

Collection #
P 0652

**JOHN H. AND EVELINA FARNHAM PORTRAITS
CA. 1820S, CA. 1959**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 oil paintings, 1 folder of color photographs

COLLECTION DATES: Paintings done ca. 1820s; photographs taken ca. 1959

PROVENANCE: The paintings were purchased from Helen S. Beaman of Falmouth, Massachusetts, 1959

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1959.1008, 1959.1105

NOTES: *See also:* SC2562: Evelina M. Leonard Letters, 1815–1818

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Hay Farnham was born 22 July 1791 to William and Hannah Bliss Emerson Farnham in Newburyport, Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard University in 1811. By 1818 he was editing a newspaper in Frankfort, Kentucky. In 1819 he moved to Indiana where he practiced law in Jeffersonville. During sessions of the General Assembly he lived in Corydon, and served as clerk of the Senate from 1822 to 1833. In Corydon he met and married Evelina M. Leonard on 3 May 1821. In March 1823 he was admitted to the bar in Salem, Washington County, and so his new family moved there. On 4 July 1826, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, Farnham gave a speech on the necessity of a public school system in Indiana. His speech was not well received at the time, and he and his family were socially ostracized for a while. Farnham was a principal founder of the Indiana Historical Society in 1830, and served as its first corresponding secretary.

Evelina Maria Leonard was born 22 December 1797 in Middleboro, Massachusetts, to David Augustus and Mary Pierce Leonard. (Her first name is also seen spelled as Evelyn, Eveline, Eveleen, and other variations). She and her sister Helen attended a seminary, and were both noted for their ability to read Latin. By 1818 her family had moved to Harrison County, Indiana.

In July 1833, both John and Evelina died in Salem during a cholera epidemic -- John on the 10th and Evelina on the 22nd. An infant child of theirs also died of cholera around that time. They were buried in Crown Hill Cemetery in Salem. It is uncertain how many children were born to John and Evelina, but it appears that only two survived them -- William and Catherine, who then were cared for in the home of Evelina's sister, Helen, and her husband, Dr. Charles Hay.

Sources:

Cauble, Elizabeth Tucker. "John Hay Farnham." In *Indiana Magazine of History*, vol. XX, no. 2, June 1924, pp. 154–159. Reference Room: F521 .I52 v. 20

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Huffman, Edythe. Collection guide for the Honorable John H. Farnham Papers, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library <http://www.in.gov/library/files/S44_Farnham_Honorable_John_H_Papers.pdf>. Accessed 3 April 2018.

Indiana Marriage Index, 1800–1941 <ancestrylibrary.com>. Accessed 3 April 2018.

Newburyport, Essex County, Massachusetts Birth Records to 1850 <ancestrylibrary.com>. Accessed 3 April 2018.

Ruegamer, Lana. *A History of the Indiana Historical Society, 1830–1980*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1980: 13–20, 40–42. Reference Room: F521 .I54 R83 1980

Stevens, Warder W. *Centennial History of Washington County, Indiana: Its People, Industries, and Institutions*. Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen & Company, Inc., 1916, reproduced 1967: 201–202, 213, 335. Reference Room: F532 .W45 S7 1967

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of two oil paintings that are portraits of John Hay Farnham and his wife, Evelina M. Leonard Farnham. There are also small color photographs of each painting. The two photographs were likely taken ca. 1959. The paintings could have been done in the 1820s; the artist is unknown. In May 1979 restoration of the paintings was completed by the Conservation Laboratory at the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

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CONTENTS

Two oil paintings:

- 1) portrait of John Hay Farnham,
- 2) portrait of his wife, Evelina M. Leonard Farnham.

Two small color photographs of the paintings listed above.

CONTAINER

Hanging in room W-404,
Administration entryway

Color Photographs, Folder
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