

Dedham Historical Society & Museum  
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### **Baker Family Collection, 1766-1961, bulk 1860s**

**Accession Number:** 2019.10

**Repository:** Dedham Historical Society & Museum

**Creators:** Baker Family members

**Title:** Baker Family Collection

**Date [inclusive]:** 1766-1961, bulk 1860s

**Extent:** 1 Box

**Language:** English

**Citation:** Courtesy of the Dedham Historical Society & Museum: Baker Family Collection

**Processing Information:** Re-Processed by Rebecca Carpenter, May 2019.

**Conditions on Use and Access:** Open

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#### **ABSTRACT**

This collection consists of the personal correspondence, probate materials, business dealings, and a personal diary.

#### **ARRANGEMENT AND PROCESSING NOTES**

This collection was re-arranged in folders by family members and then placed in chronological order of materials to make ease of use. All non-archival duplicate materials were removed from the collection placed into Genealogy files available to researchers in main Research Library.

#### **COLLECTION DESCRIPTION**

This collection Baker Family collection spans one box of materials originating from 1766 to the 1961. The bulk of the collection is personal correspondence and business dealings. The collection has been divided by family member and their papers were arranged in chronological order.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

##### ***John Baker (1780 – 1843)***

John Baker was born on February 27, 1780 in Dorchester or Dedham (both towns have him in their records). He died in Dedham on January 1, 1843.

During his life John served as the sheriff of Norfolk County and as the coroner while living in Dedham, MA. He married Patty Ellis, of Medfield, on June 4th or 7<sup>th</sup> 1815 in Medfield. The pair were part of the First Parish in Dedham, MA. Together Patty and John had six children.

##### ***Fisher Ames Baker (1837 – 1919)***

Fisher Ames Baker was the last son of John Baker (1780 – 1843) and Patty (Ellis) Baker. He was born in Dedham, MA on February 8, 1867. He lived in Dedham with his parents until moving to New York working as a lawyer.

During the Civil War, Fisher Ames served for the Union Army, writing many letters (which can be found in the Civil War Collection) to his mother, brothers, and sister as well as letters to his then brotrotthed Catherine Whiting of Dedham, MA.

Catherine (Kate) Whiting and Fisher Ames were married in Massachusetts on May 25, 1869. The pair never had any children.

Fisher Ames died in Yonkers, New York on May 30, 1919.

### ***Benjamin Franklin Baker (1828 – 1918)***

Benjamin Franklin Baker was born in Dedham, MA on August 20, 1828. He was the fourth son of John Baker (1780 – 1843) and Patty (Ellis) Baker of Dedham, MA.

Benjamin Franklin lived in Dedham his entire life. He married Euphrasia Babcock (1839 – 1909) of Boston on December 22, 1870 in Boston, MA.

Unlike his brother, he did not serve in the Civil war. He lived in Dedham and worked according to census data as a book keeper.

Benjamin Franklin died in Dedham, MA on May 2, 1918.

### ***George Ellis Baker (1816 – 1887)***

George Ellis Baker was the first son of John Baker (1780 – 1843) and Patty (Ellis) Baker born in Dedham, MA on March 16, 1816.

George Ellis moved to New York, met and married Eveline M. Stevens (1817 – 1903) on May 9, 1839. The pair had seven children.

George Ellis died in New York on March 2, 1887.

### ***Obed Baker (1784 – 1868)***

Obed Baker was born in Dedham, MA on June 3, 1784 to Timothy Baker ( ) and Cynthia Baker.

Obed married Betsy Metcalf from Dedham, MA on November 13, 1807. The pair lived in Dedham, MA.

Obed worked as a farmer and his real estate holdings were worth an estimated 10,000.

Obed died in Dedham, MA on March 24, 1868.

### ***Francis Metcalf Baker (1833 – 1898)***

Francis Metcalf Baker was born on May 7, 1833 to Joel Metcalf Baker and Elizabeth (Noyes) Baker.

Francis Metcalf lived in Dedham, MA later in his life. He did not serve in the Civil War, but rather due to unspecified reasons he found a substitute (a man from Canada) to serve in his place.

Francis Metcalf married Sarah E. Morse. He died on May 15, 1898 in Norwood, MA (originally part of Dedham, MA).

***Jeremiah Baker (1716 – 1798)***

Jeremiah Baker was born on August 16, 1716 to John Baker and Sarah Whiting. He married Elizabeth Dwight on October 22, 1701. He lived in Dedham, MA and was a farmer. The pair had five children. Jeremiah died on June 11, 1798 in Dedham, MA.

