



Sherwood Family Papers RG17

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Westport Museum for History & Culture

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Summary Information

Repository:	Westport Museum for History & Culture
Title:	Sherwood Family Papers
ID:	RG17
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/36/resources/1152
Date [inclusive]:	1768-2003, n.d.
Physical Description:	2 linear feet 3 boxes
Physical Location:	Westport Museum for History and Culture Archives Room
Language of the Material:	English.
Abstract:	This collection documents the Sherwood family that settled in the Westport, Connecticut area in the late 18th century. It includes correspondence, records related to the family's shipping business, personal financial records, legal documents, and genealogical and biographical information.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], [Box no]., Sherwood Family Papers, Westport Museum for History and Culture

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Historical Note

The Sherwood family originally settled in Fairfield County from Ipswich, England in 1634. Samuel Sherwood (born around 1660) was the first miller of Southport. The Sherwood family acquired the Mill Pond gristmill in 1790, which serviced local farmers. The mill burned down in 1895. Sherwoods farmed on what is now Sherwood Island in Westport through most of the 1800s. Crops such as onions and potatoes were shipping to New York and oysters were harvested.

From Samuel Sherwood (b. ca 1660) descended Deacon Samuel (1699-1768), Reverend Samuel (1729-1783) and Honorable Samuel (1767-1833). Another son of the first Samuel

Sherwood was Daniel (1708-1784) whose grandson Daniel (1761-1828) built a homestead on what is now Sherwood Island and married Catherine Burr. The children of Daniel and Catherine Sherwood were: Gershom Burr Sherwood (1787-1795); Ebenezer Burr Sherwood (1788-1860); Catherine Sherwood Dimon (1790-1838); Eunice Sherwood Burr (1793-1864); Daniel Sherwood IV (1795-1878); Abigail Sherwood (1799-1799); Abraham Sherwood (1802-1873); Silas Burr Sherwood (1805-1861); Francis Sherwood (1810-1881); Franklin Sherwood (1810-1884); Frederick Sherwood (1810-1888)

Of the sons of Daniel Sherwood (1761-1828), Abraham Sherwood (1802-1873) became a merchant and ran a market boat to New York during the prosperous days of onion farming in Westport. Triplets Francis, Franklin, and Frederick were all sea captains. They looked very similar to each other and all lived in Westport when they were not out to sea. Captain Francis was shipwrecked on the Brig Ashley in 1842 and in 1847 his ship Carolina brought dispatches to New Orleans announcing the surrender of Mexican forces. Captain Franklin was engaged in trading between New York, Havana, New Orleans, and Texas ports from 1835-1839. He later went to China, eastern ports, and European ports. Captain Frederick also traded in southern ports and made six voyages to California by the way of Cape Horn.

Other prominent Sherwood descendants included Henry Burr Sherwood who played a notable role in the 19th century economy of Westport. He owned the Compo Tide Mill and invented a farming implement that was important for the local onion-growing business.

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Scope and Content of Collection

This collection documents the Sherwood family that settled in the Westport area in the late 18th century. A large part of the documentation in this collection relates to the children of Daniel Sherwood (1761-1828) and Catherine Burr Sherwood (1766-1835). These children included seven sons who became prominent businessmen and sea captains. The collection is particularly valuable for the detailed records it contains related to the shipping business of the Sherwood sons, including triplet sea captain brothers Frederick, Francis, and Franklin Sherwood. The collection also contains extensive genealogical documentation related to the various branches of the Sherwood family.

Though fragmentary in nature, this Sherwood family collection includes important biographical documentation about the family and notable records of the shipping business they were involved in. Very detailed records for the ships Satira, Cordelia, and Carolina provide a window into the types of goods exchanged and situations encountered. Correspondence documents the trials and tribulations of the business. Also of note are two Revolutionary Era sermons of Samuel Sherwood dating from 1774 and 1776, very detailed personal financial accounts of various Sherwood family members, and numerous deeds that track the property transactions. The collection includes some early legal documents of the Bennitt/Bennett family, including the 1772 will of William Bennitt, which gives to his wife the "use and improvement"

of two slaves. The Bennetts were related to the Sherwoods by marriage. Early photographs of family members and of a sailing vessel belong to Abraham Sherwood are contained in Series 6, Biographical Documentation, as well as extensive genealogical material.

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Arrangement

The material is arranged in five series: Series 1: Correspondence Series 2: Writings and Notes Series 3: Records of Shipping Business Series 4: Financial Records Series 5: Legal Documents and Deeds Series 6: Biographical Documentation

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Westport Museum for History & Culture

25 Avery Place

Westport, CT 06880

Business Number: (203) 222-1424

archives@westporthistory.org

URL: <https://westporthistory.org/>

Restrictions

Collection open for research.

Publication Rights

For copyright status, please contact the Westport Museum for History and Culture.

