

Joshua Coit

An Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Laura J. Kells



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

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Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Joshua Coit

Span Dates: 1792-1798

ID No.: MSS84978

Creator: Coit, Joshua, 1758-1798

Extent: 70 items; 1 container; .2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Lawyer, state legislator, and U.S. representative. Letters from Coit to his wife Nancy, to his son Robert, and to Charles Bulkeley, all of New London, Connecticut. Most were written in Philadelphia while Coit served as a representative in the United States Congress from 1793 to 1798. Many of the letters are accompanied by typed transcripts.

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.

Names:

Coit, Joshua, 1758-1798

Buckeley, Charles, b. 1724--Correspondence

Coit, Nancy, 1763-1844--Correspondence

Coit, Robert, 1785-1874--Correspondence

Griswold, Roger, 1762-1812

Lyon, Matthew, 1749-1822

Washington, George, 1732-1799

Washington, Martha, 1731-1802

United States. Congress. House--Elections

Subjects:

Boys--Education--United States

Family--United States

Fathers and sons--United States

Federal government--United States

Housekeeping--Connecticut--New London

Letter writing--United States

Levees--Virginia--Mount Vernon

Sons--United States--Conduct of life

XYZ Affair, 1797-1798

Connecticut--Politics and government--1775-1865

Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States

New London (Conn.)--Social life and customs--18th century

United States--Foreign relations--1789-1809

United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain

United States--Politics and government--1789-1809

United States--Religion

Occupations:

Lawyers

Legislators--Connecticut

Representatives, U.S. Congress--New York (State)

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Joshua Coit, lawyer, state legislator, and U.S. representative, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 2003.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Joshua Coit is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Joshua Coit Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1758, Oct. 7	Born, New London, Conn.
1776	Graduated Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.
1779	Admitted to bar, commenced law practice, New London, Conn.
1784-1785	Member, Connecticut House of Representatives, Hartford, Conn.
1785	Married Ann Boradill Hallam (Nancy)
1789-1790	Member, Connecticut House of Representatives, Hartford, Conn.
1792-1793	Member, Connecticut House of Representatives, Hartford, Conn.; speaker of the house in 1793
1793-1798	Member, United States House of Representatives, Philadelphia, Pa.
1798, Sept. 5	Died, New London, Conn.

Scope and Content Note

The Joshua Coit Papers span the years 1792-1798 and consist of letters from Coit to his wife, Nancy, his oldest son, Robert, and to Charles Bulkeley. Almost all of the letters were written during the period of Coit's service in the United States House of Representatives, 1793-1798, as a Federalist representative from Connecticut. The letters are most numerous for the years 1794 and 1798. Many of the letters are accompanied by typed transcripts, and two exist in transcript only.

All but two of the letters are to Coit's wife and son. Letters to his wife describe his feelings on family, religion, and politics and the burdens caused by his absence. Included in his correspondence from 1794 are details of a dinner with President George Washington and levees for Martha Washington and Coit's views on the prospect of war with Great Britain. In 1798 he remarked on an altercation between fellow representatives Roger Griswold and Matthew Lyon. Following the XYZ Affair and as a result of his efforts to prevent war with France, Coit wrote in June 1798 that he felt he would not be reelected to Congress. Coit died of yellow fever a few months later. His letters to his son include fatherly instruction and advice and focus on the importance of good behavior and helping with household chores, schooling, and proper letter writing.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Bulkeley, Charles, 1795-1797 Coit, Nancy, 1794-1798 (3 folders) Coit, Robert, 1792-1798 (5 folders)