

Smith Papers, 1795-1857
1968.31



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: Smith Family
Title: Smith Papers
Dates: 1795-1858
Extent: one box, .25 linear feet
Abstract: Correspondence and business documents related to the Smith family.
Location: Vault, November 2018
Language: English

Biographical Sketch

The following collection concerns the Smith family, in particular Captain Freeman Smith (1796 – 1850). Please see the genealogical sketch included below for more detailed information. Names in bold appear in this collection.

Capt. Freeman Smith (1796 -1850) was born in Palmer, Massachusetts, where he lived all his life, to Robert Smith, Jr. (1769 – 1819) and Hannah (Hoar) Smith (1773 – 1855). The eldest son of nine children, Freeman Smith worked as a farmer like his father, and frequently purchased land for timber. He married Lillis (Dickinson) Smith (1802 – 1879) in 1824 and had at least one child, Harriet “Hattie” Louise (Smith) Phelps (1841 – 1917). After the death of his father in 1819, for who’s property and will he was named executor, Smith’s mother and siblings lived with his family.

Land deeds found in this collection suggest that many of the Smith family purchased land for timber or agricultural pursuits throughout the Massachusetts area. According to the correspondence, Freeman Smith conducted the majority of his business with brother-in-law, and good friend, Erasmus Holbrook (1793-1849), and his younger brother Samuel Thomas Smith (1814 –). His brother-in-law

David Lewis (1794 – 1884) penned one letter. Financial concerns and family news are interwoven throughout the correspondence, all addressed to Freeman Smith. The majority of letters use the title ‘Captain’ Freeman Smith,’ which is most likely a reference to his involvement with a local militia. On one occasion, Holbrook is given the title ‘Gen’. Freeman Smith is buried in Four Corners Cemetery in Palmer, Massachusetts.

Robert Smith, Jr. (1769 – March 15, 1819)

Hannah (Hoar) Smith (June 1, 1773 – August 9, 1855)

m. June 17, 1793 in Palmer, MA

- Betsey (Smith) Holbrook (1793 – October 11, 1883)
m. **Gen. Erasmus Holbrook** (April 25, 1793 – March 5, 1849) on September 12, 1819
- **Freeman Smith** (February 1, 1796 – September 8, 1850)
- Asenath (Smith) Lewis (June 26, 1800 – November 27, 1887)
m. **David Lewis** (December 26, 1794 – February 25, 1884) on November 26, 1829
- Harvey Smith (September 24, 1802 – January 21, 1866)
- **John McWhorter Smith** (March 2, 1804 – February 1, 1873)
- Linus Smith (April 23, 1808 – January 12, 1811)
- Dr. Alvan Smith (May 23, 1811 – August 6, 1882)
- **Samuel Thomas “Tommy” Smith** (January 28, 1814 –)
- Francis Adams Smith (January 12, 1817 – December 14, 1912)

Freeman Smith (February 1, 1796 – September 8, 1850)

Lillis (Dickinson) Smith (April 4, 1802 – 1879)

m. September 5, 1824 in Palmer, MA

- Harriet “Hattie” Louise (Smith) Phelps (August 8, 1841 – September 5, 1917)

Scope and Content

Materials in this collection consist of business receipts, land deeds, court summons, and correspondence pertaining to the Smith family, predominately Freeman Smith.

This collection is organized into 2 series:

Series I: Business Papers, 1795-1857, n.d.

Series II: Correspondence, 1835-1849

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

Holbrook, Erasmus (1793 -1849)
Lewis, David (1794-1884)
Smith Jr., Robert (1769 – 1819)
Smith, Capt. Freeman (1796 – 1850)
Smith, John McWhorter (1804-1873)
Smith, Samuel T. (1814 –)

Geographic Locations

Boston, (Mass.)
Oxford, (Mass.)
Palmer, (Mass.)
Richland, (Michigan)
Sturbridge, (Mass.)
Worcester, (Mass.)

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

This collection was donated to the Old Sturbridge Village Research Library in 1968, and initially processed as ‘miscellaneous papers.’ In 2018, the collection was reprocessed and divided into series. The old accession #'s are listed next to the item in the finding aid.

Processing information

Finding Aid:

Prepared by, Kathryn Angelica, 2018

Contents

Box #	Folder #	Accession #	Description
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Series I: Business Papers, 1795-1857, n.d.

