.32.5.3	Continuation of Jackson debate, reply to the principal on the affirmation side of debate; date and author unknown
Series 6: Essay			
	4	1984.32.6	Paper discussing whether "Mankind is happier in the enlightened state of society than in the savage." seems incomplete; date and author unknown (included among the papers of the Bacon family)
Series 7: Expunging Resolution			
	4	1984.32.7	Copy of resolution passed by Senate in 1834 saying that the President in the late Executive proceedings about public revenue had assumed powers not granted by the Constitution, and the consequent resolution of 1837 that expunged the first resolution; lithograph published by Haas Washington

Series 8: Voter List			
	4	1984.32.8	List of 187 voters and their party affiliation in Bedford, MA, signed by Jonathan Bacon; no date
Series 9: Order Letter			
	5	1984.32.9	Letter from L.S. Cushing, Clerk, House of Reps. To Jonathan Bacon and "others" of Bedford, MA ordering Bacon to appear before committee on elections in support of his protest of the election of Amos Hartwell to the House; January 18, 1837
Series 10: Political Papers, Whig Party/Election of 1840			
	5	1984.32.10.1	Printed letter from Joseph T. Buckingham, chairman, Whig Committee of the county of Middlesex, to Jonathan Bacon, printed notification of annual convention for Whigs to select candidates for senators, and of four district conventions to choose representatives to December 1839 National Convention; September 5, 1839
		1984.32.10.2	Printed letter from Whig Committee for county of Middlesex, Concord, MA to Jonathan Bacon, Town Committee of Bedford, MA, printed minutes of Whig committee meeting and notification of sum assessed to town and request to collect it. Handwritten on back is list of men who owe money to committee; March 27, 1840
		1984.32.10.3	Printed circular from Samuel Hoar to Jonathan Bacon, printed notice of meeting of committee of seventy-six who are planning July 4 celebration of Whig Republicans in Concord, MA; June 4, 1840
		1984.32.10.4	Letter from William Schouler, Sec., West Cambridge, Committee of seventy-six, to Jonathan Bacon, Bedford, MA, informs Jonathan Bacon that he has been appointed one of the Vice Presidents of the Great Whig gathering on July 4 in Concord, MA; June 22, 1840
		1984.32.10.5	Printed circular from P. Greely, Sec., Whig State Central Committee, Boston, MA, instructions on organizing and running the 1840 presidential election. Confidential, log cabin picture letterhead; September 10, 1840
		1984.32.10.6	Printed circular from P. Greely, Sec., Whig State Central Committee, Boston, MA to Jonathan Bacon, Bedford, MA, encouraging Whigs to increase Whig

		1984.32.10.7	<p>vote to elect Wm. Henry Harrison, President and John Davis, Governor; October 26, 1840</p> <p>Printed circular from H.P. Fairbanks, Charlestown, MA to Jonathan Bacon, Bedford, MA, Records dissatisfaction of Charlestown Whigs at illegal votes cast in November 1840 election; November 17, 1840</p>
Series 11: Proclamation			
	6	1984.32.11	<p>Proclamation signed by twenty-five citizens of Bedford, MA, including Jonathan Bacon, forming the Bedford Republican Society to support William Henry Harrison and to voice opposition to policies of present (1840) administration; August 28, 1840</p>
Series 12: Political Papers, post 1840			
	6	1984.32.12.1	<p>Printed circular from Whig State Central Committee, Concord, MA to Jonathan Bacon, Bedford, MA, encouraging Whigs to organize to maintain Whig administration of government of Massachusetts; no date</p>
		1984.32.12.2	<p>Printed circular from county committee, West Cambridge, announces convention to be held in Cambridge to nominate candidates for County Commissioners, Registrar of Deeds, and County Treasurer. Mentions a Mr. Parmenter who they claim was elected to office by fraudulent votes; January 28, 1841</p>
		1984.32.12.3	<p>Printed circular from Jonathan Chapman, chairman of Whig State Central Committee to Jonathan Bacon, warning local committees to get organized to elect George N. Briggs, Governor. Suggests tactics for action; October 23, 1843</p>
		1984.32.12.4	<p>Printed circular from Whig State Central Committee, Boston, MA to Jonathan Bacon, Bedford, MA, concerns selling subscriptions to "Massachusetts Whig" to diffuse information and excite politicians; August 1, 1844</p>
		1984.32.12.5	<p>a-Printed circular from State Central Committee of Whigs, Boston, MA to Jonathan Bacon, Chairman Whig Committee of Bedford, MA, announces convention to nominate candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor in Springfield and to choose delegates for National Convention; August 21, 1847</p> <p>b-Envelope that was paired with circular</p>

1984.32.12.6

Confidential circular from R.W. Coffin, Secretary Whig State Central Committee to Jonathan Bacon, Bedford, MA, appeal to Whig party of Commonwealth to organize for upcoming gubernatorial election; October 16, 1845

1984.32.12.7

Advertisement, handwritten, by Jonathan Bacon, seeking somebody who will vote for Zachary Taylor (Whig nominee for President 1848 election) and take charge of circular sent by Whig State Central Committee; no date