



LancasterHistory

Gibbons Diaries, Family Papers, and Mill Records, 1727-1929, 20th century

Object ID: MG0846

5 boxes 4 cubic ft.

30 folders—35 documents and 90 pages to scan; original diaries and transcriptions; 5 volumes of business records

Repository: LancasterHistory (Organization); PV7

Shelving Location: Archives North, Side 28

Scope and Content Note: The Gibbons Diaries, Family Papers, and Mill Records contain letters, family papers, deeds, diaries, and business records from three generations of the Gibbons family. The collection includes documents related to James Gibbons, Daniel Gibbons, Joseph Gibbons, and several other family members. The letters, 1783-1865, describe the daily activities within the family and on their property which was located in Lampeter Township, Lancaster County. The deeds, 1727-1879, detail the exchange of property to and from the Gibbons family mostly within Lampeter Township and Upper Leacock Township, Lancaster County. Other family papers, 1799-1871, include narratives about the Gibbons family, a membership certificate for the Independent Order of Good Templars, and a land draft.

This collection also contains diaries from various members of the Gibbons family, spanning the three generations. The diaries detail the lives of the Gibbons family, which include anniversaries of important historical events and detail the passing of members of the Gibbons family and the surrounding community. The Mill Records in the collection contain daybooks for the mill and farm.

Creator: Brubaker and Gibbons families of Bird-in-Hand, Pa.

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Language: English

Biographical and Historical Note: Brubaker, Jack. “Three generations on the Underground Railroad: the Gibbons family of Lancaster County. *Pennsylvania Heritage*, Fall 2019. <http://paheritage.wpengine.com/article/generations-underground-railroad/> Accessed 7 February 2022.

Source of Acquisition: Gift of the Brubaker and Gibbons families of Bird-in-Hand, via Jack Brubaker, 1 June 2021.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Preferred Citation: Title or description of item, date (day, month, year), Gibbons Diaries, Family Papers, and Mill Records (MG0846), Folder #, LancasterHistory, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



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People:

Bonsall, Daniel
Bonsall, Edward Horne
Bonsall, Rachel
Brinton, William
Brown, Ellen
Brubaker, Mariana Gibbons
Conrad, Abraham
Dunbar, Andrew
Dunbar, Mary
Eaby, Christian
Eaby, Samuel
Earle, Mary Hussey
Evans, Rebecca
Evans, Thomas
Evans, William
Gibbons, Abraham
Gibbons, Caroline
Gibbons, Daniel
Gibbons, Deborah

Gibbons, Joseph
Gibbons, Phebe Hussey Earle
Gibbons, Rachel
Gibbons, Samuel
Gibbons, William
Grigs, Joseph
Hamilton, James
Hertzkey, John
Kendall, John
Kirk, Jeremiah
Lightfoot, Jephth
Miller, Eliza
Miller, John
Reynolds, Margaret
Stauffer, Christian
Steer, Joseph
Stevens, Thaddeus
Thomas, William B.
Wartnaby, Elizabeth

Subject Headings:

Business records
Deeds
Letters
Mills and millwork
Quakers
Society of Friends
Westtown Boarding School

Search Terms:

Business records
Correspondence
Deeds
Diaries
Lampeter Twp.
Leacock Twp.

Letters
Mills
Philadelphia
Quakers
Society of Friends
Westtown Boarding School



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Processing History: Folders 1-30 processed and finding aid prepared from the donor's notes by MB, 8 July 2021. This collection has been documented, preserved and managed according to professional museum and archives standards. The collection was cataloged using DACS conventions.



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Box 1

Folder 1 Letter from James Gibbons in Chester, Chester County to Abraham Gibbons in Mill Creek, Lancaster County regarding his plan to sell the mill and tavern in Lancaster County with woodland and cleared land up to the dam on the west side of the creek. 26 February 1783. (James returned to Chester County and lived there for a time while sitting as a magistrate in Wilmington, Delaware.) (1 item, 4 pages to scan)

Folder 2 Letter from James Gibbons to Christian Stauffer, charging him with making certain his swine are secured because someone's hogs have been eating Gibbons' grain and stating that if he finds the culprit, he will sue for damages. 2 July 1800. (1 item, 2 pages to scan)

Folder 3 Letter from [Sharpley] in Downingtown to James Gibbons in Mill Creek, Lancaster County regarding business and family news. To the care of William Brinton, Soudersburg. 3 November 1805. (1 item, 4 pages to scan)

Folder 4 Letters from Edward Bonsall Jr. and Rachel Bonsall of Salem to Edward's former mother-in-law, Deborah Gibbons, in Mill Creek, Lancaster County at the prodding of his wife, Rachel, for not writing more often. 30 August 1813. (1 item, 4 pages to scan)

