

## **Ayer Family Papers, 1773-1874, 1893, 1938, 1945, 1993**

### **Collection Summary**

<b>Reference Code:</b>	MRQ, US.
<b>Repository:</b>	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
<b>Call Number:</b>	MSS 57
<b>Creator:</b>	Ayer family
<b>Title:</b>	Ayer Family Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1773-1874, 1893, 1938, 1945, 1993
<b>Size:</b>	.626 linear feet (2 boxes)
<b>Language(s):</b>	Collection materials are in English.
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection contains legal documents, letters, account books, genealogy, and photographs for the John Ayer (1792-1874) family of Haverhill, Massachusetts. This family is descended from John Ayer (died 1657) of England. It also includes a few items from Samuel Ayer, John Ayer II, and John Ayer III, who are descended from a different branch of the Ayer family.

### **Biographical Sketches**

**John Ayer** was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, on 23 May 1792 to John Ayer (1758-1839) and Rachel Morse (1760-1821). He was a tanner. He married Susanna Emerson (1794-1865) in 1814 and they had five children: Monroe (1817-1898), Loretta (1819- ), Edwin F. (1820- ), Washington (1823- ), Adams (1823-1882), and Day Fayette (1825-1856). He died on 24 May 1874.

**Monroe Ayer** was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, on 16 July 1817 to John Ayer (1792-1874) and Susanna Emerson (1794-1865). In 1838, he married Hannah M. W. Proal (1813-1892) and they had one daughter, Ellen M. Ayer (1840-1915). In 1855, his profession was "colporteur," a peddler, specifically, one who travels about selling and distributing religious tracts and books. In 1870, he worked as a grocer. He died on 16 August 1898.

**Phineas Ayer** was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, on 31 December 1837 to Perley Ayer (1801-1868) and Catherine Kimball (1820-1893). He was a hat manufacturer. He married Angelia S. Webster (1831-1871) in 1853. They had four children: Flora E. (1855-1880); Harlan P. (1859-

1941); Charles F. (1865-1956); and Ella F. (1868-1888). After Angelia's death, he married Elizabeth F. Eaton (1840-1913) in 1872. He died on 1 April 1901 in Portland, Maine.

## Arrangement

Series 1. First Generation, 1773-1852

Series 2. Second Generation, 1841-1874, undated

Series 3. Phineas Ayer (1837-1901) Photograph Album, 1893, undated

Series 4. Other, 1938, 1945, 1993, undated

## Scope and Content Note

This collection contains legal documents, letters, account books, genealogy, and photographs for the John Ayer (1792-1874) family of Haverhill, Massachusetts. It also includes a few items from Samuel Ayer, John Ayer II, and John Ayer III, who are descended from a different branch of the Ayer family. It has been arranged into four series. Series one contains deeds, an account book, a receipt for Mason dues, an agreement, and a signature for the first generation of the family. Series two contains This series contains an account book, letters, diaries, and an Order of Exercises for the second generation of the family. Series three contains photographs of the Phineas Ayer (1837-1901) family and related families that were removed from an album. Series four contains news clippings, transcriptions of Civil War-era letters, and genealogy.

## Administrative Information

<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	[Item Identification], Ayer Family Papers, MSS 57, Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
<b>Custodial History:</b>	Unknown.
<b>Acquisition Information:</b>	The transcribed letters of Edmund B. Ayer were a gift of Richard S. Phillips in 1993. The account book of John Ayer, III dated 1841-1850 and 2 receipts were a gift to the library from Mrs. Andrew Mertinooke. The rest of the material is from an unknown source.
<b>Processing Information:</b>	Processed by Tamara Gaydos, 2021.
<b>Access Rights:</b>	Collection is open for research.
<b>Phys. Access Restrictions:</b>	None.
<b>Tech. Access Restrictions:</b>	None.
<b>Copyright:</b>	Copyright has not been assigned to the Haverhill Public Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Haverhill Public Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or

imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.

