



Raynor Family Collection,  
1761-1991  
(bulk dates: 1795-1960)

Special Collections Department/Long Island Studies Institute

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Raynor Family Collection, 1761-1991 (bulk dates 1795-1960)  
1.04 cubic ft.

### **Biographical Note**

The Raynor family settled on Long Island in the 1640s in the Hempstead area. They later established themselves in a place that came to be named after them, Raynortown, which is present-day Freeport. Benjamin Raynor Sr. was born in Raynortown in 1732. He and his first wife, Mary Lester, had eight children. These were: Benjamin Jr., Margaret, Martha, Ezekiel, Lester, Mary, Menzies and Mordecai. Benjamin Raynor Sr. died in 1810. His son, Benjamin Raynor, Jr. was born in 1754 and married Hannah Bedell in 1800. They had six children: William Bedell, Lydia, Asenath, Sarah Ann, Benjamin and Daniel. Benjamin Jr. died in 1822. His son, William B. Raynor (1801-1867) was a schoolteacher and taught in different districts in the Hempstead vicinity. Members of the Raynor family were some of the earliest followers of Methodism on Long Island and William B. Raynor was very active in the founding of the Freeport Methodist Church. He was married to Mary Ann Valentine and had two children, Elizabeth and John Fletcher. John Fletcher Raynor (1838-1911) and Anna Aramilia Rhodes had five children, Ella, William B., Daniel Nelson, Vivian, and John Fletcher, Jr. They lived in Freeport and later moved to Huntington. Daniel Nelson Raynor (1877-1978) worked in the newspaper business. He was on the editorial staff of the Johnstown Democrat of Pennsylvania; editor of the Roslyn News; Long Island editor for the Brooklyn Daily Times; managing editor and city historian of the Port Jervis Union-Gazette; and editor of the Pike County Dispatch. He was also active in the Independent Order of Good Templars. He married Ethel Van Sise and had two children, Gerald Van Sise and Marjorie.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Raynor Collection is composed of five series: Benjamin Raynor Sr.; Benjamin Raynor Jr.; William B. Raynor; Daniel Nelson Raynor; and the Raynor family. Benjamin Raynor Sr. includes his Last Will and Testament and probate (1805; 1810), legal documents and indentures (1761-1804). Benjamin Raynor Jr. includes items such as his Last Will and Testament and probate (1822-1823), legal documents and indentures (1762-1822). William B. Raynor includes his Last Will and Testament and probate (1867), teaching certifications and records (1845-1854), school attendance sheets (1843-1854), tuition and other accounts (1842-1864) and school district related material (1843-1845). Daniel Nelson Raynor includes letters (1909-1977), written works and editorials (1935-1958) mainly from his newspaper work on the Port Jervis Union-Gazette, certificates from the Independent Order of Good Templars (1902-1904), news clippings and collected material (1922-1960). There is also a letter from Westbrook Pegler (1956) and an autographed note from the pilot, Dick Merrill. The Raynor family is items including personal and other news clippings (1929-1991) and collected material (1700s-1981) including a United States Senate pass from 1936.

### **Indexing Terms:**

Raynor, Benjamin Sr., 1732-1810 -- Family

Raynor, Benjamin Jr., 1754-1822 -- Family  
Raynor, William B., 1801-1867 --Family  
Raynor, Daniel Nelson, 1877-1978 -- Family  
Pegler, Westbrook, 1894-1969  
Merrill, Dick, 1897-  
Raynor family  
Freeport (N.Y.) -- History  
Long Island (N.Y.) – History, Local  
Long Island (N.Y.) -- History, Local -- Study and Teaching (Elementary), 1843-1854  
Newspapers  
Newspaper Editors -- New York  
Port Jervis (N.Y.) -- History  
Port Jervis Union-Gazette

The Raynor Family Collection is arranged in five series:

**Series Titles**

- I. Benjamin Raynor Sr., 1732-1810
- II. Benjamin Raynor Jr., 1754-1822
- III. William B. Raynor, 1801-1867
- IV. Daniel Nelson Raynor, 1877-1978
- V. Raynor Family

**Raynor Family Collection  
Box and Folder List**

**Series I: Benjamin Raynor Sr.**

**Box 1**  
**Folder**

1 Last Will and Testament - Apr. 25, 1805

**Box 2**  
**Folder**

1 Probate of Last Will and Testament - Dec. 3, 1810

2 Estate Papers (Inventory) - Dec. 5, 1810

**Box 1**  
**Folder**

2 Legal Documents, 1761-1799; Arranged chronologically

**Box 2**  
**Folder**

3 Legal Document – Apr. 8, 1784

4 Legal Document – May 12, 1801

5 Legal Document (Indenture) – Jul. 30, 1778

6 Legal Document (Indenture) – Apr. 14, 1790

7 Legal Document (Indenture) – May 14, 1791

8 Legal Document (Indenture) – Jul. 1, 1795

9 Legal Document (Indenture) – Jun. 26, 1804

**Box 1**  
**Folder**

3 Estate Receipts, Dec. 8, 1810 – May 25, 1811; Arranged chronologically

4 Receipts - 1790

**Series II: Benjamin Raynor Jr.**

**Box 1**  
**Folder**

**Description**

- 5 Letter – Oct. 6, 1812
- 6 Last Will and Testament – May 30, 1822

**Box 2**  
**Folder**

- 10 Last Will and Testament and Probate – Jun. 7, 1823
- 11 Probate of Last Will and Testament – Jun. 7, 1823

