

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Abel and Minot Rice
Family Papers

1977.56.20

Processed by Kara St. Francis
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Collection Information

Abstract : The collection includes the Abel Rice's will, the Rice family deeds, tax records and receipts for life assurance and mortgages.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Donated by American Antiquarian Society.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings

Historical/Biographical Notes

Abel Rice was a blacksmith in Marlborough whose family comprised of Betsey Howe and his sons, Aaron Rice, Minot Rice & Abel T. Rice. Abel Rice bought parcels of land in Marlborough throughout his life to leave to his family upon his death, which was on August 18, 1855. His death was ruled a suicide.

Abel T. Rice, the youngest son of Abel Rice, is barely mentioned in this collection. Only having one mention in the will and one other in a probate court document where Betsey Howe is given guardianship over his land, which she sells to Minot Rice.

Minot Rice, the middle child of Abel Rice, bought most of the shares of the land from the others listed in his father's will. Minot Rice married Mary Berry Felton and had one child, Franklin P. Rice. Minot Rice was a trader, and resided in Worcester from 1855 to 1895. He lived at 77 Chandler Street. Later on in life, his son Franklin P. Rice was given custody of him due to his mental illness, which could have been dementia or due to a fall from a second story that Minot had taken in 1862. Minot passed away on September 19, 1895.

Aaron Rice is not mentioned in this collection but he is listed as a son of Betsey and Abel in the Marlborough vital records, dying in 1843 from consumption at the age of 26.

Franklin P. Rice, the son of Minot Rice, was an amateur printer and one of the founding fathers of the Society of Antiquity, which is now the Worcester Historical Museum. He printed several history books about Worcester which are still referenced today. He was an avid book collector and traveler, often bringing his mother along as a companion. Franklin never married or had children and passed away on January 3, 1919.

Scope and Content

The collection includes deeds, a will, a letter, and receipts from taxes, lawyers and medical services, as well as probate court documents.

Series Description

Series 1: Wills

Series 2: Deeds

Series 3: Probate Court Documents

Series 4: Receipts & Tax Records

Series 5: Law Receipts & Miscellaneous

Abel and Minot Rice
 1977.56.20.
 Series 1, Wills

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1977.56.20.1.1	Abel Rice Will, Nov.13 1855

Abel and Minot Rice
 1977.56.20
 Series 2, Deeds

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	1977.56.20.2.1	1815- Abel Rice buys land with blacksmith shop on premises in Marlborough from Joseph How Junior. \$275.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.2	1816- Abel Rice buys Pew 62 at the meetinghouse of the second parish from Josiah Brown \$30.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.3	1820- Abel Rice buys land in Marlborough from Asa Packard \$300.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.4	1829- Abel Rice buys Pew 19 at the Universalist church for \$26.00 from Richard Fawell
1	2	1977.56.20.2.5	1833- Abel Rice buys land in Marlborough from Samuel Howe \$17.50
1	2	1977.56.20.2.6	1835- Abel Rice buys land in Marlborough from Stephan Howe \$55.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.7	1842/03- Abel Rice buys land in Marlborough from Simon Cunningham \$100.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.8	1842/03- Abel Rice buys land in Marlborough from William Cunningham \$345.56
1	2	1977.56.20.2.9	1842/04- Abel Rice buys land in

Marlborough from William Cunningham
\$328.29

1	2	1977.56.20.2.10	1844- Abel Rice buys land in Marlborough from John Holyoke \$2000
1	2	1977.56.20.2.11	1846- Abel Rice sells two acres of land to Minot Rice \$75.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.12	1851/01-Abel Rice buys land in Marlborough from George Felton \$175.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.13	1851/10-Abel Rice buys land in Marlborough from George Felton \$125.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.14	1853-Mary B. Rice buys land in Worcester from Amos White \$5.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.15	1856/04-Minot Rice buys land in Marlborough from John and Martha Fosgate \$150.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.16	1856/09-Minot Rice buys land in Marlborough from William Rice, Mary Rice, Amory Rice, and Jane Rice of Wisconsin who were all named in Abel Rice's Will. \$400.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.17	1856/10-Minot Rice buys land in Marlborough from Lauriman Russell and Serena Russell \$250.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.18	1856/12-Guardian Deed for Abel T. Rice selling land in Marlborough to Minot Rice for \$250.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.19	1856/12-Betsey Rice passing all the remaining land in Abels will in Marlborough to Minot Rice for \$1000.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.20	1860- Minot Rice buys a burial plot in Lot D in Hope Cemetery for \$10.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.21	1871- Handwritten deed transferring land in Marlborough from Rachel Felton to Lydia

Felton \$1.00

1	2	1977.56.20.2.22	1875- Handwritten deed Quit claiming land from Minot Rice and others deeding land in Marlborough to George Felton for \$1100.00
1	2	1977.56.20.2.23	1875- Handwritten deed transferring land from George Felton to Lydia Felton \$1.00

