

Gowen Family Papers, 1787-1886  
1993.22



**Old Sturbridge Village**  
**Research Library**

1 Old Sturbridge Village Road  
Sturbridge, MA 01566  
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**Collection Overview**

Repository: Old Sturbridge Village Research Library, Sturbridge, MA

Creator: unknown

Title: Gowen Family Papers

Dates: 1787-1886

Extent: 1 box, approximately 0.5 cu. ft.

Abstract: A collection of account and day books, personal receipts, papers and legal documents pertaining to Stephen Gowen, Walter Gowen, and other members of the Gowen family, and documents related to towns of Sanford and Shapleigh, Maine.

Location: Vault, November 2018

Language: English

**Biographical Sketch**

**Stephen Gowen** was born in Kittery, Maine, June 17, 1753 to William Gowen and Judith Witham and came to Sanford about 1770. Between 1799 and 1829 he held several town offices, including those of Constable, Postmaster, Surveyor of Highways, Selectman, and Treasurer. He served in the Revolutionary War from May to July of 1777. He built a dam across the Mousam River in 1815 and operated a gristmill. He added a sawmill along with his sons, James and Walter, three years later. He had thirteen children with his wife Molly (Powers) Gowen: James, Ruth, William, Timothy, Stephen, Polly, Sally, George, Mercy, John, Walter, James, and Jane (first James died as an infant). He married for a second time in 1816, to Mary Robards. He died March 14, 1846, at age 92.

**Walter Gowen** was a son of Stephen, born April 25, 1795 in Sanford, He died July 18, 1887, at age 92, also in Sanford. His occupation is listed as farmer, and he had three children with his first wife, Katherine Hanscom: Mary Robards, Abby Ann, and Walter.

**Ann Marie Gowen** also has letters in this collection. She was born in 1832 in Sanford Maine to Hepsibeth Kingsbury (Linscott) Gowen (1805-1897) and Samuel Shaw Gowen (ca. 1809- ). Hepsibeth's father Joseph and uncle Ebenezer are both part of this collection. Samuel is the son of Timothy who is the son of Stephen and brother of Walter.

### **Scope and Content**

The Gowen Family Papers collection consists of correspondence, legal documents, personal papers, business documents and receipts, account books and day books kept by Stephen and Walter Gowen. Stephen Gowen was at various times the Treasurer and the Surveyor of Highways for the town of Sanford, Maine. These books and papers describe the daily transactions, including monies paid to town, amounts paid for foodstuffs and other goods, debits and credits to accounts. The legal papers refer to agreements regarding the Gowen mills, as well as land deeds and last wills/testaments. Papers such as receipts and notebooks tell of travel, newspaper subscriptions, insurance assessments, purchases, and weather. This collection is organized in series with the accession number identifying the year of accession and order, series number, and item number.

This collection is organized into six series:

1. Town related papers, 1789-1839
2. Correspondence, 1794-1884
3. Legal documents, 1788-1886
4. Receipts, 1789-1879
5. Personal papers, 1798-1847
6. Record Books, 1787-1875

### **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

Gowen, Stephen (1753-1846)

Gowen, Walter (1795-1887)

Gowen, Ann Marie (1832-1853)

Trafton, Joshua, Captain (1749-1834)

### Family Names

Gowen Family  
Linscott Family

### Geographic Names

Maine - Sanford  
Maine – Shapleigh  
Maine – Springvale

### Subjects

Business  
Grist mills  
Saw mills

## **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.

## **Processing information**

### Finding Aids:

Prepared by Judith Haran, April 2017  
Updated by Amy Hietala, November 2018

## **Contents**

All materials are housed in one box.