***Edwin Baker ( - 1933)***

Edwin Baker was born in Boston, MA. He moved to Japan to teach English in 1888. When war broke out there, he stayed instead of going home to the United States and helped to repair roads and build bridges. He passed away in November of 1933.

**RELATED MATERIALS**

The Dedham Historical Society & Museum also holds the following materials related to these families:

Civil War Collection

Metcalf Family Papers

Whiting Family papers

Genealogy of Robert Baker CS2 Baker

Genealogy of the Descendants of Edward Baker CS2 Baker

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

**Box 1:**

Un-folded items:

2 silver plates with death dates for Becca Baker (March 7, 1850 aged 82 years) and John Baker (died July 21, 1846 aged 83 years)

**Folder 1: Jeremiah Baker**

1. Diary 1770 – 1789

**Folder 2: John Baker**

1. Document signed by Elizabeth B. Richardson stating she received money from Estate of John Baker May 11, 1868
2. Appointment document of John Baker (2<sup>nd</sup>) to position of Norfolk County Sherriff April 7, 1834
3. Appointment document of John Baker (2<sup>nd</sup>) to position of Norfolk County Sherriff April 7, 1834

4. Appointment document of John Baker (2<sup>nd</sup>) to position of Deputy Sherriff for Norfolk County, September 1813
5. Probate document for Submit Baker to John Baker (2<sup>nd</sup>) January 17, 1837
6. Appointment document of John Baker (2<sup>nd</sup>) to position of Coroner May 10, 1834
7. Receipt to Mrs. Patty E. Baker for payment of 12 dollars for pew #70 in First Parish in Dedham. March 16, 1863
8. Promise to pay the First Parish 48 dollars to Patty Baker, March 16, 1863
9. Last will and testament of John Baker (2<sup>nd</sup>) February 25, 1843

### **Folder 3: John Baker**

1. Ledger January 31, 1805 – May 12, 1813
2. School math workbook, undated

### **Folder 4: George E. Baker**

1. Letter to George E. Baker from (illegible) July 13, 1854
2. Letter to George E. Baker from Nellie August 18, 1839
3. Observations on the Character of Columbus written by George E. Baker, Excersie #7, undated
4. Deed of gift from the New Historic Genealogical Society to George E. Baker, March 11, 1885
5. Letter to my dear brother, October 2, 1860
6. Letter to my dear brother, September 30, 1860
7. Letter to my dear brother from George E. Baker, Letter to mother from Fisher Ames Baker October 5, 1860

### **Folder 5: Benjamin Franklin**

1. Letter, undated
2. Letter, January 19, no year
3. Letter to Vic from Curtis, February 20, 1800
4. Letter to sir from Beecher, December 24, '60
5. Letter to sir from Edward Everett, April 19, 1833
6. Letter to sir from Summer, January 19, no year
7. Letter to sir, January 10, 1854
8. Letter in pieces, undated
9. Letter to sir from Edmond, December 15, '57
10. Envelope addressed to George Quincy in Boston, 1890
11. Envelope addressed to George Quincy in Boston, 1890
12. Letter from Horace Eddy, April 6, '54
13. Envelope addressed to Fisher A. Baker September 21, no year
14. Letter to mother, sister, and brothers August 4, 1858
15. Letter to Fisher from Ned September 27, 1855
16. Letter to mother, sister and brothers from Benjamin Franklin Baker October 16, 1857
17. Letter to mother, sister, and brothers from Benjamin Franklin Baker December 14, 1856
18. Letter to mother, sister, and brothers from Benjamin Franklin Baker March 29, 1857
19. Letter to brothers from Benjamin Franklin Baker September 16, 1855

### **Folder 6: Fisher Ames Baker**

1. Letter to Kate from Fisher January 4, 1866
2. Letter to mother from Fisher October 9, 1868
3. Letter to mother, sister, and brothers November 9, 1864
4. Letter to Kate from Fisher November 5, 1865
5. Letter to Kate from Fisher March 8, 1866
6. Letter to mother, sister and brother from Fisher October 31, 1868
7. Letter to sister from Fisher June 12, no year
8. Letter to sister from Fisher June no year
9. Letter to mother, sister and brothers from Fisher March 30, 1856
10. Letter to mother, sister, and brothers from Fisher April 20, no year
11. Letter to mother, sister and brothers from Fisher May 25, no year
12. Letter to mother, sister, and bothers from Fisher July 6, no year
13. Letter to mother, sister, and brothers July 20, no year
14. Letter to mother, sister, and brothers August 31, no year
15. Letter to mother, sister, and brothers September 21, no year
16. Letter to mother, sister, and brothers April 5, 1857
17. Letter to mother from Fisher April 12, 1857
18. Letter to George from Fisher June 25, no year
19. Letter to mother, sister, and brothers April 26, no year
20. Letter to mother, sister, and brothers September 23, 1855
21. Envelope addressed to Fisher A Baker, undated filled with business cards

