

Safford, Emma (1879-1958)
Papers, 18??-1958

- 1. Biographical Note**
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1. Biographical Note

Emma Safford (1879¹ - 1958²) was born to Jacob Cheever Safford (1839-1907)³ and Emma Jane Mitchell Safford (1847-1932)⁴ in Ipswich on June 16, 1879, the third child of five. On her father's side, Emma Safford is descended from Prince, a slave in the Safford family of Ipswich, who married in 1780 a Cogswell family slave named Kate (Catherine, Katherine.)⁵ Their son James married Peeley (Peele, Peely) Cheever. This union produced Jacob, Emma's grandfather. In Waters' *Ipswich in the Massachusetts Bay Colony* reference is made to this family - "the widow and children of Jacob are still among us, highly respected by all."⁶

Emma Safford's mother was Emma Jane Mitchell Safford, whose family can be traced to the Wampanoag Sachem Massasoit. For this reason, female family members in Emma Jane Mitchell Safford's family were referred to as "Princesses."

The available evidence suggests that the younger Emma Safford lived in Ipswich her entire life.⁷ She attended public schools in Ipswich. Miss Safford supported herself by helping families around their houses and with their children. Upon her death in 1958, Safford's obituary stated she was "very highly regarded by all who had contact with her."⁸ Miss Emma Safford is buried in the Old North Cemetery in Ipswich (a transcription of the gravestone is included with this description.)

2. Scope and Content of Collection

The Emma Safford papers are a collection of manuscripts, photographs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and artifacts relating to the Safford and Mitchell families. There is information in the manuscripts and clippings in the collection which relates to Native Americans in Massachusetts, specifically in the undated document entitled "Court of Land Registration" which documents the ownership of contested family land dating back to one of the Mitchell ancestors, King Phillip. King Phillip was also named Metacom, and was a son of Massasoit. The newspaper clippings also document the genealogy of the Mitchell family and indicate the lineage of Emma Safford extending as far back as Massasoit.

Noteworthy as well are the 24 photographs in the collection. In addition to documenting the Mitchell family's Native American heritage, the photographs also represent Ipswich environmental history as there are several photographs of the homes and structures

¹ Ipswich Births, [sorted alphabetically 1850-1906] page 128, Ipswich, Mass.

² *Ipswich Chronicle*, October 23, 1958.

³ Ipswich Record of Deaths, sorted alphabetically [1850-1906] page 121, which states "died May 23, 1907, age 67 years, 11 months, 24 days".

⁴ Newsclipping "Last Princess of Wampanoag Dies" (Boston Herald? March 3, 1932).

⁵ Waters, *Ipswich in the Massachusetts Bay Colony*, vol. 2, page 216, Ipswich Historical Society, Ipswich, Ma., 1917.

⁶ *ibid.*

⁷ *Ipswich Chronicle*, October 30, 1958.

⁸ *ibid.*

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occupied by the family in Ipswich. The bulk of the photographs are of Miss Emma Safford, Mrs. Emma Safford, and their houses.

The small amount of correspondence contains a group of letters from children in Ipswich who were fourth graders in 1958. These letters contain information about the town of Ipswich and the families of the correspondents (there are 31 correspondents.)

3. Acquisition Note

The note on many items in the collection reads "Gift Dr. Wilder Estate Miss Emma Safford 1959." This is the only indication of the provenance of the collection. Most likely, the Ipswich dentist by the name of Dr. Wilder played a role in securing the collection for the public library in Ipswich. There is no evidence in the minutes of the meetings of the library's trustees to indicate exactly how the collection came to the library.

4. Inventory

Box 1

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Folder 1 | Correspondence, 1 of 2
1. Christmas card, December, 1924
to Miss Emma Safford
from "Little Adele"
2. letter, June, 1907
to Miss Emma Safford
from Mrs. Edward C. Bates
3. letter, March 3, 1932
to Mrs. Arsenault
from Chief Clarence M. Wixon |
| Folder 2 | Correspondence, 2 of 2
32 letters, (35 pages) May, 1958
to Miss Emma Safford
from the Winthrop School 4th grade class
correspondents:
Helen Peters, Samuel Off, Diana Argeorpoulos,
Timothy Perkins, Joseph Amerault, Sid Baer,
Sandra Clark, James Buckley, Ann Vilademis,
Bradley Haasroot, Baird Thomas, Candace
MacCormack, Pamela Rhoades, Polly Moutevelis,
Thomas Smith, John Messelaar, Mike Gerard, Larry
Wanzer, Jill Pickard, Martha Kennedy, Rober
Maguire, Dean Lamporpoulas, Charles Daly, Larry
Jordan, Timothy Perkins, John Merrow, Arthur
Hardy, Carolyn Young, Keith Wallace, Peter
Adamowicz, Marilyn Passalee |
| Folder 3 | Manuscripts, Printed Material
1. Antiquarian Papers, April, 1884
2. Court of Land Registration, 3 pages, undated
3. geneaology, handwritten, undated |

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Box 1, continued

Folder 3, continued

- 4. looseleaf daybook page, undated
- 5. Smithsonian Institution pamphlet, 8 pages, 1899

Folder 4 Newspaper Clippings, preservation photocopies

Folder 5 Newspaper Clippings, originals

Box 2 Daybook, undated

Box 3

23 Photographs

There is a photocopied guide to the photographs included with this inventory.

- 1. Cheyenne Chief, male
- 2. Sister to Emma Safford's mother
- 3. female portrait
- 4. female portrait
- 5. Miss Emma Safford on bicycle
- 6. Miss Emma Safford with small child
- 7. male, studio portrait, tintype
- 8. house in snow
- 9. house
- 10. Jacob Cheever Safford, Miss Safford's father
- 11. woman with duck
- 12. woman seated in front of house with boat
- 13. female portrait
- 14. Miss Safford in boat on water
- 15. female portrait
- 16. house
- 17. Princess Teweelema
- 18. Mrs. Safford in front of gate in front of house
- 19. Princess Teweelema
- 20. house
- 21. Issachar Lefavour (see photocopied pages from *Pictorial Ipswich, 1900*
included with guide to photographs)
- 22. house
- 23. graduation photograph

Box 4

Artifacts

- 1. Basket, undated
- 2. Necklace, brown, undated
- 3. Pin, undated
- 4. Thimble, undated

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Box 4, continued

- 5. Beaded bag, 1850's? accompanying card reads "Ipswich Mass, Pelee Cheever Safford's Bag, my grandmother"
- 6. Necklace, pink, undated
- 7. Oversize photograph, Mrs. Emma Safford

5. Safford Family gravestone transcription

Safford Family gravestone
Old North Cemetery, Ipswich, Ma.

1745 Prince Safford 1832
 his wife
 Kate 1814
1792 James Safford 1877
 his wife
1791 Peely Cheever 1863
1839 Jacob Safford 1907
 his wife
1846 Emma Jane Mitchell 8 1932
 A Descendant of Massasoit
 their children
1873 Helen Gould 1924
1875 Alonzo Cheever 1898
1879 Emma 1958
1888 Zervia Estelle 1938

1831 Jane Augusta Safford 1905
 Daughter of James & Peely Safford