

Collection of Fiske Family Materials  
Wellesley Historical Society

**Repository Identifier**

mawelhs

**Local Identifier**

2017.04

**Name and Location of Repository**

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

**Title**

Collection of Fiske Family Materials, 1820s – 1970s

**Date**

1820s – 1970s

**Extent**

2.5 linear feet, 5 boxes

**Name of Creator**

Wellesley Historical Society

**Biographical Note**

Joseph Emery Fiske was influential in arguing for the separation of Wellesley from the town of Needham in 1881. Born in Needham, MA on October 23, 1839 to parents Emery and Eunice Morse Fiske, Joseph E. Fiske attended Harvard graduating in 1861. During the Civil War he served as a sergeant in the Massachusetts 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment and as a captain in the Massachusetts 2<sup>nd</sup> Heavy Artillery Regiment. He was active in the town government both before and after Wellesley separated from Needham. He also served as a state senator from 1874-1876. On June 1, 1860 Joseph E. Fiske married Ellen Maria Ware with whom he had a daughter Ellen Ware Fiske, born on January 14, 1871. Ellen Maria (Ware) Fiske died in 1871 shortly after giving birth. After the death of his first wife, Joseph E. Fiske married Abby Hastings, who gave birth to a daughter Isabella Howe Fiske on April 29, 1874. Joseph Emery Fiske died in Wellesley on February 22, 1909.

Ellen Ware Fiske attended Wellesley College, graduating in 1892. She continued to live in Wellesley residing in the Fiske family home at 126 Woodlawn Avenue. An avid local historian, she helped found the Wellesley Historical Society and served as its first secretary. She also edited and published her father's history of Wellesley, *History of the Town of Wellesley Massachusetts*. Ellen Ware Fiske died on June 28, 1953.

# Collection of Fiske Family Materials

## Wellesley Historical Society

### Scope and Content Note

This collection contains materials belonging to or related to members of the Fiske Family. The majority of the materials relate to the lives and work of Joseph Emery Fiske and Ellen Ware Fiske. Of note are the materials pertaining to Joseph E. Fiske's service in the army during the Civil War, Ellen Ware Fiske's descriptions of life in Wellesley as a girl and local history research. The collection also contains materials pertaining to the separation of Wellesley from the Town of Needham in 1881.

Other materials include, real estate documents, correspondence, printed materials related to Wellesley and other local history topics.

### Index Terms

Clippings

Correspondence

Diaries

Fiske, Joseph Emery, 1939 – 1909

Massachusetts — Wellesley

Real Estate

United States — Army — Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, 43<sup>rd</sup>

United States — Army — Massachusetts — Heavy Artillery Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup>

United States — History — Civil War, 1861 – 1865 — Personal narratives

United States — History — Civil War, 1861 – 1865 — Regiments

Wellesley (Mass.) — Biography

Wellesley (Mass.) — History

Wellesley (Mass.) — Politics and government

Wellesley College

Wellesley High School

Women

### System of Arrangement

This collection is organized into seven series arranged by subject:

- I. Joseph Fiske; 1860s – 1909, 1958, undated
- II. Moses Fiske; 1851 & 1896
- III. Ellen Fiske; 1860s – 1953
- IV. Fiske Family; 1820s – 1970s, undated
- V. Ellen Fiske's Historical Research; bulk undated
- VI. Fiske Family Collection of Reading Materials; 1814 – 1860s, 1960s
- VII. Wellesley Materials; 1868 – 1945, undated

### Conditions Governing Access

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

[info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org)

(781) 235-6690

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**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**

F.1

F.8

F.23

P.8

W.17

1983.50

1983.51

**Accruals**

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

**Description**

Processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the Wellesley Community Preservation Committee and the Mass State Historical Records Advisory Board Preservation Grant for Veterans Collections.

DACS Finding Aid created by Taylor C. Kalloch in June 2017.

**Bibliography**

Fiske, Joseph E. *History of the Town of Wellesley Massachusetts*, Edited by Ellen Ware Fiske. Boston, MA: Pilgrim Press, 1917.

Town of Wellesley. Single Building Historic District Study Committee. *Final Report Sylvia Plath House and Fiske House Single Building Historic Districts Study*. Wellesley: Town of Wellesley, 2014.

[http://www.wellesleyma.gov/pages/wellesleyma\\_histdist/reports/2014SBHD.pdf](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/pages/wellesleyma_histdist/reports/2014SBHD.pdf)

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**Container List**

***I.* Joseph Fiske; 1860s – 1909, 1958, undated**

This series contains materials belonging to Joseph E. Fiske. The bulk of the series is related to his military service during the Civil War. Of note are portions of his war-time correspondence and written memories of his time in the army.

**Box 1**

- Folder 1: 2<sup>nd</sup> Mass Heavy Artillery Record; bulk 1863
- Folder 2: 43<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Co. C. Record; bulk 1863
- Folder 3: Army Papers; bulk 1865
- Folder 4: Biographical Information; 1880 – 1909, 1958
- Folder 5: Civil War Memories; undated
- Folder 6: Correspondence; bulk 1860s

**Archives Oversize Box 5**

- Folder 7: Joseph Emery Fiske, Harvard Diploma, Bachelor of Arts, 1861
- Folder 6: 2<sup>nd</sup> Mass Heavy Artillery Record; bulk 1863

***II.* Moses Fiske; 1851 & 1896**

This series contains documents belonging to Moses Fiske including a copy of his will.