Abel and Minot Rice
1977.56.20
Series 3, Probate Court

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	3	1977.56.20.3.1	1855- Betsey Rice is appointed the Executrix of Abel's Will
1	3	1977.56.20.3.2	1856- Betsey Rice gains the guardian license to sell Abel T. Rice's Real estate due to him being a Minor
1	3	1977.56.20.3.3	1876- Copy of Propate Cout decree Mary B Rice asking for the appointment of a new trustee to land in Marlborough it goes John Felton who had passed away to Hemmenway
from Levi			
1	3	1977.56.20.3.4	1895- Franklin P. Rice is given guardianship of his father Minot Rice, who is listed as an insane person
1	3	1977.56.20.3.5	1895- Mary B. Rice is appointed Administratrix of Minot Rice's estate
1	3	1977.56.20.3.6	Envelope bearing Probate and Insolvency of Worcester Massachusetts Emblem

Abel and Minot Rice
1977.56.20
Series 4, Receipts & Tax Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	1977.56.20.4.1	1877-Minot Rice to Ms. Howdeu \$15.00
1	4	1977.56.20.4.2	1887- Franklin P. Rice to W.T. Souther,M.D. \$150
1	4	1977.56.20.4.3	1889- Minot Rice to B.W. Potter \$15.00
1	4	1977.56.20.4.4	1890- Minot Rice to H.N. Wittin for Mortgage \$300
1	4	1977.56.20.4.5	1892- Minot Rice to State Mutual Life Assurance \$200 leaving balance of \$1000
1	4	1977.56.20.4.6	1894- Minot Rice to State Mutual Life Assurance \$200 leaving balance of \$800
1	4	1977.56.20.4.7	Sept 17 th 1895- Mr. Franklin P. Rice to Dr. H.M. Quinby \$50, possibly concerning Minot Rice who passes away two days later
1	4	1977.56.20.4.8	1899- Minot Rice to State Mutual Life Assurance \$20 (notice of six months interest)
1	4	1977.56.20.4.9	1857-Libertine Bullard: City, County & State tax \$20.68 (Neighbor to Minot Rice)
1	4	1977.56.20.4.10	1858- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$16.73
1	4	1977.56.20.4.11	1859- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$16.55
1	4	1977.56.20.4.12	1860- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$18.71
1	4	1977.56.20.4.13	1861- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$18.71
1	4	1977.56.20.4.14	1862- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$27.83
1	4	1977.56.20.4.15	1863- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$27.83
1	4	1977.56.20.4.16	1864- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$29.99
1	4	1977.56.20.4.17	1865- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$38.64
1	4	1977.56.20.4.18	1866- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$40.99
1	4	1977.56.20.4.19	1867- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$44.65
1	4	1977.56.20.4.20	1868- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$33.29
1	4	1977.56.20.4.21	1869- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$45.20
1	4	1977.56.20.4.22	1870- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$72.21
1	4	1977.56.20.4.23	1871- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$72.21
1	4	1977.56.20.4.24	1872- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$72.21
1	4	1977.56.20.4.25	1873- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$78.76
1	4	1977.56.20.4.26	1874- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$76.11
1	4	1977.56.20.4.27	1875- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$75.22
1	4	1977.56.20.4.28	1876- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$60.31
1	4	1977.56.20.4.29	1877- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$60.46

1	4	1977.56.20.4.30	1878- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$55.44
1	4	1977.56.20.4.31	1879- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$53.21
1	4	1977.56.20.4.32	1880- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$59.13
1	4	1977.56.20.4.33	1881- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$57.15
1	4	1977.56.20.4.34	1882- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$59.13
1	4	1977.56.20.4.35	1883- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$58.47
1	4	1977.56.20.4.36	1884- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$61.18
1	4	1977.56.20.4.37	1885- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$66.18
1	4	1977.56.20.4.38	1886- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$70.40
1	4	1977.56.20.4.39	1887- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$70.00
1	4	1977.56.20.4.40	1888- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$66.00
1	4	1977.56.20.4.41	1889- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$70.80
1	4	1977.56.20.4.42	1890- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$69.08
1	4	1977.56.20.4.43	1891- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$64.78
1	4	1977.56.20.4.44	1892- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$64.78
1	4	1977.56.20.4.45	1893- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$66.50
1	4	1977.56.20.4.46	1894- Minot Rice: City, County & State tax \$67.36

Abel and Minot Rice

1977.56.20

Series 5, Law Receipts and Miscellaneous

1	5	1977.56.20.5.1	1875- Minot Rice to Bacon, Hopkins & Bacon Receipt for services rendered for a trial against the city of Worcester \$326.48
1	5	1977.56.20.5.2	1887- Franklin P. Rice to Hopkins & Bacon, Receipt for services rendered in attaining guardianship of Minot Rice \$75.00
1	5	1977.56.20.5.3	1899-Franklin P. Rice to Hopkins, Smith & Hopkins for drawing up the deed between him and Lovina Scholfield \$8.00
1	5	1977.56.20.5.4	Undated list of Deeds concerning the Rice Real Estate
1 in	5	1977.56.20.5.5	Longer undated list of Rice deeds handwritten out order
1	5	1977.56.20.5.6	1876- Letter from A. Wood to Minot Rice concerning the estate of George Felton going up for auction
1	5	1977.56.20.5.7	1876- Envelope to Minot Rice at 77 Chandler St from A. Wood

1

5

1977.56.20.5.8

1877- Piece of paper settling a claim concerning
Minot Rice