

Josiah Bartlett Family Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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Revised and expanded by John Monagle



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2001

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Latest revision: 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: Josiah Bartlett family papers

Span Dates: 1710-1931

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1800-1890)

ID No.: MSS11932

Creator: Bartlett, Josiah, 1729-1795

Extent: 10,000 items; 29 containers; 11.6 linear feet; 17 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Statesmen and physicians. Correspondence, diaries, diplomas, legal and financial records, notebooks, account books, speeches, genealogical material, printed matter, and newspaper clippings documenting the Bartlett family's professional and political activity in New England in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. Topics include New England's sentiment towards the War of 1812 as well as American political life before and during the Civil War and post Civil War business developments.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Bartlett family.

Bartlett, Ezra, 1770-1848. Ezra Bartlett papers.

Bartlett, Josiah, 1729-1795.

Bartlett, Josiah, 1729-1795. Josiah Bartlett papers.

Bartlett, Josiah, 1768-1838. Josiah Bartlett papers.

Bartlett, Josiah, 1803-1853. Josiah Bartlett papers.

Bartlett, Levi, 1763-1828. Levi Bartlett papers.

Organizations

Republican Party (N.H.)

United States. Navy.

Whig Party (N.H.)

Subjects

Depressions--1836-1837.

Indians of North America--Wars--1815-1875.

Medicine--Practice--New England.

Missouri compromise.

Seminole Indians--Wars.

Slavery--United States.

Places

New England--Commerce.

New England--Rural conditions.

New England--Social life and customs.

New Hampshire--Politics and government.

United States--Economic conditions--To 1865.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Hospitals.

United States--History--War of 1812.

United States--Politics and government.

Occupations

Delegates, U.S. Continental Congress--New Hampshire.
Governors--New Hampshire.
Jurists.
Physicians.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Although portions of the papers of the Josiah Bartlett family were acquired from multiple sources from 1938 to 1993, the bulk of the material was received by purchase in 1938 and by gift from Mrs. Mack W. Schwab in 1958. An addition was purchased in 1993.

Processing History

The papers of the Bartlett family were arranged and described in 1970. Material received in 1993 was processed as an addition in 2001.

Transfers

A map of the National Road from Washington, D.C. , to Buffalo, N.Y., has been transferred to the Library's Geography and Map Division where it is identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Bartlett family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Josiah Bartlett family are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on seventeen reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Josiah Bartlett Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Notes

Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
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1729, Nov. 21	Born, Amesbury, Mass.
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1750	Moved to Kingston, N.H.; began to practice medicine
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1750, circa	Married Mary Barton
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1775-1779	Member, Continental Congress
1776	Signed Declaration of Independence
1782-1788	Justice, Superior Court, New Hampshire
1788	Chairman, New Hampshire state convention to ratify the United States Constitution
1790-1792	President of New Hampshire
1791	First president, New Hampshire Medical Society
1793	Governor of New Hampshire
1795, May 19	Died, Kingston, N.H.

Levi Bartlett (1763-1828)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1763	Born, Kingston, N.H.
1778	Attended Dummer School, Dummer, N.H.
1791-1819	Practiced medicine
1791	Joined New Hampshire Medical Society
1800-1806	Secretary, New Hampshire Medical Society
1804	Presidential elector
1816-1820	Judge of Circuit Court
1828	Died, Kingston, N.H.

Josiah Bartlett (1768-1838)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1768, Aug. 29	Born, Kingston, N.H.
1789	Moved to Stratham, N.H.
1792	Married E. Wingate
1789-1829	Practiced medicine
1799	Member, New Hampshire Medical Society
1809-1810	State senator, New Hampshire
1811-1813	Member, United States Congress

1812	Married Hannah Weeks
1815	President, New Hampshire Medical Society
1816-1817	Treasurer, Rockingham County, N.H.
1824	President, New Hampshire state senate
1838, Apr. 16	Died, Stratham, N.H.

