

Rollins Family Collection
Wellesley Historical Society

Repository Identifier

mawelhs

Local Identifier

R.6

Name and Location of Repository

The Wellesley Historical Society
229 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA 02481
(781) 235-6690
www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org

Title

Rollins Family Collection, 1788 – 1868, 1957, & 1980

Date

1788 – 1868, 1957, & 1980

Extent

.5 linear feet, 1 box

Name of Creator

Rollins Family
Wellesley Historical Society

Biographical Note

The Rollins family can be traced back to Strafford County, New Hampshire, from the late eighteenth century. John A. Rollins (1791-1882) and Mary Ann Leighton (Copp) Rollins (1810-1847), of New Hampshire, were the parents of Hiram Rollins (1827-1868).

Hiram was married to Mary Caroline “Carrie” Bigelow (1831-1906) on December 13, 1853 in Chelsea, Massachusetts; after their marriage and the birth of their first child they settled in West Needham (later incorporated as Wellesley in 1881). Hiram served in the U.S. Military. Maj. Hiram and Mary were the parents of Harry Leighton Rollins, Sr.; Hiram died in 1868, and Mary in 1906.

Harry Leighton Rollins (1861-1933) was born in Chelsea, and moved with his parents to Wellesley soon after his birth. He married Margaret Wilson Anderson (1867-1951), a graduate of Dana Hall School, on December 6, 1898 at Wellesley Congregational Church. They resided at “The Homestead,” located at 646 Washington Street, Wellesley. Harry Sr. was a lawyer, practicing in Wellesley and Boston; he was a member of the American Ornithologists’ Union and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. He drowned in the Charles River on March 27, 1933. Harry and Margaret were the parents of Leighton Rollins (Harry Leighton Rollins, Jr.).

Rollins Family Collection Wellesley Historical Society

Leighton Rollins was born on August 6, 1900 in Wellesley, Massachusetts. He was educated in private schools, and attended Brown University, where he was involved in theater. He was active in theater production, but also was a noted lecturer on theater and theater history. He founded the Surry Playhouse in Bar Harbor, Maine, where he served as president and managing director. He eventually settled in California, where he died on June 29, 1981 in San Francisco.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains materials belonging to or related to members of the Rollins family. One half of the collections pertains to Mary Leighton Rollins, Leighton Rollins, Harry Leighton Rollins, and Margaret Rollins. The second half of the collection contains materials related to the life and work of Hiram Rollins.

Index Terms

Dana Hall School
Rollins, Harry Leighton, 1861-1933
Rollins, Hiram, 1827-1868
Rollins, Leighton, 1900-1981
Rollins, Margaret Wilson (Anderson), 1867-1951
Rollins, Mary Caroline (Bigelow), 1831-1906
Surry Playhouse
Wellesley (Mass.)
Wellesley College
Wellesley Congregational Church (Wellesley, Mass.)

System of Arrangement

This collection is organized into two series arranged by subject:

- I. Rollins Family Materials; 1788 – 1934, 1957, 1980, & undated
- II. Hiram Rollins Materials; 1788 – 1868, & undated

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research purposes by appointment only. Please contact the Wellesley Historical Society for more information.

info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org
(781) 235-6690

Physical Access

Some of the materials are fragile.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply.

Languages and Scripts of the Material

English

Immediate Source of Acquisition

R.6

Rollins Family Collection
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Accruals

The Historical Society may add materials to the Papers in the future; however, no further accruals are currently expected.

Related Materials

Wellesley Historical Society, Photograph Collection – People: Rollins

Description

Processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the Wellesley Community Preservation Committee.

DACS Finding Aid created by Taylor C. Kalloch & Alden Ludlow in June 2018.

Bibliography

- "Maine Births and Christenings, 1739-1900," database, FamilySearch
(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F4HK-D68> : 10 February 2018), Hiram Rollins, 03 Oct 1827; citing PITTSTON,KENNEBEC,MAINE; FHL microfilm 1,033,823.
- "Massachusetts Births and Christenings, 1639-1915," database, FamilySearch
(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FHGX-389> : 9 February 2018), Harry Leighton Jr. Rollins, 06 Aug 1900; citing Wellesley, Norfolk, Massachusetts, item 2 p 36; FHL microfilm 1,927,673.
- "Massachusetts Deaths, 1841-1915," database with images, FamilySearch
(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N7VM-RJT> : 10 March 2018), Hiram Rollins, 19 Aug 1868; citing Needham, Massachusetts, v 212 p 265, State Archives, Boston; FHL microfilm 960,192.
- "Massachusetts Marriages, 1841-1915," database with images, FamilySearch
(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N4QW-V96> : 24 May 2018), Harry Leighton Rollins and Margaret Wilson Anderson, 6 Dec 1898; citing Wellesley, Wellesley, Norfolk, Massachusetts, United States, State Archives, Boston; FHL microfilm 1,843,708.
- "United States Social Security Death Index," database, FamilySearch
(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JB57-435> : 20 May 2014), Leighton Rollins, Jun 1981; citing U.S. Social Security Administration, Death Master File, database (Alexandria, Virginia: National Technical Information Service, ongoing).

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Container List

I. Rollins Family Materials; 1788 – 1934, 1957, 1980, & undated

This series contains materials belonging to or related to members of the Rollins family. Individuals include, Mary Leighton Rollins, Leighton Rollins, Harry Leighton Rollins, and Margaret Rollins. Of particular interest is Mrs. Harry Leighton Rollins' (Margaret Rollins) manuscript regarding life in Wellesley in the 20th century.

Box 1

- Folder 1: Correspondence; 1893, 1895, 1898, 1920, 1959, & undated
- Folder 2: Deeds; 1788, 1793, 1794, 1806, 1816, 1826, & 1897
- Folder 3: Framed Silhouette of Mary Leighton Rollins; undated
- Folder 4: Leighton Rollins Materials; 1935, 1980, & undated
- Folder 5: Mrs. Harry Leighton Rollins (Margaret), Life in Wellesley; 1980
- Folder 6: Certificate of Thanks to Harry Leighton and Mrs. Rollins for Land Donation; 1920

II. Hiram Rollins Materials; 1788 – 1868, & undated

This series contains materials related to the life and work of Hiram Rollins.

Box 1

- Folder 7: Hiram Rollins' Papers; 1788, 1798, 1816 – 1818, 1826, 1833, 1840, 1848, 1861, & 1868
- Folder 8: Hiram Rollins' Schooner Mary Papers; 1795, 1798, 1799, & 1822
- Folder 9: Hiram Rollins' Commission of Lieutenant Colonel; 1866
- Folder 10: Hiram Rollins' Membership in Stratford Agricultural Society; 1819
- Folder 11: Photograph of Captain Hiram Rollins' Logbook; undated
- Folder 12: Poem about Major Hiram Rollins; undated
- Folder 13: Ship Log Page; 1791