Folder 5 Letter from Edward Bonsall Jr. in Salem to Deborah Gibbons in Mill Creek, Lancaster County describing family and business activities. 30 August 1813. (1 item, 4 pages to scan)

Folder 6 Letter from Deborah Gibbons to her grandson, Daniel Bonsall, at West Town School regarding family chatter and advice. 5 May 1816. (1 item, 4 pages to scan)

Folder 7 Letters from Deborah Gibbons to her grandson, Daniel Bonsall, at West Town School, in which Deborah claims Daniel does not write enough, her health, other family happenings, etc. [26]January 1819. (1 item, 4 pages to scan)

Folder 8 Letter from Margaret Reynolds in Wilmington to Deborah Gibbons exalting the excellence of Deborah's children, exhorting her to keep them safe, etc. 18 October 1820. (1 item, 2 pages to scan)

Folder 9 Transcribed copy of a letter from Thaddeus Stevens in Lancaster, Pa. to William B. Thomas, which was evidently sent to Dr. Joseph Gibbons. Gibbons had asked for a recommendation and Stevens provided it. 8 May 1861. (1 item, 2 pages to scan)



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Folder 10 Fragment of a letter from Phebe Earle Gibbons in Upper Leacock Township to Mrs. Lapp in Soudersburg regarding a real estate payment. 6 April 1864. (2 items, 2 pages to scan)

Folder 11 Letter from Mary Earle on Nantucket to her daughter, Phebe Gibbons. Letter contains gossip from Nantucket, much of which is barely readable. 7 November 1864. (2 items, 5 pages to scan)

Folder 12 Letter from Thaddeus Stevens in Caledonia to Dr. Joseph Gibbons at the Customs House in Philadelphia. Letter reads: "Dear Sir, Certainly! Do it _____. I know the great worth of your friend _ I hope he is in no danger. Thaddeus Stevens." 24 May 1865. (2 items, 2 pages to scan)

Folder 13 Land draft "A Draught of Two Tracts of Land in Strasburg Township" drawn by James Gibbons. 14 November 1799. (1 item, 2 pages to scan)

Folder 14 Notice from Deputy-Marshall D. [____] to Mr. Daniel Gibbons demanding annexation of specified goods and a fine from the property of \$96 or "a quantity of corn in the field" assessed by Pennsylvania on behalf of the U.S. government. Served 7 October 1818. (1 item, 2 pages to scan)

Folder 15 The Epistle from the Yearly Meeting Held in London, a printed description of a Quaker meeting. (Two sheets of three printed pages with a segment torn but preserved from both sheets). 10 May 1813 to 29 May 1813. (1 item, 6 pages to scan)

Folder 16 Agreement by Daniel Gibbons and six others to pay the sums posted beside their names for the purpose of erecting the Friends meeting-house on 9th Street near Spruce Street in Philadelphia. July 1831. (1 item, 2 pages to scan)

Folder 17 Marriage certificate for Joseph Griggs and Ellen Brown. Signers of the document are as follows: Andrew [Dunbar], the officiating judge; Joseph and Ellen; James Hamilton; Mary [Dunbar]; and Eliza Miller. 23 May 1834. (1 item, 2 pages to scan)

Folder 18 Certificate of membership for the Independent Order of Good Templars confirming Joseph Gibbons' admission to the Lancaster Lodge. 5 September 1871. (1 item, 2 pages to scan)



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Folder 19 Anonymous, six-page typewritten manuscript with narratives about James Gibbons, Daniel Gibbons, and Dr. Joseph and Phebe Gibbons. Some of this material appears in Marianna Gibbons Brubaker's 1911 paper on the Underground Railroad and the Gibbons family, but comments near the end of the piece indicate that she did not write this. Marian Brubaker, in her typewritten "Beechdale, the home of the Gibbons family... and some of the people connected with it" collection of family information ([the historical society has a copy](#)), suggested that it was written by "a friend who lived in Bird-in-Hand and was of the generation of Joseph's children". (4 items, 12 pages to scan)

1. "James Gibbons Sr. and the Division of his Real Estate."
2. "Daniel Gibbons and Constable Hughes."
3. "Daniel Gibbons and Rebecca Evans."
4. "Bird-in-Hand Lyceum."

Folder 20 Deed from Elizabeth Wartnaby of Philadelphia to James Gibbons for 1,000 acres of land situated on the Conestoga Creek in Chester County. 20 September 1727. Signed 20 September 1727. Original seal still on document.