1	1	1968.31.1.1	Land deed, Luke Hitchcock to Robert Smith; May 12, 1795 [old accession #1968.31.1]
	1	1968.31.1.2	Land deed, Asa Ward & William Foster to Robert Smith; November 26, 1814 [old accession #1968.31.2]

- 1 1968.31.1.3 Last will and testament, Robert Smith; September 1, 1819
[old accession #1968.31.3]
- 1 1968.31.1.4 Money Order, Freeman Smith and Erasmus Holbrook; June
13, 1835
[old accession #1968.31.5]
- 1 1968.31.1.5 Land deed, Abram Smith to John W. Smith; December 8,
1835
[old accession #1968.31.4]
- 1 1968.31.1.6 Receipt, Benjamin Sherman to Capt. Freeman Smith;
January 5-18, 1839
[old accession #1968.31.6]
- 1 1968.31.1.7 Receipt, Capt. Freeman Smith to Jon Moses (?) September
27, 1839
[old accession #1968.31.7]
- 1 1968.31.1.8 Receipt, Freeman Smith to Tyler Walker(?); January 5, 1841
[old accession #1968.31.8]
- 1 1968.31.1.9 Note, Samuel T. Smith to Mr. Rundal, concerning delivery of
purchased sheep; January 25, 1842
[old accession #1968.31.9]
- 1 1968.31.1.10 Court Summons, Freeman Smith; February 5, 1842
[old accession #1968.31.10]
- 1 1968.31.1.11 Land deed, Samuel J. Spaulding to Alvin Smith; August 22,
1857
[old accession #1968.31.14]
- 1 1968.31.1.12 Partial letter, addressed to F. Smith; July 5, no year
[old accession #1968.31.11]
- 1 1968.31.1.13 Piece of paper with notes, no date
[old accession #1968.31.12]
- 1 1968.31.1.14 Piece of paper with notes, no date
[old accession #1968.31.13]

Series II: Correspondence, 1835-1849

- Box 1 2 1968.31.2.1a Letter, Erasmus Holbrook to Capt. Freeman Smith; August
31, 1835
[old accession #1968.31.15]
- 2 1968.31.2.1b Envelope, addressed to Capt. Freeman Smith
[old accession #1968.31.15a]
- 2 1968.31.2.2 Letter, E. Holbrook to Capt. Freeman Smith; September 5,
1835
[old accession #1968.31.16]
- 2 1968.31.2.3 Letter, to Capt. Smith; October 13, 1835
[old accession #1968.31.17]
- 2 1968.31.2.4 Letter, Erasmus Holbrook to Brother Smith; March 12, 1836
[old accession #1968.31.18]

- 2 1968.31.2.5 Letter, Hiram Wheelock to Capt. Smith; April 11, 1836
[old accession #1968.31.19]
- 2 1968.31.2.6 Letter, H. Wheelock to Capt. Smith; May 7, 1836
[old accession #1968.31.20]
- 2 1968.31.2.7 Letter, E. Holbrook to Capt. Smith; August 31, 1836
[old accession 1968.31.21]
- 2 1968.31.2.8 Letter, Amos Davis to Freeman Smith; January 30, 1837
[old accession #1968.31.22]
- 2 1968.31.2.9 Letter, H. Wheelock to Capt. Smith; May 12, 1837
[old accession #1968.31.23]
- 2 1968.31.2.10 Letter, J. W. Smith to Truman Smith; July 14, year
indistinguishable
[old accession #1968.31.24]
- 2 1968.31.2.11 Letter, Western Dickinson to Capt. Smith; July 30, 1840
[old accession #1968.31.25]
- 2 1968.31.2.12 Letter, Alamanza Watson to Freeman Smith, October 20,
1840 [old accession #1968.31.26]
- 2 1968.31.2.13 Letter, Alamanza Watson to Freeman Smith; November 11,
1840
[old accession #1968.31.27]
- 2 1968.31.2.14 Letter, Alamanza Watson to Freeman Smith; February 21,
1841
[old accession #1968.31.28]
- 2 1968.31.2.15 Letter, Alamanza Watson to Freeman Smith, October 25,
1841 [old accession #1968.31.29]
- 2 1968.31.2.16 Letter, S. M. Lewis to Brother F. Smith; March 12, 1842
[old accession #1968.31.30]
- 2 1968.31.2.17 Letter, L. H. to Capt. F. Smith; March 26, 1842
[old accession #1968.31.31]
- 2 1968.31.2.18 Letter, E. Holbrook to Capt. Freeman Smith, April 12, 1842
[old accession #1968.31.32]
- 2 1968.31.2.19 Letter, Manlius(?) S. Clarke to Freeman Smith; April 19, 1842
[old accession #1968.31.33]
- 2 1968.31.2.20 Letter, E. Holbrook to Capt. Smith; May 21, 1842
[old accession #1968.31.34]
- 2 1968.31.2.21 Letter, Manlius S. Clarke to Freeman Smith; June 28, 1842
[old accession #1968.31.35]
- 2 1968.31.2.22 Letter, J. W. Smith to Capt. Freeman Smith; August 20, 1842
[old accession #1968.31.36]
- 2 1968.31.2.23 Letter, D. Lewis to Capt. F. Smith; October 31, 1842
[old accession #1968.31.37]
- 2 1968.31.2.24 Letter, Emory Washburn to Freeman Smith; February 20,
1844
[old accession #1968.31.38]

