

## NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## LIBRARY

## Manuscripts

No. 8

Date processed: May, 1977

- I. Title The John Dixwell Papers, 1660-1766
- II. The papers of Col. John Dixwell (ca. 1607-1688/89) deposited in the Library on Feb. 5, 1889, by E.S. Dixwell, whose grandmother was In converted the deposit to a gift. a granddaughter of John Dixwell.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1/4 foot  
Approximate number of items: 52
- IV. Restrictions:
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on
- VII. Biographical note:  
John Dixwell, ca. 1607-1688/89, was born in Warwickshire, England. In 1646 he became a member of Parliament for Dover. Subsequently, he was appointed one of the commissioners for the trial of Charles I and he signed the warrant for the execution of the king. In 1650, Dixwell was commissioned a colonel of militia in Kent, and in 1651 he was elected a member of the Council of State under Cromwell. During the Protectorate, he took little part in public life, but when Parliament was restored in 1659, he again became an MP for Dover and a member of the Council of State.  
After the Restoration, Dixwell was excepted from the Act of Pardon and fled to Germany. He then migrated to New England in 1664-65, joining his fellow regicides, William Goffe and Edward Whalley. He eventually settled in New Haven under the assumed name of James Davids and lived there until his death on March 18, 1688/89. Dixwell was buried near Center Church on the New Haven Green and was survived by his widow, Bathsheba Howe, and two children, Mary and John Dixwell, 2nd.
- VIII. Analysis  
The John Dixwell Papers, 1660-1750, were presented to the Society in 1889 by Epes S. Dixwell of Cambridge, Mass., whose grandmother was a granddaughter of Col. Dixwell. The papers are contained in 1/2 box and one oversize folder, and are composed of:  
(1) Correspondence: letters to Dixwell from family and friends, and letters concerning Dixwell and his son's affairs.  
(2) Personal papers regarding Dixwell family estates and copies of records from New Haven about his marriage and children (evidently obtained by his son in 1710 when he went to England to contact his relatives.)  
(3) Miscellaneous material on the regicides, e.g., facsimiles and copies of the Death Warrant of Charles I, and a Proclamation of Charles II about the capture of the regicides.

Filed with the collection are correspondence from the Dixwell family in 1889 regarding the gift of the papers to the Society, and correspondence in 1920 and 1928-29

Manuscript #8  
The John Dixwell Papers

VIII. Analysis (continued)

between Dr. John Dixwell of Boston and his attorneys and the Society and other groups in New Haven about the erection and maintenance of the monument to Dixwell on the New Haven Green.

The letters to Dixwell (Davids) are filed in the first four folders alphabetically by surname of sender and chronologically within each folder, as are the letters concerning Dixwell in the next two folders. The papers on the estates and the records are filed chronologically as is the correspondence concerning the gift of the papers and the monument.

The material on the regicides is contained in one oversize folder. For a complete description of the papers, see the Table of Contents, pp. 1-3. The number of documents in each folder is indicated in parentheses.

For background on Col. Dixwell and the papers, including printed copies of the letters and most of the personal papers, see "Dixwell Papers," edited by Franklin P. Dexter, New Haven Colony Historical Society Papers, Vol. VI, 1900, pp. 336-374. It is suggested that researchers use this to read the letters, as the originals are extremely old and in precarious condition.

For other material on the Dixwell family, see the Ezra Stiles Papers, MSS #7.

JOHN DIXWELL PAPERS  
1660-1766

Table of Contents

Box I - Correspondence, Personal Papers

Correspondence: 1676-1710 (Folders A-F)

Folder A - Humphrey Davis, Boston, to James Davids (John Dixwell)  
about finances:

- (4) June 14, 1686 (with receipt)  
Sept. 21, 1686  
Nov. 12, 1686

Folder B - John DuBois, London, to James Davids  
August 26, 1678 - re politics in Europe  
Francis Prince to James Davids

- (3) Amsterdam, Jan. 15, 1679 - re Gunpowder Plot } MOVED TO  
London, Feb. 2, 1681 } OVERSIZE #1

Folder C - Elizabeth Westrow, alias Eliza Boyes, London, to her  
uncle, John Dixwell, alias James Davids

- (9) Dec. 4, 1676                      March 2, 1681/2  
July 25, 1678                      Aug. 24, 1682  
Aug. 23, 1678                      March 22, 1682/3  
Jan. 12, 1680                      May 20, 1685  
July 10, 1680

Folder D - Thomas Westrow (son of Elizabeth) to James Davids

- (1) Sept. 23, 1689

Folder E - Francis Prince, London, to William Danvale (?)

