

**West-Quimby
Papers, 1851-1922
MSA 245**

Introduction

This small collection of papers is mainly concerned with the settling of the estate of Joseph M. Quimby, of Hartford, Vermont, in 1921 and 1922. George West, of White River Junction, Vermont, was the executor. The collection was purchased at auction in 1998 by Linda M. Welch and given to the Vermont Historical Society in 1998 (ms. acc. no. 98.9). The collection is housed in one narrow archival box and fills .25 linear feet of shelf space.

Biographical Notes

Joseph M. Quimby of Hartford, Vermont, was married four times. Mary Ann (Lane) Quimby died October 23, 1872; Alma (Elkins) Quimby died May 16, 1878; Emily (Pulsifer) Quimby died February 9, 1889; and his surviving wife was Ella E.(Stone) Quimby. Ella had formerly been married to Charles H. West (died September 23, 1886), and the executor of Joseph's estate was George, the son of Ella and Charles H. West. George West was a lawyer and manager of the Vermont Baking Company of White River Junction. The will left the estate to George West and to the nieces and nephews of Emily Pulsifer Quimby. These children were Emma R. Antill and Avis Antill of Dexter, Maine, and Leonard Carver Pulsifer.

Scope and Content

The bulk of the collection consists of documents relating to the settlement of Joseph M. Quimby's estate in 1921 and 1922 by George West, the executor. There are a few letters going back to the 1850s, an assortment of deeds of the 1880s and 1890s, and papers related to Quimby family matters during the 1900-1920 period.

One part of George West's duties was to help Ella Quimby establish her right to a pension, due to her marriage to Joseph M. Quimby, a member of Company A, 15th Vermont, in the Civil War. This involved help from her Federal Representative, and testaments by neighbors.

Among the other documents from the settlement of the estate are a large collection of the receipts for outstanding debts owed by Joseph at the time of his death, collected by West in his role as executor; correspondence from the Pulsifer relatives establishing their legal rights to part of the estate; an accounting of the estate expenses by West and the various divisions of the estate. The collection also includes Joseph Quimby's will and codicil; correspondence with Frederick Southgate of the Woodstock, Vermont, probate court; and correspondence from Fred Quimby on how the estate should most fairly be settled.

There is a variety of papers relating to Quimby's life in the 1891-1919 period, such as money borrowed from the bank, taxes paid, phone bills, eye glass prescriptions, and a fire insurance policy.

The collection includes documents related to real estate transactions including a warranty deed (Pitkin to West, 1877), an administrator's deed (Stone to West, 1888), five mortgage deeds (West to Pitkin, 1877; Mosier to West, 1886; West to Wright, 1886; Gillette to Dartmouth Savings Bank, 1889; Quimby and wife to White River Savings Bank, 1891; and Quimby and wife to the same bank, 1898), and a conditional contract (West to Johnson, 1898).

Finally, the collection includes a small group of letters, including four from Rachel B. Stone to her son Henry M. Stone, dated 1850, 1851, and 1853, a letter to Ella H. West, a teacher in Hartford, Vermont, written by her mother, who was visiting Arkansas City, Kansas, and a chatty letter from Cynthia Bugbee to her sister, Emeline Bugbee, who was at school in Meridien, New Hampshire.

Inventory

- MSA 245:1 Ella Quimby pension claim documentation.
- 2 Charges made against the Quimby estate.
- 3 Pulsifer documentation to establish estate claims.
- 4 J. M. Quimby estate settled.
- 5 J. M. Quimby wills, probate matters, and estate correspondence.
- 6 J. M. Quimby papers, 1891-1919.
- 7 Assorted deeds.
- 8. Miscellaneous letters.

Ethan Bisbee
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