

## **Colton Family Papers (ca. 1810-ca. 1937)**

**S 929.2 C725c**

Gift of Maria and Roger Rogers

### **Biographical Note**

The Colton family of Northfield, Massachusetts was one of the town's leading families in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Richard Colton and his wife Betsey came to Northfield in 1811. He would become a surveyor, a plow and wagon maker, a Deputy Sheriff, Justice of the Peace, County Commissioner, Coroner, a Representative in the Legislature, a Mason and a lawyer. The Coltons had 6 children, 4 boys (Eli, Alonzo, Edwin and Edward) and two girls (Eliza and Amanda). His daughters married into the Alexander family, one of the oldest Northfield families. One son, Edwin, would die at age 31. Alonzo eventually moves out of the area, while Eli remains.

Richard's youngest son, Edward Wells Colton would follow in his father's footsteps, becoming a surveyor, a civil engineer, a Justice of the Peace and a Mason. He married twice. His first wife was Susan Maxwell Heard of Boston. His second wife was Fanny Warriner of Brattleboro. He had four children, three with Susan and one with Fanny. Clayton Colton, his son with Fanny died as an infant. His oldest son, Everett Wells moved out west and became a salesman. His daughter Maria Heard married Newton Keet late in life and lived in Northfield. His second son, Joseph Richard became a businessman in Northfield.

