

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Earle, John Milton, Papers, 1652-1863

LOCATION(S):

Mss. boxes "E"
Octavo vols. "E"
Oversize mss. boxes "E"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

two manuscripts boxes; two octavo volumes; one oversize folder (1 item)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

For information on the Hassanamisco Indians, see Frederick Clifton Pierce, *History of Grafton* (Worcester: Press of Charles Hamilton, 1879), *passim*. For biographical information on Earle, see Pliny Earle, *Ralph Earle and His Descendants* (Worcester: Press of Charles Hamilton, 1888), p. 205-209.

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Gift of Jeanie Lea Southwick, 1908; bond of Samuel Brigham, gift of M. H. Paull, 1936.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

John Milton Earle (1794-1874) was born in Leicester, Mass., and moved to Worcester, Mass., in 1818. From 1827 to 1858, he was proprietor and editor of the Worcester Spy. He was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1844 to 1852, and to the Massachusetts Senate in 1858. From 1859 to 1862, he served as Commissioner to the Indians of Massachusetts.

This collection of John Milton Earle papers, from 1652 to 1863, includes papers and correspondence that Earle generated in his capacity as Commissioner to the Indians of Massachusetts. There are also papers that he inherited from previous Indian commissioners and officials.

See Contents List.

American Antiquarian Society
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT

JOHN MILTON EARLE, PAPERS, 1652-1863
CONTENTS LIST

Box	FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	1	This folder contains material covering the period 1715 to 1859, including many maps, surveys, plots of land, and land deeds of the Hassanamisco Indians of Grafton. Also included are notes and receipts signed by Trustees to allow credit for Indians at certain stores. Other items include several documents of Benjamin Heywood, from 1804 to 1808, concerning land claims. The Earle items are all dated 1859 and include a printed notice of Earle's appointment as commissioner, and a job description, along with a few letters supplying him with historical data.
1	2	This folder contains the bonds, signed in 1727/28, of the original forty proprietors of Grafton, given to the Trustees of the Hassanamisco lands. Along with the purchase of land, the proprietors agreed to build a meeting house and school house, and hire a minister and schoolmaster, for the Indians and their children. All forty bonds are identically worded.
1	3	This folder contains miscellaneous receipts, from 1747 to 1811, of the Hassanamisco Indians at Grafton, including credit for supplies, interest paid them by the Trustees, etc.
1	4	This folder contains depositions, taken from 1752 to 1774, from residents of Providence, R.I., concerning the disputed marriage of a Negro man, Aaron Whipple, and an Indian woman, Sarah Muckamugg. The depositions were apparently taken to settle a land claim in Grafton for Sarah's son, Joseph Aaron.
1	5	This folder covers the period 1773 to 1828 and includes copies of resolves of the Massachusetts House of Representatives authorizing the Hassanamisco Indians to sell certain tracts of land in Grafton.
2	1	This folder contains correspondence, from 1859 to 1860, supplying Earle with historical data on the Punkapog Indians of Canton, Mass., including lists of remaining descendants. Charles Endicott (1822-1899), "guardian" of the Punkapogs, is the major correspondent.
2	2	This folder contains correspondence, 1859 to 1861, concerning the Mashpee Indians on Cape Cod. Most of the letters are addressed to Earle from Charles Marston (fl. 1834-1865), treasurer of the Mashpees from 1834 to 1865, and they supply Earle with historical data in answer to specific inquiries made by him concerning the support of paupers, schools, moral conditions, religious beliefs and practice, land valuation, etc.
2	3	This folder contains correspondence and reports, from 1856 to 1861, concerning the Indians at Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard, Mass., including data on the history of the division of the land, religious services, the need for a sawmill, expenses for schools and burials, social conditions, and biographical information on residents.
2	4	This folder contains papers concerning the Indians of New Bedford, Mass., from 1652 to 1863, including a copy of a 1652 land deed, and

correspondence concerning land claims and historical data.

- 2 5 This folder, covering the years 1859 to 1861, contains correspondence and papers concerning the Indians at Dudley, Mass., Fall River, Mass., and various other Massachusetts towns. Included in the Dudley papers is a list of Indian residents in Dudley and Grafton. Most of the correspondence in this folder concerns specific land claims.

Octavo

VOLUME

- 1 Records of the Trustees of the Indians of Hassanamisco (Grafton) from 1718 to 1857, including the original deed describing the division of Indian lands, accounts of subsequent payments to the Indians, and Trustees expenses. Changes of trustee membership are noted.
- 2 Records of Benjamin Heywood (1746-1816) as Trustee of the Grafton Indians (Hassanamisco) from 1790 to 1813, including the following accounts: money paid to individual Indians for necessities; money received from the sale of Indian lands; trustee expenses; and lists of Indians among whom money on hand was divided.

Also included in this volume are the records of Benjamin Heywood as a Regimental Paymaster (Massachusetts 6th Regiment) from 1777 to 1780, including copies of laws passed by Congress regarding pay for the Army and distribution of clothing to the army, along with accounts of clothing distributed.

Oversize

FOLDER

Survey fragment of Hassanamisco Indians [?] of Grafton, Mass.; undated