### Series I: Town Papers

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| Folder 1 | 1993.22.1.1 | Tax collectors booklet, Stephen Gowen; September 30, 1789                    |
|          | 1993.22.1.2 | Receipt for tax payment 1788-89; October 10, 1791                            |
|          | 1993.22.1.3 | List for Surveyor of Highways, Stephen Gowen; 1792                           |
|          | 1993.22.1.4 | Surveyor of Highways warrant; 1796   |
|          | 1993.22.1.5 | List of persons with assets and values; 1800                                 |
|          | 1993.22.1.6 | List highway taxes for Sanford; May 27, 1800                                 |
|          | 1993.22.1.7 | Appointment of Moses Chick as Sealer of Weights and Measures; March 30, 1804 |

Folder 2

- 1993.22.1.8 Tax list; May 1804
- 1993.22.1.9 Bill to Stephen Gowen for Town Weights & Measures from Elijah Allen; August 4, 1804
- 1993.22.1.10 Receipt for weight and measures from Eben Linscott; August 15, 1804
- 1993.22.1.11 Appointment of Dr. Eben Linscott as Sealer of Weights & Measures; January 1, 1806
- 1993.22.1.12 Receipt for weights and measures from Eben Linscott; January 21, 1806
- 1993.22.1.13 List of people and amounts due town of Sanford; April 4, 1806
- 1993.22.1.14 Bond of Ebenezer Linscott, Sheldon Hobbs and Ebenezer Nowell to Town of Sanford; April 3, 1809
  
- 1993.22.1.15 Bond of Ephraim Low, Joseph Shaw, Eleazar Chadbourne to town of Sanford; April 2, 1810
- 1993.22.1.16 Certificate re Ebenezer Low, Sanford; April 9, 1810
- 1993.22.1.17 Certificate re Ephraim Low, Sanford; July 18, 1810
- 1993.22.1.18 Bond of Abner Hill, constable of Sanford; April 1, 1811
- 1993.22.1.19 Certificate re second school district in Sanford; October 3, 1811
- 1993.22.1.20 Certificate to Stephen Gowen re town money; October 3, 1811
- 1993.22.1.21 Bill of costs to recover payments; March 1812
- 1993.22.1.22 Bond of Abner Hill, Eleazar Chadbourne, Ebenezer Linscott to town; April 7, 1812
- 1993.22.1.23 Appointment of Joseph Shaw, Sealer of Weights and Measures; April 29, 1812
- 1993.22.1.24 Certificate of town money; October 3, 1812
- 1993.22.1.25 Appointment of Joseph Shaw, Sealer of Weights and Measures; April 10, 1813
- 1993.22.1.26 Notes to selectmen of Berwick; August 26, 1813
- 1993.22.1.27 List of travel and attendance at jury regarding a road; August 30, 1813
- 1993.22.1.28 Certificate of town money; October 2, 1813
- 1993.22.1.29 Certificate to town treasurer; October 19, 1813
- 1993.22.1.30 Certificate of tax assessed on second school district, Sanford; November 30, 1813
- 1993.22.1.31 Appointment of Joseph Shaw as Sealer of Weights and Measures; April 29, 1814
- 1993.22.1.32 Certificate of town taxes; July 15, 1814
- 1993.22.1.33 Certificate of town money, September 29, 1815

- 1993.22.1.34 Receipt to Stephen Gowen for town treasurer's book, etc.; April 8, 1816
- 1993.22.1.35 Notice of sale of goods by Stephen Gowen, coroner; June 27, 1816
- 1993.22.1.36 Determination of fence viewers re Stephen Gowen and Isaiah Gowen; July 27, 1839