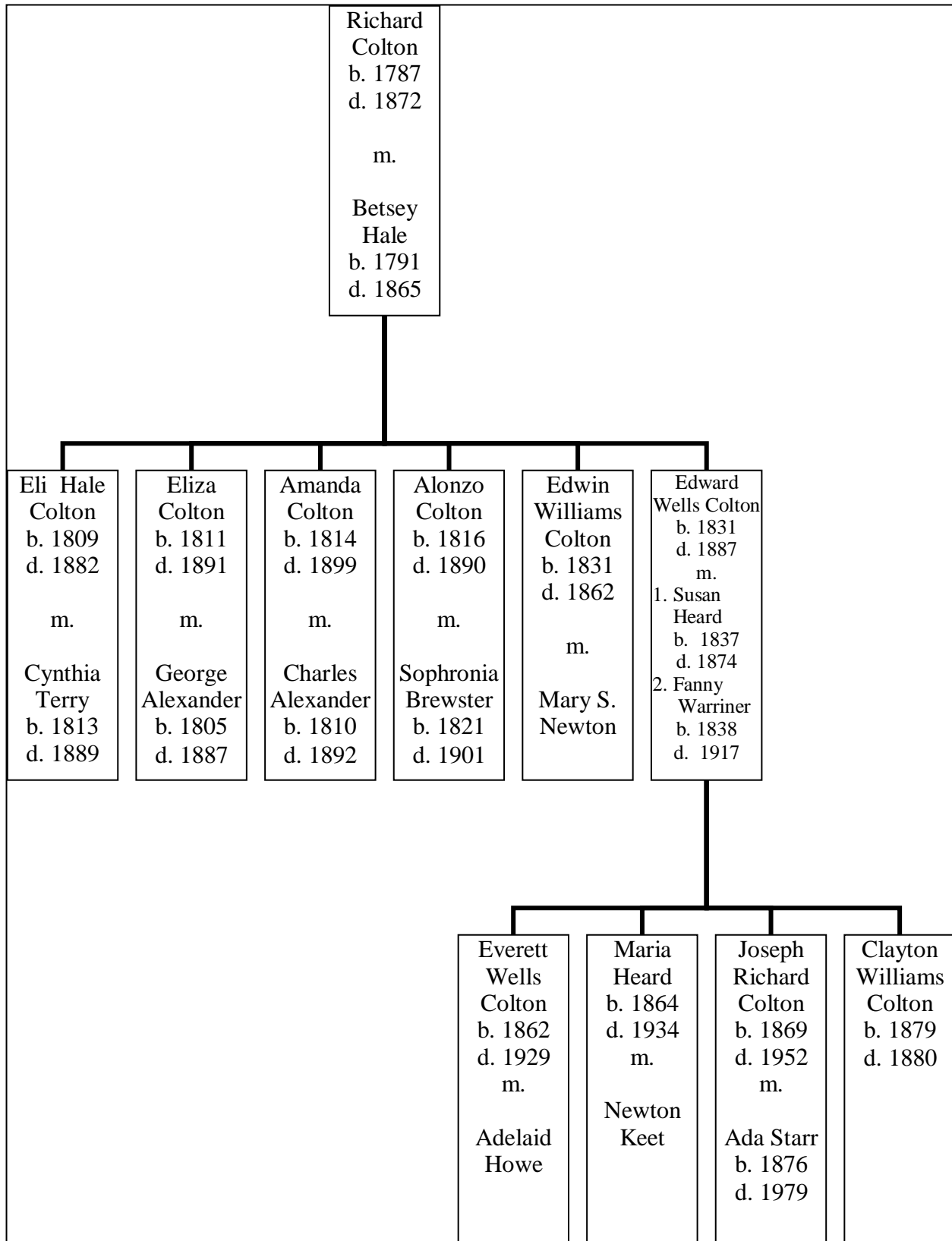
### **Organization of the Collection**

The collection is divided up by individual. The bulk of the material belonged to Richard Colton. His materials consist of bills and receipts spanning 7 decades of personal and business transactions; account books and ledgers from his various businesses; Deputy Sheriff and Justice of the Peace documents; legal paperwork; and miscellaneous papers. Account books and ledgers of Jeremiah Shea, and Stratton Philips are placed here, along with other unidentified account books from the 1830s.

The Edward Wells Colton material consist of courtship letters he wrote to his first wife, Susan Heard between 1859 and 1861, ceasing only a week before their wedding; surveying papers; some Justice of the Peace transactions; correspondence; and other miscellaneous documents. Papers and correspondence of Susan Heard and Fanny Warriner are also placed here.

The remainder of the collection consists of correspondence, photographs, miscellaneous writings, newspapers and books of various members Richard and Edward's families.

## Richard Colton Family Tree



## Container List

### Richard Colton

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	1-3	Bills and Receipts, 1800-1819
	4-6	Bills and Receipts, 1820s
2	7	Bills and Receipts, 1820s
	8-9	Bills and Receipts, 1830s
	10	Bills and Receipts, 1840s
	11	Bills and Receipts, 1850s
	12	Bills and Receipts, 1860s
	13-14	Bills and Receipts, undated
	15	Miscellaneous receipt and letter fragments
3	16	Board of County Commissioners-miscellaneous documents
	17-18	Plough (Plow) Business papers, 1820s-1830s
	19	Coroner's Office-miscellaneous documents
	20	Account book-Coroner's accounts, miscellaneous transactions
4	21	Account book, 1811-1817
	22	Account book, 1829-1830
	23	Account book, 1830, 1831
	24	Legal business ledger, ca. 1823-1848
	25	Miscellaneous receipt and account books, 1830s
	26	Stratton Philips receipt book, 1829-1830
	27	Northfield Lyceum account book, 1829-1830
	28	Account book of Jeremiah Shea, 1830s-1840s
	29	"Invoice Book," no date
5	30-31	Legal Business-miscellaneous documents
	32	Twitchell Correspondence, 1856
	33	William Brooks and family, miscellaneous documents
	34	Estate of Simeon L. Spafford, 1850s

	35	Wills of R. Colton and Charity Terry
	36	Nathan Prindles case
6	37	Military pensions-laws and regulations
	38	Military pensions-Miller family
	39	Military pensions-A. Perkins
	40	Military pensions-Sarah Woodard
	41	Estate of Sarah Woodard
	42	Military pensions-miscellaneous correspondence
	43-44	Railroad-miscellaneous papers
	45	Franklin Mutual Fire Insurance Company policies
	46	Miscellaneous fire insurance policies
	47	Miscellaneous fire insurance documents
	48	Northfield School district-miscellaneous documents
	49	Legal publications-miscellaneous
	50	Advertisements-miscellaneous
7	51-52	Justice of the Peace-miscellaneous papers
	53-55	Deputy Sheriff-miscellaneous papers
8	56-57	Epaphras Hoyt bond papers
	58	Land leases and transactions
	59	Unitarian Church-miscellaneous documents
	60	Northfield Lyceum correspondence
	61	Political correspondence
	62	Masonic correspondence
	63	Personal correspondence, 1828-1857
	64	Miscellaneous correspondence, no date
	65	Newspapers, 1825, 1831, 1834, 1846, 1851, 1861, 1871
9	66-69	Miscellaneous papers
Oversize 1	--	Surveyor papers and account books (7), and pocket case
Oversize 2	--	Plough (Plow) business account books and ledgers (5)