Acquisition Information

Primarily donated by Sherwood family descendants.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Westport (Conn.)--History.
- Correspondence.
- Shipping

General

Collection guide written by:

Westport Museum for History and Culture staff

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Collection Inventory

Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
6 letters from Ebenezer Dimon[d] to Capt. Francis Sherwood re. business of the brig Cordelia;, 1836 January - June	Box 1	Folder 1
Scope and Contents		
Ebenezer Dimon[d] was the husband of Catherine Sherwood, daughter of Daniel Sherwood III.		
Letter from C. Millbank to Capt. Sherwood re. delivery of goods in New Orleans, 1836	Box 1	Folder 1
6 letters to Capt. Franklin Sherwood from brother Ebenezer B. Sherwood re. business matters, 1839	Box 1	Folder 2
Letter to Capt. Franklin Sherwood from brother Francis Sherwood re. plans for sailing brig Ashley, 1840 January (?) 19	Box 1	Folder 3
Letter to Capt. Sherwood from Augusta Bigelow, thanking him for saving her life and the lives of other passengers on the brig Ashley, which had been damaged, 1842 June 4	Box 1	Folder 4
Letter to Capt. Franklin Sherwood from T. (F?) Dimon, 1845 September 4	Box 1	Folder 4

Scope and Contents

Dimon was a Sherwood cousin.

Letter of thanks to Capt. F. Sherwood signed by passengers on the brig Carolina, 1846 May 13	Box 1	Folder 5
Original and transcript of letter to Capt. Abraham Sherwood from his brother concerning financial affairs and debts/trouble of Charles, 1846 October 14	Box 1	Folder 6
Letter to Capt. Francis Sherwood on bark Carolina from Franklin Sherwood re. business difficulties, 1847 May 23	Box 1	Folder 6
Letter to Abraham Sherwood from B.R. Wood re. sales of property, with note advising Franklin to pursue education in mechanics and work at Morris Ketchum's factory, 1848	Box 1	Folder 7
Letter to Capt. Franklin Sherwood on brig Ashley from T. Dimon, 1849 July 9	Box 1	Folder 8
Letter to Abraham or Franklin Sherwood from T. Dimon re. problem with ship Carolina, which was being captained by Frederick Sherwood, 1850 June 2	Box 1	Folder 9
Letter to Capt. Franklin Sherwood from John W. Caldwell re. business of bark Carolina, 1850 July	Box 1	Folder 9
Letter to F. Sherwood from E. Andrews with reference to brother E. B. Sherwood and business affairs of Andrews and his mother, 1851 November 13	Box 1	Folder 9
Letter to Capt. Sherwood from Wallace Sherwood re. sale of his share of the bark Carolina, 1857 March 6	Box 1	Folder 10
3 letters of condolence written to Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Sherwood following the death of their daughter Ida at age 12, 1859 June 8, 9	Box 1	Folder 11

Scope and Contents

See also Biographical Documentation for account of death of Ida.

Unidentified letter, 1859	Box 1	Folder 11
Letter, to "Cousin Frannie" (?), Mrs. John H. Elwood, c/o Franklin Sherwood, from Charles Dimon, Shipping & Commission Merchant, 1885 November 23	Box 1	Folder 12
Letter to Josephine Sherwood Dickerman from her son Charles Dickerman re. financial problems with his business and his health issues (kidney stones, possible parasite), 1928 March 14	Box 1	Folder 13

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Writings and Notes

Title/Description	Instances	
Two published sermons by Samuel Sherwood, first minister of Weston, CT, then called Northfield, with note, from Revolutionary War era, 1774, 1776	Box 1	Folder 14
Scope and Contents		
- A Sermon Containing Scriptural Instructions to Civil Rulers and all Freeborn Subjects – delivered on Public Fast Day, August 3, 1774		
- The Church's Flight into the Wilderness – an Address on the Times, January 17, 1776		
Note signed by Henry Sherwood, Justice of the Peace, 1901 September 10	Box 1	Folder 5

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Records of Shipping Business

Brig Satira

Title/Description	Instances	
Port of New York Custom House clearance, 1834 April 12	Box 1	Folder 16
Invoice in account with John Ogden, 1834 April 12	Box 1	Folder 16

Brig Cordelia

Scope and Contents

The Cordelia was built in Haddam, CT in 1835 – Francis Sherwood, Master.

