

The Josiah Bartlett Family

A Register of Its Papers in the Library of Congress

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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Latest revision: 2004-07-19

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.

Names:

Bartlett, Josiah, 1729-1795

Bartlett family

United States. Navy --History

Bartlett, Ezra, 1770-1848. Papers of Ezra Bartlett

Bartlett, Josiah, 1768-1838. Papers of Josiah Bartlett

Bartlett, Josiah, 1803-1853. Papers of Josiah Bartlett

Bartlett, Levi, 1763-1828. Papers of Levi Bartlett

Subjects:

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

Medicine--Practice--New England

Missouri compromise

Seminole Indians--Wars

Slavery--United States

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--War of 1812

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

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.).

Microfilm:

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on seventeen reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. A copy of the finding aid describing the papers is available on reel one of the microfilm edition.

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>
1729, Nov. 21	Born, Amesbury, Mass.
1750	Moved to Kingston, N.H.; began to practice medicine
1750, ca.	Married Mary Barton
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-ca. 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-ca. 1865](#)
- [Correspondence, 1710-1931, n.d.](#)
- [Legal Papers, 1728-1913, n.d.](#)
- [Financial Papers, ca. 1789-ca. 1913](#)
- [Speech File, ca. 1800-1913](#)
- [Miscellany, 1775-1931](#)
- [Addition, 1783](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1
REEL 1

Series

Diaries and Notebooks, 1737-ca. 1865

Diaries and notebooks.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 2-18
REEL 1-12

Correspondence, 1710-1931, n.d.

Letters sent and received.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 19-20
REEL 13

Legal Papers, 1728-1913, n.d.

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

Financial Papers, ca. 1789-ca. 1913

Bills and receipts, court payrolls, county receipts, and account books.
Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX 25
REEL 16

Speech File, ca. 1800-1913

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

Miscellany, 1775-1931

Biographies, obituaries, genealogical material, printed matter, photographs, compositions, newspapers, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets.
Arranged by type of material.

BOX 29
not filmed

Addition, 1783

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-ca. 1865 Diaries and notebooks. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1737-ca. 1865 (5 folders)
BOX 2-18 REEL 1-12	Correspondence, 1710-1931, n.d. 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, n.d.

<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, n.d.
BOX 18 REEL 12	(7 folders) Undated and fragmentary
BOX 19-20 REEL 13	(6 folders) Legal Papers, 1728-1913, n.d. 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
BOX 20 REEL 13	Court orders, depositions, and warrants, 1789-1909 (3 folders) Indentures, deeds, and contracts 1728-1806 1817-1902
BOX 21-24 REEL 13-15	(4 folders) Wills, 1752-1913, n.d. Miscellany, 1775-1903, n.d. Financial Papers, ca. 1789-ca. 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) Court and county accounts

Financial Papers, ca. 1789-ca. 1913

Container

Contents

	County receipts, 1807-1817 (2 folders)
	Court payrolls, 1812-1817 (2 folders)
BOX 23 REEL 14-15	Bills and receipts
	Personal
	ca. 1795-ca. 1819, n.d. (5 folders)
BOX 24 REEL 15-16	ca. 1794-ca. 1913, n.d. (5 folders)
	Mills, George, ca. 1817-ca. 1848, n.d.
BOX 25 REEL 16	Speech File, ca. 1800-1913
	Draft speeches by Josiah Bartlett (1768-1838), Josiah Bartlett (1803-1853), and Amos G. Draper. Arranged by type of material or author.
BOX 25 REEL 16	Speech drafts and notes
	Bartlett, Josiah (1768-1838), ca. 1800-1838, n.d. Bartlett, Josiah (1803-1853), 1828-1850, n.d. Draper, Amos G., 1860-1913 (3 folders)
BOX 26-29 REEL 16-17	Miscellany, 1775-1931
	Biographies, obituaries, genealogical material, printed matter, photographs, compositions, newspapers, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 26 REEL 16	Bills of lading, 1819
	Church papers, 1826-1837, n.d. School compositions and notes, 1775-1875, n.d. Diplomas and certificates, 1824 Insurance policies, 1825-1851 Legislative papers, 1781, 1814, n.d. Maps, 1802, n.d. Paper currency, 1800-1821 Petitions, 1791, 1810, n.d. Photographs and prints, 1827 Miscellaneous official records, 1863-1930, n.d. Biographies, eulogies, and genealogical material, 1801-1898 Miscellany, 1807-ca. 1910, n.d.
BOX 27 REEL 17	Printed matter
	Broadsides, proclamations, and circulars, 1804-1888, n.d.

Miscellany, 1775-1931

Container

Contents

	Cards and tickets, 1811-1868, n.d.
	Forms, ca. 1790-1874, n.d.
	Invitations, programs, catalogs, passes, and menus, 1821-1912, n.d.
	Pamphlets, 1814-1819, n.d.
BOX 28	Newspapers
REEL 17	
	1778-1877, June (13 folders)
BOX 29	1877, Aug.-1916
REEL 17	
	(7 folders)
	Newspaper clippings, 1806-1931
BOX 29	Addition, 1783
not filmed	
	Letter from John Taylor Gilman to Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795).
BOX 29	Correspondence
	Gilman, John Taylor, to Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795), 1783