Folder 21 Deed from Joseph Steer of Lampeter Twp. to James Gibbons of Lampeter Twp. for land near Mill Creek and alongside William Evans's land. 24 May 1763. Signed and recorded 24 May 1763. Original wax seal still on deed.

Folder 22 Deed from Joseph Gibbons of [West Town], Chester County to James Gibbons of Lampeter Twp. for a parcel of land in Lampeter Twp., adjoined by John [Kirk], William Evans, and other land owned by Joseph Gibbons. 18 February 1769. Recorded on 24 March 1769. Three original wax seals on document.

Folder 23 Deed from John Miller, High Sheriff of Lancaster, to James Gibbons of Lampeter Twp. for land in Lampeter Twp. and Leacock Twp. 5 May 1787. Signed 4 December 1787. Recorded in Book 3, page 283. 15 February 1811. Original seal on deed.

Folder 24 Deed from James Gibbons of Lampeter Twp. to Christian Eaby of Leacock Twp. for land in Lampeter Twp. alongside the public highway and beside Samuel Eaby's property. 27 February 1793. Signed 29 May 1793.

Folder 25 Deed from James Gibbons of Lampeter Twp. to Samuel Eaby of Leacock Twp. for tract of land in Lampeter Twp., adjoined by Jephth Lightfoot and on the south side of the public highway. 27 February 1793. Signed 29 May 1793.



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Folder 26 Deed from James Gibbons of Lampeter Twp. to John Hertzkey of Lampeter Twp. for land beside the public highway in line with Thomas [Evans'] land. 15 April 1793. Signed 29 May 1793.

Folder 27 Deed from James Gibbons of Lampeter Twp. to Jephth Lightfoot of Lampeter Twp. for tract of land in Lampeter Twp. beside the public highway and next to Deborah Gibbons' property. 27 February 1793. Signed 29 May 1793. Recorded in Deed Book TT, page 436. 20 July 1795. Original wax seal on document.

Folder 28 Deed from James Gibbons of Lampeter Twp. to Abraham Conard of Lampeter Twp. for land that begins at the stone corner of Jeremiah [Kirk's] land to other Gibbons' lands. 5 March 1801. Deed was signed 23 May 1801. Recorded in Deed Book K, vol. 3 page 529, 25 November 1801. Land draft included on deed. Deed still contains original wax seal.

Folder 29 Deed from Samuel and Rachel Gibbons of Lampeter Twp. to John Kendall of Lampeter Twp. for fifteen acres of land in Lampeter Twp. near Musgrove's Road. 21 February 1814. Recorded in Book 11, page 40. 13 June 1815.

Folder 30 Deed from Joseph and Phebe Earle Gibbons of Upper Leacock Twp. to Marianna Gibbons and Caroline Gibbons of Upper Leacock Twp. for a tract of land in Upper Leacock Twp. and East Lampeter Twp. near the Old Philadelphia Road and New Holland Turnpike. 15 December 1879. Signed 15 December 1879. Recorded in Deed Book K, No. XI page 215. 18 December 1879. Has imprinted seal on deed from notary. Includes a land draft of the property fastened to the deed with brass clasps.



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Gibbons family original diaries, with transcriptions by Marian S. Brubaker

Original diaries

- Brubaker, Marianna Gibbons _ diaries for 1858, 1865, 1890-1929.
- Gibbons, Caroline _ diary for 1868 (Caroline was Marianna Gibbons Brubaker's younger sister).
- Gibbons, Dr. Joseph _ diaries for 1857-1859, 1861-1862 and 1869.
- Gibbons, Phebe _ dairies for 1854-1857 (original 1849 diary, location unknown).

Transcriptions

- Brubaker, Marianna Gibbons _ diary transcriptions for 1858, 1891-1895 (all others not transcribed).
- Gibbons, Caroline _ 1868 diary transcribed.
- Gibbons, Dr. Joseph _ diary transcriptions, 1858-1859, 1861-1862 (1869 diary not transcribed).
- Gibbons, Phebe _ diary entries listed alphabetically by subject (accidents, baking, etc.), 1849, 1854-1857).
- Gibbons, Phebe _ diary entries listed alphabetically by people mentioned, 1849, 1854-1857).

Gibbons Family Day Books

- James Gibbons _ 1772-1773 _ Gibbons' Mill Records.
- James Gibbons _ 1774-1778 _ Gibbons' Mill Records
- Daniel Gibbons _ 1830-1841.
- "Day Book for Daniel Gibbons by Joseph Gibbons, April 1, 1847" (includes detailed notes by Dr. Joseph Gibbons on the death of his father, Daniel Gibbons, on July 28, 1853).
- Joseph Gibbons _ 1868-1874.