- Related Collections:** None.
- Separated Material:** Books and other material were separated from the collection and cataloged separately.
- Conservation Notes:** Photographs were sleeved to protect them. Newspaper clippings were photocopied onto archival quality paper. Paperclips and staples were removed.
- Subjects:** Ayer, Catherine Kimball, 1802-1893  
 Ayer, Charles F., 1865-1956  
 Ayer, Day Fayette, 1825-1856  
 Ayer, Elizabeth Eaton, 1840-1913  
 Ayer, Ella F., 1868-1888  
 Ayer, John, 1758-1839  
 Ayer, John, 1792-1874  
 Ayer Monroe, 1817-1898  
 Ayer, Perley Fay, 1892-1980  
 Ayer, Phineas, 1837-1901  
 Ayer, Susanna Emerson, 1794-1865  
 Ayer, Washington, 1823-  
 Chesley, Etta O., 1878-1881  
 Chesley, Flora E. Ayer, 1855-1880  
 Corliss, Ephraim, 1782-1858  
 Genealogy  
 Haverhill (Mass.)—History  
 Plummer, Alvin P., 1828-1888  
 Plummer, Ellen J. Boucher, 1836-1904  
 Plummer, Samuel Davis, 1857-1917

## Collection Inventory

### Series 1: First Generation, 1773-1852

This series contains deeds, an account book, a receipt for Mason dues, an agreement, and a signature, arranged chronologically. The farming account book for Samuel Ayer was shared with his son, John Ayer, III. They and Sarah Ayer are from a different branch of the Ayer family than the rest of the individuals in this collection.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Samuel Ayer and John Ayer III, account book, 1773-1838	1	1
Samuel Ayer, receipt, 1797	1	2
Jonathan Ayer, Jr., deeds, 1797, 1832; Mason receipt, 1814	1	3

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
John Ayer, deeds, 1803-1843; fence agreement, 1843	1	4
Nathan Ayer, signature, 1805	1	5
Sarah Ayer, receipt, 1811	1	6
Susanna (Emerson) Ayer, deeds and indentures, 1830-1832, 1852	1	7

**Series 2: Second Generation, 1841-1874, undated**

This series contains an account book, letters, diaries, and an Order of Exercises, arranged chronologically. John Ayer II and John Ayer III are from a different branch of the Ayer family than the rest of the individuals in this collection.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
John Ayer II and John Ayer III, account book, 1841-1852	1	8
Day Fayette Ayer, letter to brother, 1844	1	9
Monroe Ayer, letters from wife and daughter, 1848-1856; deeds, 1856-1857; letter from lawyer, 1874	1	10
Monroe Ayer, diaries, 1853-1857 [2 volumes]	1	11
Washington Ayer, letter to Dr. John Crowell, 1877	1	12
Letter regarding Mrs. Ayers from Dr. Alfred Kittredge, 1871	1	13
Adams Ayer, <i>Order of Exercises</i> at Phillips Exeter Academy, undated [1843?]	1	14

**Series 3: Phineas Ayer (1837-1901) Photograph Album, 1893, undated**

This series contains photographs of the Phineas Ayer family and related families that were removed from an album and sleeved, arranged chronologically within family.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Catherine Kimball Ayer (1802-1893), mother of Phineas, photograph, undated	2	1
Phineas Ayer (1837-1901), photographs, undated	2	2
Elizabeth Eaton Ayer (1840-1913), wife of Phineas, photographs, undated	2	3
Flora E. Ayer (Mrs. Monroe Chesley) (1855-1880), daughter of Phineas, photographs, undated	2	4
Etta O. Chesley (1878-1881), daughter of Flora E. Ayer Chesley, photographs, undated	2	5

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Charles F. Ayer (1865-1956), son of Phineas, and wife Harriet Plummer Ayer (1867- ), photographs, undated	2	5
Perley Fay Ayer (1892-1980), daughter of Charles F. Ayer, photographs, 1893	2	7
Alvin and Ellen Plummer, parents of Hattie E. Plummer Ayer, photographs, undated	2	8
Samuel D. Plummer (1857-1917), sheriff of Portland, Maine, photographs, undated	2	9
Ella F. Ayer (1868-1888), daughter of Phineas, photograph, undated	2	10
Lizzie Ayer (Mrs. Thomas Jewell), cousin of Charles Ayer, photograph, undated	2	11
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barker (Helen Ayer), photographs, undated	2	12
Katherine Ayer Martin, photograph, undated	2	13
Unidentified photographs, undated	2	14
Walter Ayer (1835-1916), brother of Phineas, and his wife, Abigail West, photographs, undated	2	15

**Series 4: Other, 1938, 1945, 1993, undated**

This series contains news clippings, transcriptions of Civil War-era letters, and genealogy, arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Emma J. Cote (daughter of Samuel Elliott and Sophia Ayer), news clippings, 1938	1	15
Perley F. Ayer, letter to Perley F. Ayer of Framingham, Mass., 1945	1	16
Edmund B. Ayer, letters home from the Civil War dated 1862-1864 [transcriptions] and background information, 1993	1	17
Genealogy, undated	1	18