**Edward Wells Colton**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
10	70	Correspondence with Susan Heard, Nov. 1859-April 1860
	71	Correspondence with Susan Heard, May-Nov. 1860
	72	Correspondence with Susan Heard, Nov. 1860-April 1861
	73	Correspondence with Susan Heard, May 1861-August 1861, 1869
	74	Susan Heard Colton documents and correspondence
	75	John J. Heard Correspondence with Susan Heard
	76	Invitations-Mrs. Fanny Warriner Colton, 1899
	77	Photographs of Edward, Susan, and Fanny Colton
	78	Marriage Certificates
	79	Family Correspondence, 1850-1854
	80	Family Correspondence, 1855-1856
11	81	Family Correspondence, 1857-1881, undated
	82	Miscellaneous documents
	83	Surveyor documents
	84	Justice of the Peace papers
	85	Business Correspondence
	86	Letters of reference and teaching credentials, 1850-1858
	87	Life Insurance
	88	Deeds
	89	Receipts
	90	Programs
12	--	Edward Wells Colton diaries, 1858, 1861-1863, 1867-1868, 1874, 1876; Account book and journal, 1858-1874; Notebook, 1859-1877; Account book, 1863; Account book, 1861-1863; Susan Heard Colton diaries, 1859, 1860, 1862
13	91	Music
	92	Recipes and Remedies
	93	Newspapers

**Everett Wells Colton—son of Edward Wells Colton**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
13	94	Miscellaneous correspondence
	95	Photograph of Everett Wells Colton

**Joseph Richard Colton—son of Edward Wells Colton**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
13	96	Miscellaneous receipts
	97	Photographs of Joseph, Ada, and Florence Colton
	98	Business cards and letterheads
	99	Mortgages and deeds, 1898-1937
	100	Letter from daughter Florence, 1906
	101	Miscellaneous business correspondence, 1880-1910
	102	Advertisements
	103	Book belonging to Mrs. Ada Starr Colton

**Maria Colton Keet—daughter of Edward Wells Colton**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
13	104	Miscellaneous correspondence
	105	Photograph of Maria Colton Keet
	106	Invitations to Mr. & Mrs. Newton and Maria Keet, 1882-1926

**Daniel Colton—brother of Richard Colton**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
13	107	Miscellaneous correspondence
	108	Photograph of Daniel Colton

**Ezra Colton—brother of Richard Colton**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
13	109	Letters to siblings

**Eliza Colton Alexander—daughter of Richard Colton**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
14	110	Miscellaneous papers
	111	Photographs of George and Eliza Alexander

**Amanda Colton Alexander—daughter of Richard Colton**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
14	112	Calling cards of extended family and friends
	113	Calling card holder
	114	Photographs of Charles, Amanda, and daughter Edda Alexander
	115	Invitations to Mr. & Mrs. Charles and Amanda Alexander, 1828-1899

**Alonzo Colton—son of Richard Colton**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
14	116	Family Correspondence
	117	Miscellaneous correspondence
	118	Society for the Prevention of Fruit Stealing
	119	Photographs of Alonzo and Sophronia Colton
	120	Journals-1842, 1851
	121	Journal-Jan. 16, 1843-June 24, 1844
	122	Essays and miscellaneous writings
	123	Writings of Sophronia Colton

**Eli Colton—son of Richard Colton**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
14	124	Miscellaneous correspondence

**Fidelia Heard—step-mother of Susan Heard Colton (wife of Edward Wells Colton)**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
14	125	Correspondence with Colton family
	126	Photograph of Fidelia Heard

**Persis Reed—half-sister to Fidelia Heard**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
14	127	Photograph of Persis Reed
	128	Correspondence and miscellaneous documents

**Barber family—family of Richard Colton's sister Nancy**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
14	129	Correspondence with Colton family

**Hale family—family of Betsey Colton (wife of Richard Colton)**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
15	130	Correspondence with Colton family

**Colton family**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
15	131	Miscellaneous photographs
	132	Miscellaneous correspondence
	133	History of Northfield House, by Priscilla Colton Carroll
	134	Miscellaneous poetry and writings
	135	Recipes and remedies of various sorts
	136	Catalog of Colton family library
	137	Unidentified Invitations
	138	Schoolbooks
	139	Miscellaneous books
	140	Children's books
	141	Northfield, Mass. postcards