Ezra Bartlett (1770-1848)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1770	Born, Kingston, N.H.
1794	Received medical certificate
1794-circa 1838	Practiced medicine
1798	Moved to Warren, N.H.
1799	Married Hannah Gale
1800-1823	Member, New Hampshire Medical Society
1806	State senator, New Hampshire
1812	Moved to Haverhill, N.H.
1816	Judge, circuit court
1820	Chief justice, Court of Sessions
1822-1824	Member, Governor's Council
1820-1828	Presidential elector
1848	Died, Haverhill, N.H.

Josiah Bartlett (1803-1853)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1803, May 3	Born, Warren, N.H.
1812	Moved with family to Haverhill, N.H.
1824	M.D., Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H. Moved to Stratham, N.H.
1824-1853	Practiced medicine, Stratham, N.H.
1824-1853	Member, New Hampshire Medical Society

1827	Married Hannah E. W. Thompson
1853	Died, Norwalk, Conn.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Bartlett family represent five generations of the family from 1710 to 1931, with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1800 and 1890.

The papers consists of correspondence, diaries, notebooks, legal papers, diplomas, financial papers, account books, drafts of speeches, bills of lading, school compositions, genealogical material, photographs, maps, printed matter, biographies, obituaries, scattered individual issues of newspapers, and miscellaneous items.

The collection describes in detail the professional and political careers of Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795), signer of the Declaration of Independence and governor of New Hampshire, and his sons, Levi Bartlett (1763-1828) and Ezra Bartlett (1770-1848), both physicians and jurists, and Josiah Bartlett (1768-1838), physician, member of Congress, and president of the New Hampshire State Senate, as well as the papers of Ezra's son, Josiah Bartlett, (1803-1853), also a physician, and other descendants.

The papers primarily reflect the professional affairs of rural physicians and the daily activities and concerns of a large New England family in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. Specific topics in the early correspondence include activities in Congress prior to the declaration of war on Great Britain in 1812, sentiment in New Hampshire favoring the war, and an account by an American combatant of the repelling of the British attack on Fort McHenry and Baltimore in 1814.

Later correspondence concerns the Missouri Compromise, Republican and Whig politics in New Hampshire, antislavery sentiment, the Seminole War, the Panic of 1837, life in the United States Navy, activities in military hospitals during the Civil War, and business developments in New England after the war.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- Diaries and Notebooks, 1737-circa 1865
- Correspondence, 1710-1931
- Legal Papers, 1728-1913
- Financial Papers, circa 1789-circa 1913
- Speech File, circa 1800-1913
- Miscellany, 1775-1931
- Addition, 1783

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	<u>Diaries and Notebooks, 1737-circa 1865</u> Diaries and notebooks. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2-18 REEL 1-12	<u>Correspondence, 1710-1931</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 19-20 REEL 13	<u>Legal Papers, 1728-1913</u> Indentures, deeds, contracts, court orders, depositions, case books, wills, and miscellaneous items. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 21-24 REEL 13-15	<u>Financial Papers, circa 1789-circa 1913</u> Bills and receipts, court payrolls, county receipts, and account books. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 25 REEL 16	<u>Speech File, circa 1800-1913</u> Draft speeches by Josiah Bartlett (1768-1838), Josiah Bartlett (1803-1853), and Amos G. Draper. Arranged by type of material or author.
BOX 26-29 REEL 16-17	<u>Miscellany, 1775-1931</u> Biographies, obituaries, genealogical material, printed matter, photographs, compositions, newspapers, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 29 not filmed	<u>Addition, 1783</u> Letter from John Taylor Gilman to Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795).

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Diaries and Notebooks, 1737-circa 1865 Diaries and notebooks. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1737-circa 1865 (5 folders)
BOX 2-18 REEL 1-12	Correspondence, 1710-1931 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	1710-1813 (5 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	1814-1819 (6 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 2-3	1820-1824 (6 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 3	1825-1832 (6 folders)
BOX 6 REEL 3-4	1833-1839 (7 folders)
BOX 7 REEL 4-5	1840-1846 (6 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 5	1847-1852 (6 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 5-6	1853-1857 (5 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 6-7	1858-1863 (6 folders)
BOX 11 REEL 7	1864-1868 (6 folders)
BOX 12	1869-1872, Apr.