Title/Description	Instances	
Report of Manifest of Cargo - Owners: E. Dimond, E. B. Sherwood, Thom. Robinson , 1835 October	Box 1	Folder 17
Introduction letter for Capt. John Hubbell, Master of brig Cordelia, to Charles S. West, Havana, Cuba from George W. Brinckerhoff, 1835 October 24	Box 1	Folder 17
Two Reports and Manifest of Cargo of brig Cordelia, John Hubbell, Master, delivered to Havana, circa 1835	Box 1	Folder 17
Receipts for Towage and Wharfage in New Orleans, 1836 March	Box 1	Folder 18
Notices of material shipped to Port of Charleston, SC on the brig Cordelia, 1836 June	Box 1	Folder 18
Brig Cordelia passenger list, F. Sherwood, Master, 1830s	Box 1	Folder 19

Brig Carolina / Barque Carolina (renamed after 1847)

Title/Description	Instances	
Receipts, 1844	Box 1	Folder 20
Certificate from Port of Charleston, SC certifying that brig Carolina is not carrying enslaved persons or persons held in service, 1845	Box 1	Folder 21
Receipts and payments, 1845	Box 1	Folder 21
Receipts and payments, including receipt for Hospital moneys, Health Commissioner Office, NY, 1846	Box 1	Folder 22
Certificate from Port of Charleston, SC, 1849	Box 1	Folder 23
Receipts and payments, 1840s	Box 1	Folder 23
Shipping notices, 1850	Box 1	Folder 24
Receipts, 1850	Box 1	Folder 25-26
Shipping notices and receipts, 1851	Box 1	Folder 27
Shipping notices, 1852	Box 2	Folder 1
Receipts, 1852	Box 2	Folder 2-3
Shipping notices and receipts, 1853	Box 2	Folder 4-5
Shipping notices and receipts, 1856-1857, n.d.	Box 2	Folder 6

Miscellaneous

Title/Description	Instances	
Port Regulations, Charleston, SC, 1830s	Box 2	Folder 7
Fragmentary shipping manifesto, no date	Box 2	Folder 8

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Financial Records

Early records with unclear connection to Sherwood family

Title/Description	Instances	
Promissory note from Nehemiah Crouch to Samuel Grumman of Norwalk for 40 shillings, 1785 (?) December 14	Box 2	Folder 9
Sheets of accounts with various Westport individuals, 1783-1791	Box 2	Folder 10

Abraham Sherwood

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Title/Description	Instances	
Booklet of accounts related to distribution of father's estate, 1829	Box 2	Folder 11
Accounts related to estate of D. Wood, 1844-1848	Box 2	Folder 12
Note of payment of \$500 to West Saugatuck School by Abraham and Henry Sherwood, 1846-1858	Box 2	Folder 12
Account of funeral expenses for Abraham Sherwood, 1873	Box 2	Folder 12

Daniel Sherwood (1795-1878)

Title/Description	Instances	
Bound account book, 1821-1877	Box 2	Folder 13
Inventory and accounts related to Daniel Sherwood's estate, 1878	Box 2	Folder 14

Francis Sherwood / F. Sherwood

Title/Description	Instances	
Bills and receipts and Public Notice related to stolen securities of Francis Sherwood from First National Bank of Westport, 1845-1880	Box 2	Folder 15

Franklin Sherwood

Title/Description	Instances	
Business accounts, including with Charter Oak Fire and Marine Insurance Co., 1845-1862	Box 2	Folder 16
Personal financial records, including Town of Westport tax receipts, 1863-1886	Box 2	Folder 17

Mary Sherwood

Title/Description	Instances	
Inventory of her estate; Payments to her heirs from estate of A. M. Wood , 1880	Box 2	Folder 18

Silas Sherwood

Title/Description	Instances	
Account of payments , 1837-1839	Box 2	Folder 9

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Legal Documents and Deeds

Scope and Contents

NB: Deeds of the Bennett/Bennett family received with the Sherwood family papers have been placed in the WHS Deeds collection. Abraham Sherwood was married to Mary Bennett.

Abraham Sherwood

Title/Description	Instances	
15 deeds, 1826-1866	Box 3	Folder 1
Recovered judgment against Osborne Taylor, 1847	Box 3	Folder 1

Daniel Sherwood

Title/Description	Instances	
2 deeds, 1788, 1817	Box 3	Folder 2

Ebenezer Sherwood

Title/Description	Instances	
2 deeds, 1840, 1847	Box 3	Folder 3
Lawsuit settlement: Owners of Brig Emily Ebenezer Sherwood and others to pay owners of Schooner Virginia , 1847	Box 3	Folder 3
Appointment of Franklin Sherwood as attorney, 1835	Box 3	Folder 3

Francis Sherwood

Title/Description	Instances	
2 deeds, 1841, 1853	Box 3	Folder 4

Franklin Sherwood

Title/Description	Instances	
3 deeds, 1846, 1847	Box 3	Folder 5

Henry Sherwood

Title/Description	Instances	
14 deeds, 1825-1862	Box 3	Folder 6

Henry M. Sherwood

Title/Description	Instances	
Deed, 1894	Box 3	Folder 7

Mary B. Sherwood

Title/Description	Instances	
Deed, 1874		

Box 3 Folder 8

Mary C. Sherwood

Title/Description	Instances	
Deed, 1903	Box 3	Folder 8

Samuel Sherwood

Title/Description	Instances	
Copy of State Survey of Turnpike Rd showing property of Samuel bordering the road , 1857 copy of 1806 document	Box 3	Folder 9