## Series 2: Correspondence

### Folder 3

- 1993.22.2.1 Letter of Daniel Sewall to Stephen Gowen; November 9, 1794
- 1993.22.2.2 Letter of John Gowen to Walter Gowen re James Gowen; March 19, 1832
- 1993.22.2.3 Letter of Samuel & Joseph Linscott; June 18, 1837
- 1993.22.2.4 Letter of Samuel S. Gowen to "Friend Adjutant" re military matters; March 3, 1839
- 1993.22.2.5 Letter from Ann M. Gowen to "mother"; December 2, 1849
- 1993.22.2.6 Letter from Ann. M. Gowen to "Dear Mother", Biddeford; July 17, 1850
- 1993.22.2.7 Letter from Ann M. Gowen to "Dear Mother"; September 29, 1851
- 1993.22.2.8 Letter from Ann M. Gowen to "Dear Mother" and from Hannah and Lucy Gowen to "Dear Aunt"; March 22, 1852
- 1993.22.2.9 Letter from F.A. Gowen to "Dear Uncle Walter", letterhead reads "W.A. Wood & Co. oils and Candles"; October 30, 1881
- 1993.22.2.10 Letter from A.M. Robinson to "Walter Going, Esq"; December 26, 1884
- 1993.22.2.11 Letter from George W. Gowen to Emily Cheney; February 21, no year
- 1993.22.2.12 a. Letter from Ephraim Low to Walter Gowen regarding deed boundaries; no date  
b. hand drawn map showing lands of Jeremiah Shaw, George Chapman, Joseph Shaw, Ephraim Low, James Gowen, from Ephraim Low; no date
- 1993.22.2.13 Letter from Ann. M. Gowen to "Dear Mother"; May 20, no year
- 1993.22.2.14 Letter from Nathaniel Hobbs to "Mr. Gowing"; June 7, year illegible

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|          | 1993.22.3.2  | Land deed, James & Ebenezer Gare to Stephen Gowen; September 4, 1807   |
|          | 1993.22.3.3  | Declaration of oath for Justice of Peace office, Stephen Gowen; May 11, 1820                                     |
|          | 1993.22.3.4  | Writ regarding William Warren of Shapleigh and Elisha Allen of Sanford; February 12, 1821                        |
|          | 1993.22.3.5  | Agreement regarding fence, Ephraim Low, Stephen Gowen; December 11, 1822   |
|          | 1993.22.3.6  | Copy of will of Isaac Hanscom of Lebanon, Maine; March 20, 1829  |
|          | 1993.22.3.7  | Deed of pew in Episcopal Methodist Meeting House; November 9, 1831   |
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|          | 1993.22.3.9  | Land deed from Stephen Gowen to Walter Gowen; November 21, 1834  |
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|          | 1993.22.3.11 | Transfer of debts from Jethro Goodwin to Rowena Allen; February 6, 1838  |
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|          | 1993.22.3.14 | Statement from John Powers re payment from Rowena Allen; October 28, 1840  |
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|          | 1993.22.3.16 | Extract of a deed, Weber to Bachilder, June 17, 1843   |
|          | 1993.22.3.17 | Copy of last will and testament of Stephen Gowen; February 19, 1844  |
|          | 1993.22.3.18 | Copy of a deed from Stephen Gowen to Walter P. Gowen; June 8, 1844   |
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- 1993.22.3.21 Conveyance of rights from Polly to Walter Gowen regarding estate of Stephen Gowen; October 5, 1847
- 1993.22.3.22 Certificate of fence examination; October 1851
- 1993.22.3.23 Indenture/lease involving George Gowen and Abigail Gowen; April 28, 1856
- 1993.22.3.24 Last Will and Testament of Walter Gowen of Sanford, Maine; June 23, 1881
- 1993.22.3.25 Last will and testament of Walter Gowen of Sanford, Maine; December 6, 1883
- 1993.22.3.26 Unsigned will of Walter Gowen, Dover Maine; 1883
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- 1993.22.4.2 Receipt from Joshua Trafton to S. Gowen; April 12, 1790
- 1993.22.4.3 Receipt from Joshua Trafton to Stephen Gowen; January 10, 1791
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- 1993.22.4.10 Agreement for damages of Stephen Gowen's mills; 1803
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- 1993.22.4.12 Receipt for goods from Thomas Frost; December 11, 1805
- 1993.22.4.13 Receipt, William Gowen, Jr. to Stephen Gowen; May 20, 1809
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- 1993.22.4.15 Receipt, Timothy Gowen to Stephen Gowen; May 20, 1809