Correspondence, 1710-1931

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
REEL 8	(5 folders)
BOX 13 REEL 8-9	1872, May-1874
BOX 14 REEL 9	(5 folders) 1875-1879
BOX 15 REEL 10	(6 folders) 1880-1885
BOX 16 REEL 10	(6 folders) 1886-1890
BOX 17 REEL 11	(6 folders) 1891-1931, undated
BOX 18 REEL 12	(7 folders) Undated and fragmentary
BOX 19-20 REEL 13	(6 folders) Legal Papers, 1728-1913 Indentures, deeds, contracts, court orders, depositions, case books, wills, and miscellaneous items. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 19 REEL 13	Case books, 1825-1826 Court orders, depositions, and warrants, 1789-1909 (3 folders) Indentures, deeds, and contracts 1728-1806 1817-1902
BOX 20 REEL 13	(4 folders) Wills, 1752-1913, undated Miscellany, 1775-1903, undated
BOX 21-24 REEL 13-15	Financial Papers, circa 1789-circa 1913 Bills and receipts, court payrolls, county receipts, and account books. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 21 REEL 13	Account books 1793-1802
BOX 22 REEL 14	1789-1848 (2 folders)

Financial Papers, circa 1789-circa 1913

Container

Contents

	Court and county accounts
	County receipts, 1807-1817
	(2 folders)
	Court payrolls, 1812-1817
	(2 folders)
BOX 23	Bills and receipts
REEL 14-15	
	Personal
	circa 1795-circa 1819, undated
	(5 folders)
BOX 24	circa 1794-circa 1913, undated
REEL 15-16	
	(5 folders)
	Mills, George, circa 1817-circa 1848, undated
BOX 25	Speech File, circa 1800-1913
REEL 16	
	Draft speeches by Josiah Bartlett (1768-1838), Josiah Bartlett (1803-1853), and Amos G. Draper.
	Arranged by type of material or author.
BOX 25	Speech drafts and notes
REEL 16	
	Bartlett, Josiah (1768-1838), circa 1800-1838, undated
	Bartlett, Josiah (1803-1853), 1828-1850, undated
	Draper, Amos G., 1860-1913
	(3 folders)
BOX 26-29	Miscellany, 1775-1931
REEL 16-17	
	Biographies, obituaries, genealogical material, printed matter, photographs, compositions, newspapers, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets.
	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 26	Bills of lading, 1819
REEL 16	
	Church papers, 1826-1837, undated
	School compositions and notes, 1775-1875, undated
	Diplomas and certificates, 1824
	Insurance policies, 1825-1851
	Legislative papers, 1781, 1814, undated
	Maps, 1802, undated
	Paper currency, 1800-1821
	Petitions, 1791, 1810, undated
	Photographs and prints, 1827
	Miscellaneous official records, 1863-1930, undated
	Biographies, eulogies, and genealogical material, 1801-1898
	Miscellany, 1807-circa 1910, undated

Miscellany, 1775-1931

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 27 REEL 17	Printed matter Broadsides, proclamations, and circulars, 1804-1888, undated Cards and tickets, 1811-1868, undated Forms, circa 1790-1874, undated Invitations, programs, catalogs, passes, and menus, 1821-1912, undated Pamphlets, 1814-1819, undated
BOX 28 REEL 17	Newspapers 1778-1877, June (13 folders)
BOX 29 REEL 17	1877, Aug.-1916 (7 folders) Newspaper clippings, 1806-1931
BOX 29 not filmed	Addition, 1783 Letter from John Taylor Gilman to Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795).
BOX 29	Correspondence Gilman, John Taylor, to Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795), 1783