Miscellaneous Sherwood family members

Title/Description	Instances	
Charles, Edith, Lois, Martin, 1879-1919	Box 3	Folder 10

Bennitt / Bennett family

Scope and Contents

For Deeds, see WHS Deeds collection

Title/Description	Instances	
William Bennitt: Wills; Will of 1772 gives to his wife Abigail "use and improvement of my Negro man named Jack and the use of my Negro boy Tim... " , 1768, 1772	Box 3	Folder 11
William Bennitt: Bond signed by Joseph Bennitt and others; Deed of Partition Indenture (between heirs) , 1874	Box 3	Folder 12
Deliverance Bennett: Inventory of Personal Property and Real Estate, 1808	Box 3	Folder 13

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Biographical Documentation

Genealogical

Title/Description	Instances	
Charts: Sherwood family from Daniel Sherwood b. 1708; Daniel Sherwood (1761-1828); Abraham Sherwood (1802-1873); Abraham Sherwood (1845-1906); David Sherwood (1745-1817); David Sherwood (1772-1843); Jane Sherwood (1819-1882); John Botsford Coleman b. 1943 – descendant of Abraham Sherwood (1802-1873)	Box 3	Folder 14
Information copied from Sherwood family Bibles and two original pages	Box 3	Folder 15

Notes and letters re. genealogy	Box 3	Folder 16
Original biographical documents		
Title/Description	Instances	
Handwritten note giving account of Great Tide of 1815 with list of birth/date dates for Abraham, Walter, and Abigail Sherwood, circa 1815	Box 3	Folder 17
Notice of death of Samuel Burr Sherwood, 1833	Box 3	Folder 17
Handwritten record of births of children of Daniel and Catherine Sherwood, 1841	Box 3	Folder 18
Account of death of Ida Sherwood, 12 year old daughter of Capt. Franklin Sherwood, 1859	Box 3	Folder 19
Marriage certificate of Abraham Sherwood, Jr. and Ida Josephine Stafford, 1870	Box 3	Folder 20
Delegate ribbon from DAR conference, with note, 1937	Box 3	Folder 21
Biographical sketches and documentation: General		
Title/Description	Instances	
Edward C. Birge article "The Sherwood Family" from Westporter-Herald, 1935	Box 3	Folder 22
Other sketches and notes, including re. Sherwood Island and by Edith Sherwood	Box 3	Folder 23
"The Sherwood triplets"	Box 3	Folder 24
Biographical sketches and documentation: Individuals		
Title/Description	Instances	
Abraham Sherwood (1802-1873)	Box 3	Folder 25
Charles Sherwood	Box 3	Folder 26
Daniel Sherwood (1735-1819)	Box 3	Folder 27
Ebenezer Sherwood	Box 3	Folder 28
Edith Very Sherwood – married Rollin Sherwood	Box 3	Folder 29
Franklin Sherwood (1810-1888)	Box 3	Folder 30
Frederick Sherwood, including "Reminiscences of Captain Frederick Sherwood" by his granddaughter Helen Louise Sherwood	Box 3	Folder 31
Harry B. Sherwood (1872-1965)	Box 3	Folder 32
Henry Burr Sherwood (1829-1906)	Box 3	Folder 32
Mary Augusta (Hyde) Sherwood	Box 3	Folder 32

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Samuel Burr Sherwood (1767-1833) – nephew of Aaron Burr	Box 3	Folder 33
Samuel Sherwood b. 1730	Box 3	Folder 33
Silas Sherwood	Box 3	Folder 34
Re. James Dotten and Jonathan Gillette families	Box 3	Folder 35

Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
12 tintypes: Abraham and Mary Bennett Sherwood, Captain Abraham Sherwood, Mary Bennett Sherwood, Abraham Sherwood, Jr. (5), Frederick Sherwood, David Wood Sherwood, Josephine Sherwood, Charles Dickerman	Box 3	Folder 36
Mary Bennett Sherwood	Box 3	Folder 36
Miscellaneous photos of extended Sherwood-Dotton-Gillette families	Box 3	Folder 37
Photo showing sailing craft of Abraham Sherwood docked across from National Hall, with note from Cynthia D., 1998 and 2003 photo of same area	Box 3	Folder 38

Memorabilia

Title/Description	Instances	
Sketch of St. Joseph's Bay	Box 3	Folder 39
Taxable items list, Westport, CT	Box 3	Folder 39
Circular from Satterlee & Co., Bankers and Stock Brokers, NY	Box 3	Folder 39

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