

Collection #  
SC 3229

## KEZIAH PRICE BACKUS GENEALOGY MATERIALS, 2014

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION  
DATES: 2014

PROVENANCE: Kathryn Susbauer, Salem, OR; May 2014

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS: Calvin Fletcher Papers M 0108; Calvin Fletcher Family  
Materials SC 2976; Calvin Fletcher, Jr. Letters OM 0592;  
Calvin Fletcher, Jr. Family Collection P 0120; Elizabeth M.  
Fletcher Papers M 1027

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2014.0108

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

**Calvin Fletcher, Sr.:** pioneer, lawyer, land speculator, banker, politician, father of 11 children, and descendent of Robert Fletcher of Concord, Massachusetts. Calvin was born February 4, 1798, to Jesse and Lucy (Keyes) Fletcher at their home near Ludlow, Vermont. He attended local schools and later moved to Urbana, Ohio, where he taught school and studied law, was admitted to the bar, and married Sarah Hill. Together they journeyed to Indianapolis in October 1821. The first lawyer in the newly established Hoosier capital, he soon partnered in his law practice with Ovid Butler.

For the first several years he both practiced law and tilled the soil, riding the circuit in eight counties and served in the Indiana Senate (1826–1833). Wise investment decisions, hard work, and an expanding frontier enabled him not only to meet his financial obligations but to risk moving into additional ventures, so that by the mid-nineteenth century the debt-free father of eleven children lent money to others, provided for the education of his children, and gave money to charitable organizations. In the 1840s he retired from law and land speculation, devoting his energies to banking.

Calvin's wife Sarah died in 1854. A year later he married Keziah Price Lister (nee Backus) who hailed from New Hampshire. A fall from a horse led to his death on May 26, 1866. His body is interred at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

**Keziah Price Backus:** She was born the first of five children to Zenas Backus and Mehitable Hinckley in Farmington, Maine on February 9, 1813. She married Dr. George Lister of Alabama in 1843. Keziah later became the second wife of Calvin Fletcher, Sr. in 1855. She died June 10, 1899 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Sources:

Butler, Francis Gould. *A history of Farmington, Franklin County, Maine, from the earliest explorations to the present time, 1776-1885* (Farmington: Press of Knowlton, McLeary, and Co., 1885).

Collection guide, SC 2976.

Collection materials.

Massachusetts, Death Records, 1841-1915, via Ancestry.com.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains genealogical materials on Keziah Price Backus compiled by Kathryn Susbauer, a descendent of Calvin Fletcher. The materials briefly discuss Backus and her second husband, Fletcher. The bulk of the materials address Backus' ancestors.

## **CONTENTS**

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Keziah Price Backus genealogy materials, 2014

### CONTAINER

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