

David Kenneth Wetherbee New Salem Collection

ca.1980

3 boxes (1.5 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 305



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Heare Lies Salim New Grant, 1734-1763, Being a Geography and History of the Early Settlement of New Salem Between the Years 1734 and 1763 Together with a Reconstruction of the Lost Proprietors' Book of Records, With a Description of the Flora, Fauna, and Terra. New Salem : Hop Brook Community

A surrogate Proprietors' Book of records of New Salem, Massachusetts

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David Kenneth Wetherbee was a naturalist and local historian who lived for many years in the small town of New Salem, Mass. Receiving a doctorate in ornithology from the University of Connecticut in 1959, Wetherbee worked as an adjunct instructor in Wildlife Biology at UMass Amherst and pursued his eclectic research agenda that ran from butterflies in the Caribbean to the history of his adopted New Salem. He died in 1997 at the age of 70.

This unusual collection is the result of David K. Wetherbee's concerted effort to collocate data on the early settlement of New Salem, Mass., and his attempt to "reconstruct" the record book of the town's Proprietors that had succumbed to fire in 1856. In addition to a scarce copy of his eccentric summary of his findings, *Heare Lies Salim New Grant*, the collection includes notes on the original divisions of land among the early settlers, arranged by division; and information on each of the early settlers and their landholdings, arranged alphabetically by name.

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Background on David Kenneth Wetherbee

A naturalist whose research led him to locations from near-arctic Labrador to the tropical Caribbean, David Kenneth Wetherbee settled in the small, rural Western Massachusetts town of New Salem in the mid-1950s. Born in Worcester on Jan. 29, 1927, Wetherbee demonstrated a fascination with the Massachusetts biota at an early age, publishing his first book, *The Birds and Mammals of Worcester County Massachusetts*, while still in high school. Although delayed by military service at the tail end of the Second World War, Wetherbee avidly pursued his education in ornithology. Receiving his MA at Clark University in 1952, he earned a doctorate at the University of Connecticut in 1959 for his study, "Artificial incubation of wild birds' eggs and developmental condition of neonates."

After landing as an adjunct member of the faculty in Wildlife Biology at UMass Amherst, Wetherbee continued to publish -- often self-publishing -- in a wide array of fields, including ornithology, malacology, ichthyology, and ecology, with a focus on the Caribbean islands. At the same time, he pursued a vigorous interest in family and local history, publishing *The Descendants of Israel Wetherbee* in 1963 and *Heare Lies Salim New Grant* in 1980. The latter, a history of the English settlement of New Salem with a dose of natural history, is one of several publications emanating from Hop Brook Farm, his home and the oldest house in New Salem, which was then operating as a commune.

Wetherbee left New Salem in the early 1980s and ultimately died in the Dominican Republic in August 1997.

Scope of collection

This unusual collection is the result of David K. Wetherbee's concerted effort to collocate data on the early settlement of New Salem, Mass., and his attempt to "reconstruct" the record book of the town's Proprietors that had succumbed to fire in 1856. In addition to a scarce copy of his eccentric summary of his findings, *Heare Lies Salim New Grant*, the collection includes notes on the original divisions of land among the early settlers, arranged by division; and information on each of the early settlers and their landholdings, arranged alphabetically by name.

Of special note, the publication and notes include transcripts of eighteenth century documents (roughly 1734-1763) as well as Wetherbee's rough research notes on the demography and settlement of the town, all of which were used in preparation of *Heare Lyes New Salim Grant*.

Inventory

Wetherbee, David Kenneth: *Heare Lies Salim New Grant, 1734-1763, Being a Geography and History of the Early Settlement of New Salem Between the Years 1734 and 1763 Together with a Reconstruction of the Lost Proprietors' Book of Records, With a Description of the Flora, Fauna, and Terra*. New Salem : Hop Brook Community

1980

Box 1: 0

A surrogate Proprietors' Book of records of New Salem, Massachusetts

ca.1980

Box 1: 1

Original rights

ca.1980

First division

ca.1980

Box 1: 2

Second division

ca.1980

Box 1: 3

Third division, lots 1-70

ca.1980

Box 1: 4

Third division, lots 71-126

ca.1980

Box 1: 5

Fourth division, lots 1-95

ca.1980

Box 2: 6

Fourth division, lots 96-189

ca.1980

Box 2: 7

Fifth division

ca.1980

Box 2: 8

Grantors and grantees

ca.1980

Grantors and grantees, A-B

ca.1980

Box 2: 9

Grantors and grantees, C-D

ca.1980

Box 2: 10

Grantors and grantees, E-G

ca.1980

Box 2: 11

Grantors and grantees, H-J

ca.1980

Box 2: 12

Grantors and grantees, K-M

ca.1980

Box 3: 13

Grantors and grantees, N-P

ca.1980

Box 3: 14

Grantors and grantees, R-S

ca.1980

Box 3: 15

Grantors and grantees, T-V

ca.1980

Box 3: 16

Grantors and grantees, W

ca.1980

Box 3: 17

Documents (copies)

ca.1980

Assessment for minister's salary

1759 (ca.1980)

Photocopy

Box 3: 18

Assessment for town and county taxes

1759 (ca.1980)

Photocopy

Box 3: 19

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of David Kenneth Wetherbee.

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, Aug. 2017.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: David Kenneth Wetherbee New Salem Collection (MS 305). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

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Subjects

Birds--Massachusetts--New Salem
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