

Duston-Dustin Family Collection

1829-2014, undated

Collection Summary

Reference Code:	MRQ, US.
Repository:	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Call Number:	MSS 101
Creator:	Duston-Dustin Family
Title:	Duston-Dustin Family Collection
Dates:	1829-2014, undated
Size:	2.25 linear feet (4 boxes and 2 volumes)
Language(s):	Collection materials are in English.
Abstract:	<i>This collection covers the story of Hannah Duston's captivity, the memorials erected in response to her actions, and Duston descendants.</i>

Biographical Sketch

Hannah Duston was born in December 1657 to Michael and Hannah (Emerson) Duston in Haverhill, Massachusetts. She married Thomas Duston, Jr. in 1677. During King William's War on March 15, 1697, Haverhill was raided by the Abenaki people of Quebec. During the raid, Hannah Duston was in her house with her newborn daughter, Martha, and her nurse, Mary Neff. Thomas Duston, who was working nearby, was able to escape with their other eight children, but Hannah, Martha, and Mary Neff were taken as prisoners. During the journey to their imprisonment, Martha died. Hannah Duston would later recount to Cotton Mather that her captors murdered Martha. Hannah and Mary were taken to a location near Penacook, New Hampshire, where they were joined by Samuel Leonardson, a 14-year-old boy taken prisoner from Worcester, Massachusetts. The three of them managed to escape on April 30, 1697, when Hannah used a hatchet to kill some of the men, women, and children who held them as prisoners. Hannah scalped her victims to be taken as proof of her ordeal, then she, Mary, and Samuel returned to Haverhill.

Several accounts of Hannah Duston's captivity and actions were written in the following two centuries. Many are sensationalized and paint a heroic picture of Hannah Duston, but it must be noted that no official records or verified firsthand accounts of the event are available, nor are there accounts from the perspective of the Abenaki people.

Due to the sensationalized accounts, memorials were erected to commemorate Hannah Duston's story in the latter half of the 1800s. The first one was dedicated in 1874, on the island of Boscawen, New Hampshire. The second one was dedicated in 1879, in the Haverhill Common, which later became G.A.R. Park. Haverhill had previously tried to erect a statue of Hannah Duston in 1852, but due to budget restraints and disagreements over the location of the statue, the project did not come to fruition.

The Duston-Dustin Family Association formed in 1905, under the name Dustin Historical Genealogical Society of Haverhill. Since the creation of the organization, an annual meeting is held at Haverhill. **Hattie Angeline (Dustin) Kilgore** worked with the Duston-Dustin Association to publish *The Story of Hannah Duston* in 1940.

Arrangement

Series 1. Hannah Duston, 1836-2014, undated

1.1 Hannah Duston Captivity, 1836-2008, undated

1.2 Hannah Duston Monuments, 1852-2014, undated

Series 2. Duston Descendants and Duston-Dustin Family Association, 1829-2014, undated

Scope and Content Note

This collection is made up of two series. Series 1 includes papers regarding Hannah Duston, including research notes and information about memorials. Series 2 is about the Duston-Dustin descendants and Family Association.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:	[Item Identification], <i>Duston-Dustin Family Collection</i> , MSS 101, Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Custodial History:	Unknown.
Acquisition Information:	Some items were a gift of Nadine Drown in 1999, including the ambrotypes and scrapbook. Other items are unknown.
Processing Information:	Processed by Elizabeth Smith, 2025.
Access Rights:	Collection is open for research.
Phys. Access Restrictions:	None.
Tech. Access Restrictions:	None.
Copyright:	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:	Published material was separated from the collection and cataloged separately.
Conservation Notes:	Ambrotypes were placed in a separate box and wrapped in archival tissue paper. Paper clips and staples were removed.
Subjects:	Duston, Hannah Emerson, 1657- Neff, Mary Leonardson, Samuel Jenkins, Hattie D. Hunt Fletcher, E. C. Kilgore, Hattie Angeline (Dustin) Dustin Monument Association Duston-Dustin Family Association Indian Captivities – North America United States – History – King William’s War, 1689-1697 Genealogy

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Hannah Duston, 1836-2014, undated

This series contains information about Hannah Duston’s captivity in 1697 and the Hannah Duston monuments that were erected in the 1800s.

Subseries 1.1: Hannah Duston Captivity, 1836-2008, undated

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Research notes, undated	1	1
Hannah Duston captivity, compiled accounts, undated	1	2
Samuel Leonardson papers	1	3
“1727: Hannah Duston,” undated	1	4
Hannah Duston clippings, 1836-1950	2	1
Hannah Duston clippings, 1954-1999	2	2
Hannah Duston clippings, 2000-2008, undated	2	3
Accession information	3	1
Photographs and postcards, undated	3	2

Subseries 1.2: Hannah Duston Monuments, 1852-2014, undated

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Dustin Monument Association, 1852-1960, undated	1	5
Relics, clippings, 1886-1911, undated	1	6
Hannah Duston monuments, scrapbooks, undated	1	7

Container	Folder	
<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>
Hannah Duston monuments, places, and souvenirs; clippings, 1852-2014	2	6
Duston House, clippings, 1886-2005, undated	3	3
Duston Monument, clippings, 1856-1905, undated	3	4

Series 2: Duston Descendants and Duston-Dustin Family Association, 1829-2006, undated

This series contains papers regarding the descendants of Hannah Duston and the Duston-Dustin Family Association.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>
Wills, undated	1	8
New Hampshire petition, 1980	1	9
Hattie D. Hunt Jenkins papers, 1851-1899, undated	1	10
Duston Family Reunions, clippings, 1906-2001	1	11
Duston Family Association, clippings, 1923-1977, undated	1	12
E. C. Fletcher, correspondence, 1851-1883, undated	1	13
E. C. Fletcher, compiled notes and letters, 1896	1	14
Duston-Dustin Family Association, clippings, 1857-2006	2	4
Duston Descendants, clippings, 1829-2006	2	5
"Duston Family Notes" by Mrs. E. C. Fletcher, undated	3	5
"Dustin Record" by Hattie Angeline (Dustin) Kilgore, undated	4	Item
Duston Descendants, scrapbook, undated	5	Item
Descendants, ambrotypes, undated	6	Items