

## **Collection Summary**

<b>Title</b>	Brewster Collection
<b>Dates</b>	1847-1952
<b>Extent</b>	2 linear feet
<b>Abstract</b>	Contains correspondence, records, memorabilia, photographs, diaries and artifacts relating to the Brewster family of Leeds, Maine. Most materials relate to Henry M. Brewster (1831-1912) and his various positions in the town of Leeds.
<b>Repository</b>	Leeds, Maine Historical Society

## **Historical Note**

Tracing their lineage back to the Mayflower, the Brewster family lived in Lebanon, Connecticut during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1786, Morgan Brewster (1762-1856), who had served in the Revolutionary War, moved his new wife, Martha Stetson Brewster, to a 100 acre farm lot in Littleborough, Maine. His youngest son Salmon (1802-1887) opened a General Store at Quaker Ridge, and later at Curtis Corner. He was a leader in the town of Leeds, helping to build the Methodist Church on Quaker Ridge and serving as Postmaster. In 1851, Salmon's oldest son Henry (1831-1912) took over his father's store at Curtis Corner, officially purchasing the business in 1863. Henry also rose to prominence in 19<sup>th</sup> century Leeds as Postmaster, Railroad Station Agent, Justice of the Peace, member of the Templars Lodge and numerous other roles. In 1859, he married Angela Bishop, and they had four children. A brief genealogical record of the Brewster family can be found at the back of this finding aid.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The collection contains material primarily relating to Henry Brewster, and includes correspondence, records, diaries and memorabilia, both personal and business-related. There are numerous photographs of family members, several newspaper clippings, and a complete diary from Henry Brewster in addition to some loose diary pages. Of particular interest is an accounting book that was reused as a scrapbook, containing a series of newspaper clippings written by Henry Brewster.

The entire collection spans two manuscript cases, one with 17 folders of documents and the other with three separate boxes containing two books and two artifacts. There is also one oversized folder, which contains two pieces of correspondence and is housed in a third box.

## **Organization and Arrangement**

Organized into five series: I. Correspondence, II. Records, III. Ephemera, IV. Diaries and Scrapbooks, V. Photographs, and VI. Artifacts. Within each series, documents are divided topically into folders, then arranged generally by date.

## **Administrative Information**

The bulk of this collection was donated to the Leeds Historical Society by Steve Crosby in 2003 and 2009. The collection was organized and described in 2009 by Becky Wason through a collaborative project with the Historical Society and Bates College.

## **Collection Inventory**

### **I. Correspondence**

General, 1863-1905 (Box 1, Folder 1)

*Invitation to Carroll Brewster, August 15, 1904*

*Surgeon General's Office to Henry Brewster, October 1, 1868*

[with envelope]

*Flossie to Henry Brewster, October 1, 1875*

[with envelope]

*Alton Achorn to Hattie Brewster, October 13, 1879*

[with envelope and card]

*G. J. Lindsay to Abial D. Bishop, June 19, 1863*

Envelopes and Postcards, 1875, 1884, n.d. (Box 1, Folder 2)

*6 empty envelopes, addressed to Henry Brewster*

*H. H. Stackpole to Henry Brewster, October 27, 1875*

*Martha Deam [or Deane?] Woodman to Hattie Brewster, May 7, 1884*

Oversize, 1852, 1872 (Box 3, Folder 1)

*Charles Bishop to Abial Bishop, February 12, 1852*

*G. H. Weeks to Henry Brewster, November 14, 1872*

[written on map of Boston fire]

### **II. Records**

Family, 1907, ca. 1910 (Box 1, Folder 3)

*Baby book for Ralph Brewster, ca. 1910*

*Photograph of Ralph Brewster as a young man*

[enclosed in the baby book]

*Certificate of Marriage, Carroll H. Brewster and Carrie Frances Rand, 1907*

Financial, 1846-1952, n.d. (Box 1, Folder 4)

*Price list, 1855*

*Saleslip from Brewster Groceries, 1876*

*Saleslip from Brewster Groceries, 1877*

*Saleslip from Brewster Groceries, 1886*

*Receipt of \$31 from Henry Brewster to Bradley Morton, 1864*

*Receipt of \$60 from Henry Brewster to Bradley & Co., 1868*

*Receipt of \$61.23 from Nina Maguire to First National Bank, 1920*

[loan co-signed by C.B. Brewster]

*Coin carrier envelope*

*Wage envelope, N. Brewster from W. S. Libbey Co., 1952*

["largest pay at W.S. Libbey" written on front]

*Wage envelope, N. Brewster from W. S. Libbey Co., 1952*

["my last pay after 29 years at W.S. Libbey" written on front]

*Blank checks, n.d.*

*Accounting sheet, Abiel D. Bishop, 1846-1848*

Town, 1863-1920, n.d. (Box 1, Folder 5)

*Henry Brewster's expenditures as Justice of the Peace, 1863*

*Town Budget, 1873*

*Town Budget, 1884*

*Town Budget, 1885*

*Auctioneer license for Henry Brewster, 1888*

*Voting Results, 1876*

*Voting Results, 1877*

*Voting Results, n.d.*

*Renewal information from Lewiston Journal, 1876*

*Renewal information from Lewiston Journal, 1877*

*Renewal information from Lewiston Journal, 1881*

*Patrons of Husbandry Dimit Card for Nina Maguire, 1920*

### **III. Memorabilia**

General, 1890, 1907, n.d. (Box 1, Folder 6)

