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Finding Aid for the ROBERTS FAMILY PAPERS, 1709 -1937

Collection No. 960

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Gift of Mrs. M. Albert Linton, 1968-1969

**RESTRICTIONS**

No restrictions

**ABSTRACT**

Letters, diaries, genealogical material and legal papers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Quaker Roberts, Hooton and related families.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS**

Roberts, Elizabeth Hooton  
Hooton family  
Roberts family  
Society of Friends – Hicksite separation

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION**

Arranged by series: Letters; Journals, diaries and letterbooks; Genealogical materials; Legal papers; Materials connected to Friends' Meetings; Photographs; Materials removed to other locations

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

This collection contains letters; diaries; genealogical material; legal papers, notably marriage certificates and deeds; material concerning various Friends' Meetings in New Jersey, in relation to the Hicksite Separation of 1827-1828; family photographs. While the Roberts family is the chief one represented, the Hooton family is also important in genealogical and legal material. Letters are mainly those of the Roberts family of Moorestown, N.J., 1839-1889. The most noteworthy diary is that of Elizabeth West (Hooton) Roberts, 1858-1880, including the four years when she and her husband, Elisha, were in charge of the farmhouse at Westtown School and the years following,

when they founded the Chalfonte Hotel, at Atlantic City, N.J. (This era is also covered in a memorial to her, by her daughter, Elizabeth H. (Roberts) Richie) Genealogical material covers not only the Roberts and Hooton families, but also the Swift, Williams, Bell, Comfort, Jones, Collins, Stokes, and Bispham families.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

### **I. Letters, 8 items**

Leeds, B. Franklin to Sara Richie. [Woodside] 10mo. 21, 1861. fragment.  
[Description of home life in household of Elisha Roberts]

Passmore, Mary K. to Susan Roberts, Moorestown, N.J. Fountain Hill, 10mo. 20, 1851.

[Percival, Benjamin] to Phebe Percival, Sandwich, n.d. fragment. [tells of failure of his business in Nantucket]

Roberts, Elisha to Esther Roberts, Salem, Ohio. Mulberry Hill, 8mo. 18, 1839.  
[Family news]

Roberts, [Mary?] and [Esther?] to Susan [Roberts] at Westtown. [Moorestown?] 11mo. 25, 1847. Copy. [Tells of hold-up and murder of cousin, "Izzy" Roberts]

R[oberts], R[achel] H[unt] to husband, David Roberts, Salem, Ohio. Chester, 8mo. 16, 1839. (Postmarked Moorestown, N.J.) [David, on same trip to Ohio as Esther, his daughter]

Roberts, Rachel Hunt to David Roberts, Mt. Pleasant, Ohio. (Postmarked Moorestown, N.J.) 8mo. 22, 1839.

S[tokes], J[ob] C[ollins] to children Rahway, 3mo. 16, 1889. [Gives genealogical material on the Collins and Stokes families]

### **II. Journals, diaries, letterbooks**

Letterbook of P[hebe] Percival, 1832-33. [Contains copies of letters concerning financial difficulties, conflicts, etc.; also poem, "On Nantucket."]

Diary of [Elizabeth West (Hooton) Roberts] including years, 1864-68, in charge of farmhouse at Westtown School.

Diary, [5] p., of [Rachel (Hunt) Roberts] 1880. Tells of death of husband, David Roberts.

Diary of [Esther Roberts, daughter of David and Rachel] 1878-1880.

Account of Stephen Grellet's journey to St. Petersburg (Russia), 1818. Copy.

Newspaper clippings, mounted, giving account of a Cook's tour of the U.S., 1883, by [Elizabeth West (Hooton) Roberts and Elisha Roberts] from Moorestown, N.J.

### **III. Genealogical Material**

Booklet: John and Sarah Roberts: Memorial Meeting of the Roberts Family, 1898. [Gives brief history of descendants]

Roberts, David, 1850-1935. Obituaries and memorials. 7 items.

Roberts, Elizabeth West (Hooton) 1819-1889. (Wife of Elisha Roberts; mother of David) Memorial by daughter, Elizabeth H. (Roberts) Richie.

"A Brief Account of the Tribe of Elisha." Account of family life of Elizabeth and Elisha Roberts, from marriage, 1842, until ca.1879. By one of their children. 2 copies. Also filed here: Notes, 1879-1885.

Roberts, Sarah, d.1712. Brief memorial.

Roberts, William Hooton, 1859-1937. Record of memorial service, Moorestown, N.J., 10mo. 18, 1937.

Swift family tree. 2 photocopies, lmtd., 26 x 21cm., 1 unmounted.

Williams, Bell, Comfort, Jones, and Roberts family materials. 1 item. 6 p.

Roberts and Lippincott mansions. Pictures, with brief account of each.

### **IV. Legal papers**

2 wills of Thomas Hooton, 1688 and 1693 (true copies, 1738)

Receipts to William Hooton, executor, from heirs of Thomas Hooton, for their shares in his estate: Mary M. Clark, daughter of Thomas Hooton, 5mo. 27, 1758; Mary Tyson, 1751. Deborah Cleaver, 1751, and Margreat (sic) Parry, 1771, grandchildren.

Warrant to Thomas Hooton for 400 acres of land, purchased from Indians and surveyed, as here recorded by James Menander, Surveyor General, Oct. 20, 1737.

Deed of Land: Benjamin H. Lippincott, executor of estate of George French, to Dr. Joseph Roberts, 3mo. 26, 1828.