**Box 1**

- Folder 7: Bullard's Regiment Documentation; 1896
- Folder 8: Will & Probate, Moses Fiske; 1815

***III.* Ellen Fiske; 1860s – 1953**

This series contains materials belonging to Ellen Ware Fiske. Includes her 1881 journal describing life as a ten-year-old girl living in Wellesley, materials from Wellesley College, as well as copies of her obituary and memorial service materials.

**Box 1**

- Folder 9: Birth Certificate; 1871 & 1918
- Folder 10: Diary, Fiske Sisters; 1886
- Folder 11: Diary; 1881
- Folder 12: "History of the Class of 1890, Wellesley High School", By Ellen Ware Fiske; undated
- Folder 13: "Journal of a Young Lady Living in Wellesley Hills, 1881 at the Age of Ten", Typed; 1881
- Folder 14: Obituary & Memorial Service Materials; 1953
- Folder 15: Wellesley College Materials; 1892, 1936, & undated

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**IV. Fiske Family; 1820s – 1970s, undated**

This series contains materials belonging to various Fiske family members. Includes an autograph book, account book, correspondence, and photographs, real estate information, as well as information about the Fiske family homestead, 126 Woodlawn Ave.

**Box 2**

- Folder 1: Account Book; undated
- Folder 2: Autograph Book; undated
- Folder 3: Correspondence; 1820 – 1840, & undated
- Folder 4: Emory Fiske Materials; 1828 & 1835
- Folder 5: Fiske Family Biographical Information; bulk 1940 – 1970s
- Folder 6: Fiske Homestead Information; 1978
- Folder 7: Photographs; bulk undated
- Folder 8: Walter Conant Materials; 1940 – 1960
- Folder 9: “Will O’ The World A Shakespearean Tercentenary Masque” by Isabella Fiske Conant; 1916

**Archives Oversize Box 5**

- Folder 1: Will and Probate of Thomas Hall, Signed by \_\_\_\_\_ Fiske
- Folder 4: Deeds & Real Estate Information, #1
- Folder 3: Deeds & Real Estate Information, #2
- Folder 2: Deeds & Real Estate Information, #3

**V. Ellen Fiske’s Historical Research; bulk undated**

This series contains historical research and writing compiled by Ellen Fiske related to Wellesley and other local history topics.

**Box 2**

- Folder 10: Historical Research & Writing, #1; bulk undated
- Folder 11: Historical Research & Writing, #2; bulk undated
- Folder 12: Historical Research & Writing, #3; bulk undated
- Folder 13: Historical Research & Writing, #4; bulk undated
- Folder 14: Historical Research & Writing, #5; bulk undated

**Box 3**

- Folder 1: Historical Research & Writing, #6; bulk undated
- Folder 2: Historical Research & Writing, #7; bulk undated
- Folder 3: Published Local History Materials; 1930 – 1950
- Folder 4: Semi-Centennial of 1931

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**VI. Fiske Family Collection of Reading Materials; 1814 – 1860s, 1960s**

This series contains published materials on a variety of subjects belonging to the Fiske Family.

**Box 4**

- Folder 1: “The Book of Common Pray and Administration of the Sacraments; and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church According to the Use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America: together with the Psalter or Psalms of David”; 1868
- Folder 2: “The Drinking Usages of Society; Being the Substance of a lecture, delivered by request in the Masonic Hall, Pittsburgh on Saturday Evening April 3, 1852 By A. Potter, D.D. Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania”; 1852
- Folder 3: Lutheran Almanac; 1962 & 1963
- Folder 4: “The Rational Sports in Dialogues Passing Among the Children of a Family Designed as a Hint to Mothers: How they may inform the minds of their little people respecting the objects which they are surrounded”; 1814

**VII. Wellesley Materials; 1868 – 1945, undated**

This series contains materials related to the Town of Wellesley both before and after it separated from Needham and was incorporated in 1881. Included are materials addressing the argument for the separation from Needham, a copy of the petition to separate, the Grantville Library Association Account Books, Congregational Church Materials, and Government Publications.

**Box 4**

- Folder 5: “A Significant 1945 Message Calling Attention to Pioneering Achievements of Patriots of Massachusetts Whose Legacy is Our Inspiration”; 1945
- Folder 6: American Legion Materials; bulk undated
- Folder 7: “Argument of Hon. Charles R. Train in Behalf of The Remonstrants to the Granting of the Petition for the Division of the Town of Needham, Before the Committee on Towns, at the State House, Thursday, February 3, 1881”
- Folder 8: Boston Area Event Programs; 1868
- Folder 9: Grantville Library Association Treasurer’s Accounts, Bound; 1878 – 1883
- Folder 10: Manual of the First Congregational Church of Wellesley Hills; 1911
- Folder 11: Needham Town Reports; 1864
- Folder 12: Pamphlets on the History of Dedham; 1892

**Box 5**

- Folder 1: Petition to Divide Needham; 1852

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- Folder 2: Report of Committee on New Form of Government for the Town of Wellesley, Mass.; 1915
- Folder 3: Rock Ridge Hall Boy's School Materials; 1913
- Folder 4: Unitarian Society, Wellesley Hills; 1864, 1918, & 1919
- Folder 5: War Memorial, Names of Soldiers; 1676 – 1865
- Folder 6: Wellesley Town Clerk's Record; 1883
- Folder 7: Woman's Association of the First Congregational Church of Wellesley Hills, Yearbook; 1951 – 1952

**Archives Oversize Box 5**

- Folder 5: Boston Area Maps