*Ribbon, Knights Templar*

*Boston Women's Temperance Union pledge card, 1890*

[signed by Henry Brewster]

*Calling cards, greeting cards*

*"The Drummer" pamphlet, 4 copies*

*Slip of paper with a poem*

*"The Round Table" Knights Templar newsletter, 1927*

Business, 1872-1891, n.d. (Box 1, Folder 7)

*Envelope, London Superior Plaster*

*"Eleven Good Reasons Why," pamphlet on investment, 1891*

*"Look Over Your Old Coin", 1878*

*Nail price list, 1872*  
*US Population and Presidents, 1880 census information*  
*Almanac, 1884*  
*Business cards*  
*Handwritten recipe for painkillers, 1881*  
*"Buckeye Egg Food!" advertisement*

Clippings, 1878-1947, n.d. (Box 1, Folder 8)

*Brief poem, n.d.*

*Brief article on Rangeley Lake, n.d.*

*Obituary for Henry Brewster, 1912*

*"Canada's commemorative stamp..."*, 1947

[describes the introduction of a stamp for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alexander Graham Bell's birth]

*"Two Brewsters at State Fair"*, Lewiston Daily Sun, ca. 1926

[describes Ralph Brewster with Maine's Governor Ralph Oren Brewster at the Maine State Fair, includes a photograph. Article reveals that Ralph's parents were both dead, and that he was living and working on the farm of E. E. Addition]

*"English Election"*, 1878

[describes a parliamentary election in England]

Fair Tickets, 1871-1896, n.d. (Box 1, Folder 9)

*Complimentary passes for Henry Brewster to attend various fairs*

[arranged chronologically, Henry Brewster was often admitted as a member of the press]

Railroad Tickets, 1863-1893, n.d. (Box 1, Folder 10)

*Complimentary passes for Henry Brewster to ride the railroad*

[arranged chronologically, Henry Brewster was a railroad employee]

#### **IV. Diaries and Scrapbooks**

Diary Pages, 1856-1895 (Box 1, Folder 11)

[loose pages from several diaries, likely kept by Henry Brewster. Includes handwritten note from Henry Brewster describing his genealogy]

Scrapbook, 1860-1900 (Box 2, Item 1)

[Clippings of newspaper articles, written by Henry Brewster, pasted into an old store account book]

Diary, 1902 (Box 2, Item 2)

[Henry's Brewster's diary #50]

#### **V. Photographs**

Prints – General (Box 1, Folder 12)

*Lillian Gordm[?], Leeds Ctr, ME*

*Postcard of calling cards*

*Digitical scans of various photographs, all identified, most related to Brewsters*

Prints – Brewster Family (Box 1, Folder 13)

*Maria Brewster*

[Henry's second, unmarried daughter]

*Ralph*

[son of Henry's son Charles]

*Aunt Carrie Brewster with Ralph*

[wife of Henry's son Carroll]

*Ralph Boothby Brewster*

Prints – Hodsdon, Libby and Pettingill Families (Box 1, Folder 14)

*Hattie Brewster Hodsdon*

[Henry's eldest daughter]

*Albion Hodsdon*

[Hattie's husband]

*Henry B. Hodsdon*

[Hattie and Albion's son]

*Stella and Gertrude Libby*

*Fannie Libby Pettingill*

*Russell Pettingill*

[The Libbys and Pettingills were related by marriage to Henry's brother,  
Salmon, Jr.]

Prints – From Scanned Negatives (Box 1, Folder 15)

*Back of house*

*Man with dog on wagon with barrels*

*Two men, two women and a dog on stoop*

*Man driving horse and wagon*

*Woman holding cabbage*

Digital Files – From Scanned Negatives (Box 1, Folder 16)

*CD with tif and jpg files created from the original negatives*

Tintypes (Box 1, Folder 17)

*Ralph Brewster as an infant*

*Ralph Brewster as a young boy*

*Two men, Ralph Brewster is the younger one*

## **VI. Artifacts**

Lead Pencil and Fountain Pen (Box 2, Item 3)

## **Brewster Genealogy**

Adapted from History of the Town of Leeds (Stinchfield, 1901)

**Morgan Brewster** (1762-1856) – married Martha Stetson

William Brewster

Mary Brewster – married Aaron Morse

Lydia Brewster – married David Lane

Oliver Brewster

Martha Brewster – married William Sprague

Morgan Jr.

**Salmon Brewster** (1802-1887) – married Betsey Shaw

Octavia Anne Brewster

Martha Brewster

**Henry Morgan Brewster** (1831-1912) – married Angela Bishop, dtr of Albion Bishop

Hattie Myrtle Brewster – married Albion Hodsdon

Henry B. Hadsdon

Maria Betsey Brewster

Charles Bishop Brewster – married Lizzie Jane Boothby, dtr of Thomas Boothby

Ralph Boothby Brewster

Carrol Henry Brewster – married Carrie Frances Rand

Salmon C. Brewster

Salmon Brewster – married Laverna (second marriage for both)

Jennie M. Brewster

Albion Brewster