Bill from the estate of Rachel H. Roberts, deceased, to Wm. H. Roberts. 5/8/  
[19]19. (Carbon copy of typescript)

**V. Material connected with Friends Meetings:**

Notes on a Friends Burial Ground in Chester Township, established in 1692, on  
land given by Timothy Hancock. (ms. and carbon copy of typescript [n.d.]

1719 Discipline made by Wm. H. Roberts and Elisha  
Roberts, 1900. 2 photocopies. (Original, from which copies made, owned by Joshua  
Roberts, 1776)

Extracts from Minutes of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1793. Copy for Goshen  
M. M.

Valuation of property in the possession of the Separates of the Society of Friends  
in the Township of Evesham, Burlington Co. (Evesham Preparative Meeting) [1828]

Extracts from Minutes of Chester Preparative Meeting, concerning founding of a  
school at Westfield, 1789, and building a Meetinghouse, 1799-1800. 3 p.

Legal opinion on division of property of Chesterfield Preparative Meeting at time  
of Hicksite Separation. Signed by Theodore Frelinghuysen (sic) and I. H. Williamson,  
Sept. 9, 1836. Copied from the Book of Minutes of the Property Committee in New  
Jersey

Directive to Clayton Lippincott and others, 2mo. 24, 1872. Signed, D.R.  
[Concerns selling a part of property belonging to Moorestown Friends. Refers to  
preceding legal opinion as basis for reasoning] Also here: Statement re this piece of  
property held by the Hicksites. 2mo. 24, 1872.

Essay on early Meetinghouses in Phila., by J[oseph?] W. L[ippincott?]

**VI. Photographs:**

--Roberts, Elisha

--Roberts, Elizabeth West (Hooton) 1819-1889.

--Group of 3: David, Joseph H., and Wm. H. Roberts (sons of Elisha and Elizabeth)  
[ca.1882]

--Roberts family group. 1mo. 1, 1892.

--" " [ca.1900?]

--Snow scene [Moorestown? n.d.]

**Materials Removed:**

**Marriage Certificates to 990 B-R:**

John Sharp of Eversham (sic) and Ann Haines of Northampton (sic), N.J. Married at Mount Holly, 9mo. 28, 1717 (Original, on paper, and photocopy)

William Hooton and Ann Sharp, of Evesham, N.J. Married at Evesham, 11mo. 21, 1730. (Original, on paper, and photocopy)

Thomas Hooton and Bathsheba Braddock, of Evesham. Married at Evesham, 1mo. 21, 1762. (Original, on paper, and 2 photocopy)

Thomas Hooton and Atlantica (Bispham) Stokes, of Evesham. Married at Chester, N.J., 12mo. 1, 1774. (Photocopy)

John Collins of Chester M. M., N.J., and Esther (Roberts) Hunt of Redstone M. M., Fayette Co., Pa. Married at Redstone, 6mo. 3, 1807. (Photocopy)

Joseph Hooton of Evesham and Sarah Pippet of Trenton, N.J. Married at Trenton, 11mo. 11, 1813 (Photocopy)

**Quit Claims to 990 B-R:**

Alexander and Elizabeth Paxton to Mary Hooton. Phila., July 20, 1709.

Mary Hooton, Phila., to Thos. Hooton, Burlington, N.J., Mar. 12, 1712.

Ralph Loftus, Phila., to Thos. Hooton, Evesham, N.J., Sept. 8, 1739

Indenture for Service as Apprentice: William Avis to David and Mary Shattan, of Evesham, N.J., Feb. 25, 1761. [5 years, to learn tailoring]

**Genealogical material to 990 B-R:**

Roberts family tree. 1677-1852. Made by Rachel H. Roberts. Stored with AA. Hooton family. 9 items.

**Deeds to Land to 990 B-R:**

Thomas Hooton of Phila. to Thomas Hooton of Burlington, N.J., July 20, 1709. (with transcript)

Joshua and Esther Hunt, of Chester, N.J., to Thomas Hooton, of Evesham, N.J., Sept. 6, 1790.

William and Rachel Roberts of Hanover, N.J., to John Earl of Springfield, N.J., Sept. 2, 1801.

Pictures of Meeting Houses in Phila Yearly Meeting to 912:

- Burlington, N.J.
- Cinnaminson, N.J.
- Copenny (now Springfield, at Jacksonville, N.J.) built in 1775. [Notes on back by W. H. Roberts, 1897]
- Colestown, N.J.
- Cropwell Mtg. House, near Marlton, N.J. (with Charles Stokes on porch) [Notes on back by W. H. Roberts]
- Eastern Meeting House, Moorestown, N.J.
- Easton Meeting House, near Masonville, N.J.
- Medford, N.J. [Signed by W. H. Roberts, 1897]
- Mount Laurel Mtg. House.
- " " " " [Signed by W. H. Roberts]
- The Mount Mtg. House, Arney's Mount, N.J., built, 1775.
- Rancocas Mtg. House. Signed by W. H. Roberts.
- Rancocas Elm. " " " "
- Upper Springfield, near Jobstown, N.J., built, 1723. [Notes on back by W. H. Roberts]
- Westfield, N.J.

To PG: A Declaration of the Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Phila., respecting the proceedings of those who have lately separated from the Society... Phila., printed by Thomas Kite, 1828.

To PG: 3 clippings about old Moorestown, about the library, the old Town Hall, and the founding of the town.