

Ernest Ludlow Bogart (1870-1958)
Peacham, Vermont, Collection, 1763-1942
MS 12-13

Introduction

This collection consists of source material used by Dr. Ernest Ludlow Bogart while researching and writing the book, *Peacham, the Story of a Vermont Hill Town* (1948), including early town records and collections of earlier notes on Peacham history made by Jennie Chamberlain Watts (Miss Watts) and Jane Elisabeth Cowles (Miss Jeanne Cowles). The collection is contained in two archival flip-top boxes and consumes one linear foot of shelf space.

Biographical Notes

Dr. Ernest Ludlow Bogart (1870-1958) was an American economist who taught at the University of Illinois from 1909-1938 and served as an economic advisor to the state department during World War I. The author of twenty-eight books, he was retained by the Vermont Historical Society in 1942 to write a history of the town of Peacham, Vermont. He completed this book, *Peacham, the Story of a Vermont Hill Town*, in 1948. Dr. Bogart's work on it was principally financed by a bequest of \$10,000 from the estate of Jennie Chamberlain Watts (1869-1941) and built upon research material previously collected by Watts and her cousin Jane Elisabeth Cowles (1841-1916).

Jane Elisabeth Cowles was born, the daughter of Mary and George Cowles, on 3 May 1841 in Ryegate, Vermont. She wrote the pamphlet, *Decoration day, Peacham, Vt., May 30, 1905: exercises at the dedication of markers, Sons of the American Revolution, at the graves of eleven revolutionary soldiers in the cemetery and old grave-yard* in 1906. As a former resident of Peacham, Vermont, she also spent many years gathering material intended to be used to write a broader history of the town. According to Dr. Bogart, her notes came into the possession of her brother, Dr. Edward Cowles, after her death in 1916. Edward Cowles visited Peacham and outlined his sister's planned history to the Peacham Historical Association around that time. However, he insisted that plans (including funding) for writing a town history must be in place before he would share her notes and other papers with the Historical Association.

Jane Cowles' notes eventually passed into the hands of her cousin, Jennie Chamberlain Watts, who was born, the daughter of Sarah Ellin Chamberlain (1838-1870) and Rev. Lyman Sargeant Watts (1832-1872), on 5 August 1869. Jennie C. Watts lived for a number of years in the Vermont communities of Peacham, Ryegate, and Barnet, before eventually moving to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she died on 13 February 1941. Her father, Rev. Lyman S. Watts, was a minister and the principal of Peacham Academy from 1860-1862. In his book, Dr. Bogart speculated that an examination of Jane Cowles' notes may have led Jennie C. Watts to conclude that further wide research would be necessary before writing a comprehensive town history. Jennie C. Watts continued to accumulate research on Peacham's history over the last two decades of her life and made provision for funding the eventual town history in her will.

Scope and Content

This collection contains notes, early town records, and text copied from published sources or original documents, all of which were used by Dr. Ernest Ludlow Bogart for his publication, *Peacham, the story of a Vermont hill town* (1948). Documents include the town charter (as copied from *State papers, New Hampshire; Batchellor; volume XXVI, town charters, vol. III*), proprietor lists and meeting records, deeds, tax records, notes on military service, and other miscellaneous records. There are materials related to local inventors and businessmen, the meeting house, and the Caledonia County Grammar School (Peacham Academy), as well as to centennial celebrations of the town (1897) and the local public library (1910).

There are also compilations of important “notes” from the research of several others whose work preceded Dr. Bogart, including Jennie Chamberlain Watts (“Miss Watts”) and Jane Elisabeth Cowles (“Miss Jeanne Cowles”).

Related Collections

Several editions of the book: *Peacham, the story of a Vermont hill town* and its genealogical continuation, *People of Peacham* / by Jennie Chamberlain Watts and Elsie A. Choate (1965) may be found in the Vermont Historical library collection (974.31 P313b).

Inventory

I. Town of Peacham.

- MS 12:01 Town charter, grantees, 1773-1905 (bulk: 1773-1790), undated
 - 02 _____, proprietors and meetings, 1764-1796
 - 03 _____, _____, 1763-1797
- MS Size C Maps, 1904 and undated
 - Includes: Map of Peacham Vt., made by L. E. Pattridge, Aug 15, 1904, from copies of map in proprietor’s book, in town clerk’s office of Peacham.
 - 04 Grand lists, estate documents, miscellaneous , 1778-1924 (bulk: 1778-1864)
 - 05 Deeds, 1759-1850
 - 06 Documents related to businesses and inventions, 1809-1810, undated
 - Includes: Samuel Bolton and Richard Whittier
- MS Size C _____, Enos Gunn, double boiler for distilling, undated
 - 07 Centennials, Peacham (1897), Peacham Library (1910)
- MS Size C _____, “Peacham’s Centennial” in *St. Johnsbury Caledonian*, 13 August 1897
 - 08 Congregational Church, meeting house, religion, 1795-1897
 - 09 Militia, Revolutionary War soldiers who lived in Peacham, undated
 - 10 Roads, 1806-1839
 - 11 Tax records, 1826, 1828, 1830

II. Education

- MS 13:01 Caledonia County Grammar School (Peacham Academy), 1856-1941
 - 02 _____, board of trustees, board of visitors, 1934

- 03 _____, students and staff, 1826, 1892, 1918-1934
- 04 _____, alumni and miscellaneous, 1905-1942

III. Jane Elisabeth Cowles (1841-1916) (“Miss Jeanne Cowles”)

- 05 Notes, history of Peacham and Waitsfield
- 06 _____, _____, associations, clubs, and missions
- 07 _____, _____, cemeteries
- 08 _____, _____, religion
- 09 _____, _____, roads
- 10 _____, _____, soldiers (Revolutionary War and Civil War)
Includes Barnet and Ryegate

IV. Jennie Chamberlain Watts (1869-1941) (“Miss Watts”)

- 11 Notes, Peacham, history (general)
- 12 _____, _____, soldiers
- 13 Correspondence, Works Progress Administration (WPA), 1936
- 14 Rev. Lyman Watts and family, letters, 1844-1863
- 15 William Chamberlain, *Honorable William Chamberlin of Vermont*
- 16 _____, papers (deeds, bonds, leases), 1789-1823
- MS Size C _____, _____, 1806
- 17 _____, papers (correspondence, accounts, miscellaneous), 1807-1822

V. Miscellaneous

- 18 Deeds, Brown family
- 19 Groton (Vermont), 1792-1803
Includes: Ephram C. Brown (1853-1855), Willard T. Brown (1858), Orrin and Randilla Brown (1858), and E. C. Brown vs. Brown & Weeks (1851)
- 20 Photograph album
Includes Jeremiah Evarts (1781-1831)

Judeen Barwood and Gail Wiese
June 2024
BogartELCollection.docx