**Box 1**  
**Folder**

- 7 Estate Papers (Inventory) – Jun. 27, 1823

**Box 2**  
**Folder**

- 12 Legal Document – Jan. 8, 1762
- 13 Legal Document – Jun. 5, 1767
- 14 Legal Document (Indenture) – Mar. 1822

**Box 1**  
**Folder**

- 8 Legal Documents, 1803-1822; Arranged chronologically
- 9 Estate Receipts, Jan. 21, 1824 – June 27, 1824

**Series III: William B. Raynor**

**Box 1**  
**Folder**

**Description**

- 10 Letter – Sep. 26, 1826
- 11 Last Will and Testament and Probate – Jun. 8, 1867; Sep. 3, 1867
- 12 Estate Papers (Inventory) – Dec. 17, 1868
- 13 Teaching Certifications and Records, Aug. 25, 1845 - Feb. 16, 1854; Arranged chronologically
- 14 School Attendance Sheets, Mar. 4, 1844 – Aug. 31, 1852; Arranged chronologically

**Box 2**  
**Folder**

- 15 Legal Document (Indenture) – May 1, 1824

**Oversized (Separated to Oversized Box 1, Folder 1) -**

Legal Document (Indenture) – May 5, 1828

**Box 2**  
**Folder**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 16 | Mortgage – May 6, 1846  |
| 17 | School Attendance Sheets, Aug. 28, 1843 – Nov. 23, 1846; Arranged chronologically |
| 18 | School Attendance Sheets, Nov. 29, 1847 – Nov. 20, 1854; Arranged chronologically |

**Box 1**  
**Folder**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 15 | Tuition Accounts, Dec. 1, 1843 – Apr. 14, 1854; Arranged chronologically |
| 16 | Legal Documents - Nov. 22, 1825  |
| 17 | Receipts, 1817; 1833?  |
| 18 | Accounts, 1842-1864; Arranged chronologically                            |
| 19 | School District Material, 1843-1845; Arranged chronologically            |
| 20 | School Related Notes, 1854   |

**Series IV: Daniel Nelson Raynor**

**Box 1**  
**Folder**

**Description**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 21 | Letters, 1909-1977; N.D.; Arranged chronologically       |
| 22 | Written Works, 1905-1909; N.D.; Arranged chronologically |

**Box 3**  
**Folder**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Written Works – Scrapbook – Feb. 8 – Nov. 16, 1935<br>(Editorials from Port Jervis Union-Gazette) |
| 2 | Written Works, “Hayseed” – Aug. 7, 1956 – May. 29, 1957; Arranged chronologically                 |
| 3 | Written Works, “Hayseed” – Jun. 9 - Sep. 14, 1957   |

Arranged chronologically

4 Written Works, "Looking Backward" – Jun. 23, 1956 – Mar. 9, 1957;  
Arranged chronologically

5 Written Works, "Hayseed" Apr. 13 – Jun. 9, 1957  
"Looking Backward" Apr. 25 – Aug. 3, 1957; Arranged chronologically

6 Written Works, 1936 – 1958; Arranged chronologically

**Box 1**  
**Folder**

23 Personal Documents

24 Certificates from Independent Order of Good Templars,  
Sep. 1, 1902 – Sep. 1, 1904; Arranged chronologically

25 Photographs – N. D.; 1960s

26 Collected Material, 1928-1960; Arranged chronologically

**Box 3**  
**Folder**

7 Collected Material (Newspaper Clippings), 1922 – 1958; Arranged  
chronologically

**Series V: Raynor Family**

**Box 1**  
**Folder**

**Description**

27 Receipts, 1792-1824; Arranged chronologically

**Box 2**  
**Folder**

19 Legal Document (Warrantee Deed, John F. Raynor) -  
Apr. 20, 1872

**Box 1**  
**Folder**

28 Corrected Typescript of News Article about Raynor family – 1967

- 29 Personal News Clippings and Invitation, Sep. 16, 1929 – 1990; Arranged chronologically
- 30 News Clippings, 1960s -1991; Arranged chronologically
- 31 Collected Material, 1700s -1981, N. D.; Arranged chronologically