- Feb. 2, 1681  
(2) Thomas Westrow, London, to Mrs. James Davids } MOVED  
June, 1690 - signed Eliza Boyes, but in handwriting } TO  
of Thomas Westrow - re Col. Dixwell's death } OVERSIZE  
#1

Folder F - Cotton Mather to Sir Basil Bixwell

- (1 Ms.) Boston, Nov. 13, 1710 - introducing John Dixwell, 2nd  
(1 xerox  
copy)

Personal Papers: 1682-1710 (Folders G-H)

Folder G - Papers concerning Dixwell family estates

- (5) Oct. 22, 1682 - agreement with brother Mark  
May 7, 1688 - 1749/50 copy of statement by Dixwell  
about estates of nephews  
Mar. 15, 1688/89 - power of attorney to Elizabeth and  
Thomas Westrow plus facsimile  
Mar. 16, 1688/89 - appointment of trustees & guardians  
Jan. 1, 1705/06 - depositions of Rev. Pierpont and  
Mr. Heaton concerning Col. Dixwell  
(1749/50 copy)

JOHN DIXWELL PAPERS  
1660-1766

Box I (continued)

- Folder H - Records (copies taken from New Haven Records by John Alling, Recorder, 1710)
- a) marriage of James Davids (John Dixwell) to Bathsheba Howe
  - (3) b) birth of son, John (2 cc.)
  - c) death of James Davids (Dixwell)
  - d) list: dates of marriage, birth of son, death of Dixwell, children of John Dixwell, 2nd

- Folder I - Four photocopies (on cardboard) of Dixwell signature
- (4) (from 1688 power of attorney)

Miscellaneous Correspondence with New Haven Colony  
Historical Society and others - re Dixwell Papers

- Folder J - Correspondence concerning gift of Dixwell Papers to the Society, 1889 & 1960
- a) T.R. Pynchon to J. R. Trowbridge, Jan. 30, 1889- introducing Epes S. Dixwell
  - b) E.S. Dixwell, Cambridge, Mass., to "Baldwin" Feb. 8, 1889, authenticating silver snuff box
  - c) resolution accepting Dixwell papers & memorabilia Feb. 8, 1889
  - d) Florence Kitchelt to Society, May 12, 1960, re enclosed letter to her from Susan Dixwell (Mrs. Gerritt S. Miller) of Nov. 6, 1904
  - e) E.S. Dixwell to C.H. Townshend, Feb. 6, 1889 re gift to Society

- Folder K - Correspondence about Dixwell monument on New Haven Green
- a) Nov. 10, 1847, George B. Dixwell, Boston, to Henry White asking permission to build monument
  - b) Jan. 27, 1848, White to Dixwell, c. of letter accepting monument & resolution approving monument
  - c) April 5, 1920, William A. Beardsley, New Haven, to Dr. John Dixwell, Boston - re condition of monument
  - d) 17 letters to and from Dr. John Dixwell and his attorneys to the Society, Center Church and departments of New Haven city government, concerning maintenance of the monument, Nov. 27, 1928 - Aug. 16, 1929
  - e) two telegrams and notes on envelope re monument

- Folder L - Calendar and index to John Dixwell Papers (found in folders)
- a) handwritten description of papers - nine sheets 1889(?) (folder in which document is filed indicated on bottom)
  - b) calendar of Dixwell Papers - handwritten on Society stationery - 1889 (?)
  - c) seven typewritten sheets describing papers - nd.
  - d) five handwritten sheets about collection, nd.

- Folder M - London Chronicle, March 27-29, 1766, p. 300-301, article on three regicides in New England plus letter from donor, W.V.R. Abdill, 1928

JOHN DIXWELL PAPERS  
1660-1766

OVERSIZE #1 -

MATERIAL TRANSFERRED FROM BOX I, FOLDER B

OVERSIZE #1 - MATERIAL TRANSFERRED FROM BOX I; FOLDER E.  
Material on Regicides

OVERSIZE

Item 2. - Material on Regicides, 1660-1750 (Oversize folder)

(18)

- 1) Facsimile of Death Warrant of Charles I (London, Sumptibus Societat. Antiquariae 1750), mounted on cloth. Gift of Marschalt family, ca. 1958
- 2) Facsimile of Death Warrant of Charles I (drawn by Arthur B. Harrison "from the original document," nd., mounted on 1860 cardboard poster
- 3) Original printed Proclamation of Charles II, London 1660, offering reward for arrest of regicides. Gift of William Warren, nd.
- 4) Original printed Order, Edinburgh 1660, that regicides and their estates be seized.
- 5) Two photocopies of Proclamation. Gift of Yale University Library, 1931
- 6) Photocopy of Order and list of 1660, but printed in London, not Edinburgh. Gift of Yale Univ. Library
- 7) Two photocopies of Death Warrant - one legible, one illegible
- 8) Folder+ contents+
  - a. Negative of picture of William Goffe; reproduction of frontispiece from Welles, The History of the Regicides in New England
  - b. photocopy of warrant to execute Charles I, 1648 "from the original document in the House of Lords"
  - c. photocopy of Death Warrant (illegible), with text printed below
  - d. letter to New Haven Colony Historical Society from Yale University Library offering photocopies of Proclamation and Orders (items 5 & 6 above)
  - e. two negatives : regicides' signatures and sketches of tombstones of regicides. (from J.W. Barber, History and Antiquities of New Haven, F104 N.6 B272)
- 1a) Facsimile of Death Warrant - on cardboard- engraved for Rider's History of England
- 4a) Photostat - Proclamation, June, 1660 summoning regicides to surrender. and list of regicides with order for their arrest.

Box I - continued

Folder N - Papers concerning collection