- 1993.22.4.16 Agreement about grist mill in Sanford, signed Stephen Gowen; March 7, 1818
- 1993.22.4.17 Receipt for duties for Justice of Peace appointment, Stephen Gowen; January 29, 1821
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- 1993.22.4.19 Receipt from John Gowen to Stephen Gowen for mill saw for Gowen's mill; January 16, 1832
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- 1993.22.4.21 Agreement between Stephen, Walter and James Gowen; December 1, 1836
- 1993.22.4.22 Agreement regarding height of dam and damages, opinion of the commissioners; September 1, 1837
- 1993.22.4.23 Assessment, Maine Mutual Fire Insurance Company to Stephen Gowen; May 17, 1838
- 1993.22.4.24 November 12, 1838 Receipt to Hutchinson Sawyer from Stephen Gowen regarding damages
- 1993.22.4.25 Promissory note to Nicholas Paine, signed by T. Shaw and S. Gowen; December 17, 1838
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- 1993.22.4.27 Assessment, Maine Mutual Fire Insurance Company to Stephen Gowen; January 4, 1841
- 1993.22.4.28 Assessment, Maine Mutual Fire Insurance Company to Stephen Gowen; July 1, 1842
- 1993.22.4.29 Receipt to Walter Gowen from Benjamin Beal re First Baptist Church; October 22, 1842
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- 1993.22.4.31 Receipt for Maine Democrat; March 7, 1844
- 1993.22.4.32 Receipt from Isaiah Shackley; May 13, 1845
- 1993.22.4.33 Receipt from John Elbridge to Walter Gowen; October 9, 1845
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- 1993.22.4.35 Receipt re Baptist Meeting House; August 7, 1847
- 1993.22.4.36 Receipt from Ezekiel Turner to Walter Gowen; September 11, 1847
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- 1993.22.4.38 Bill to Walter Gowen for gravestones; 1848
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- 1993.22.4.41 Receipt to Walter Gowen for Zion's Advocate; May  
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- 1993.22.4.57 Receipt for Maine Democrat; June 11, 1862
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- 1993.22.4.61 List of amounts in bank accounts; July 11, 1879
- 1993.22.4.62 Receipt for flour to Walter Gowen; date illegible

Series 5: Personal Papers

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- 1993.22.5.2 Notice of meeting, Baptist Society; April 28, 1804
- 1993.22.5.3 List of ages of Stephen Gowen's children; August  
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- 1993.22.5.4 Certificate that Richard Webster is twenty years old; May 11, 1847
- 1993.22.5.5 List of Gowen children with dates of birth and details of Stephen and Molly birth, no date
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- 1993.22.5.7 Notes on marriage record, Thomas Ham and Louisa Lord and when Ham was numbered in school, no date
- 1993.22.5.8 Quotations from Bible, no date
- 1993.22.5.9 Notes about deaths/suicides, no date
- 1993.22.5.10 "minutes of proportion", no date
- 1993.22.5.11 Costs, framing Meding house, no date
- 1993.22.5.12 Newspaper clipping, Reuben and Rachel found in 1993.22.6.7; no date
- 1993.22.5.13 "Past Sachem's Certificate" issue to Walter W. Gowen, no date
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- 1993.22.6.2 Accounts of parish taxes paid; 1810-1813
- 1993.22.6.3 Record Book, Replacing mill dam; June 28, 1828 and memorandum; 1835

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- 1993.22.6.4 Record book, memorandum; 1837-1842
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- 1993.22.6.6 Record book, daily accounts, Stephen Gowen; 1793-1844

Folder 9

- 1993.22.6.7 Record book, daily accounts, Stephen Gowen Book no. 3; 1815-1833

Folder 10

- 1993.22.6.8 Record book, daily accounts; 1851-1875