### **Folder 7: Fisher A. Baker**

1. Look into
2. Letter to sister from Fisher A. Baker July 11, 1849
3. 'The World Changes' January 9, 1854
4. Letter to unknown from E. Griggs, September 17, 1855

### **Folder 8: Obed Baker**

1. Letter to Obed Baker from Hannah Metcalf August 1, 1838
2. Receipt for Newspaper (Boston Statesman) for Obed Baker January 1, 1862 – January 1, 1863 \$2
3. Receipt of payment by Obed Baker for \$58.48 for meat September 6, 66
4. Receipt
5. Receipt
6. receipt
7. Bill from Obed Baker to Theodore Say January 22, ?
8. Bill from Obed Baker to William H. Fairbanks November 1, 1862
9. Bill from Obed Baker to Avon Baker 1860
10. Bill from Obed Baker to Richard Cornick August 16, 1868
11. Receipt, September 8, 1862
12. Bill from Obed Baker to William H. Fairbanks Nov. 22, 1860
13. Receipt, April 11, 1864

14. Bill from Obed Baker to Thomas Kelly Nov 1, 1862
15. Tax receipt for Obed Baker, 1862
16. Receipt from Timothy Baker for Flour, Grain, and Meal June 15, 1864
17. Bill from Obed Baker to Eustis Baker June 1, 1865
18. Receipt from Nathan Phillips October 27, 1862
19. Bill from Obed Baker to Richard Conrich, no year
20. Tax receipt for Obed Baker Nov 1860
21. Note from tax collector Nov 27, 1865
22. List of payments
23. Receipt October 25, 1865
24. Bill for school cleaning, May 15, 1865
25. Bill to Robert Kelly February 16, 1862
26. Tax receipt, 1865
27. Illegible
28. Tax receipt, 1863
29. Bill September 24, 1863
30. Tax receipt, 1865
31. 'Boston Statesman' receipt January 1, 1861 – January 1, 1862
32. Receipt, 1859
33. Receipt, September 1862
34. Receipt, Fairbanks, December 1862
35. Dedham Gazette payment, October 1, 1851 – October 1, 1852
36. Receipt, 1862
37. Receipt, August 7, 1862
38. Town tax receipt, undated
39. 'Boston Statesman' receipt January 1, 1855 – January 1, 1857
40. Tax receipt, 1865
41. Receipt, 1863
42. Receipt, May 12, 1860
43. Tax receipt, June 30, 1866
44. Receipt, May 8, no year
45. Receipt, April 25, 1866
46. Tax receipt, 1862
47. Receipt, August 19, no year
48. Receipt, June 5, 1865
49. Receipt, January 9, 1860
50. Receipt, November 21, 1862
51. Receipt, April 1, 1862
52. Receipt, March 19, 1860
53. Receipt, November 15, 1861
54. Receipt, illegible
55. Receipt, May 28, 1741
56. Receipt, May 10, 1856
57. Tax receipt, 1862

58. Town tax receipt, 1862
59. Receipt, undated
60. Receipt, December 31, 1864
61. Tax receipt, 1863
62. receipt, November 17, 1863
63. Receipt, January 2, 1865
64. Receipt, 1859
65. Receipt, 1857
66. Receipt, October 25, 1860
67. Receipt, 1857
68. Sale book from Obed Baker

**Folder 9: Francis M. Baker**

1. Letter to Frank from Charles Jrosh(?) November 25, 1863
2. Certificate of non-liability to be given by the board of enrollment for Francis M. Baker; September 2, 1864
3. U.S. Naval Rendezvous for Francis M. Baker; August 22, 1864

**Folder 10: Edwin Baker**

1. Correct the errors, undated
2. 2 pictures of Edwin Baker statue
3. Photocopy of Newspaper article about Edwin Baker, date cannot be read, Japanese paper
4. Original copy of newspaper, September 2, 1960
5. Letter to Mayor Collins from Motohids Iwami Mayor of Himeji City, August 29, 1960
6. Letter to Dedham Historical Society from Kazuo Ishikawa, January 3, 1961
7. Letter to Mrs. Grace B. Baker from Kazuo Ishikawa, March 3, 1961
8. Letter to Mrs. Grace B. Baker from Kazuo Ishikawa, June 8, 1961
9. Photocopy of newspaper article, September 1960, pg. 3

**Folder 11: Account Book**

1. Account book 1766 – 1769