



## Guide to the Richard Hazen Ayer Papers, 1803-1861

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Richard Hazen Ayer Papers, 1803-1861

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Number:**

1972.020

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Unknown; rewritten and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler

**Creator:**

Richard Ayer Hazen, 1778-1853

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

One box, approximately 350 items

**Abstract:**

These are primarily business, estate, legal, and financial papers of Richard Hazen Ayer (1778-1853) and his relatives. Ayer lived at various times in Hookset, Portsmouth (where he was Naval Store-Keeper at the Navy Yard for 8 years), and Manchester, NH and owned a variety of businesses as well as being active politically on both the local and state levels.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

The Richard Hazen Ayer papers were purchased in 1972.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date but rewritten and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler in April, 2014. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research.

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

### **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**

This collection is on paper; there are no technical requirements for use.

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Researchers are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Richard Hazen Ayer Papers, 1972.020. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information**

Richard Hazen Ayer was born January 12, 1778 in Concord, NH to Richard and Susannah Ayer and was one of 11 children. In 1807, he married Mary Green, daughter of Colonel Peter Green and had two daughters. From 1808 until his death, he served as Justice of the Peace for Hillsborough County. He also served as Naval store-keeper at the Portsmouth Naval Yard and President of Amoskeag Bank. In 1850, he was a member of the convention to revise the state constitution. He died February 5, 1853 in Manchester, NH.

1778            January 12: born in Concord, NH, oldest son of Richard and Susannah (Sargent) Ayer, who had 11 children. Richard's siblings included: Samuel, physician of Eastport, ME; Susan, wife of Governor Isaac Hill; Elizabeth,

- wife of Richard Bradley; Mary, wife of I.F. Williams; Charlotte, wife of W. Williams. Richard H. was apprenticed to his father, tanner and currier.
- 1806 One of four contractors who built bridge across the Merrimack at "Isle of Hooksett Falls" and 8 miles of road to Concord for the Londonderry Turnpike Corp. The following year, he went to live there.
- 1807 Married Mary Green, daughter of Col. Peter Green. They had two daughters, Susan Rebecca, who married Dr. Enoch B. Barnes, and Mary Green, who married Dr. Amos G. Gale of Manchester. Lumber business.
- 1808 Justice of Peace for Hillsborough County. J.P. until his death.
- 1810 Representative from Dunbarton for 7 years. Democrat.
- 1816 Chosen Presidential Elector
- 1817 Elected to Council of Governor Plumer. On Council 5 years, Governor Bell.
- 1822 Town of Hooksett incorporated; Ayer chosen representative and selectman of new town.
- 1823 Chosen sheriff of new county of Merrimack.
- 1823-1824 Built a cotton factory at Hooksett Falls, with Governor Bell, John Bell, and Isaac Hill.
- 1829-1837 Naval store-keeper at Portsmouth Navy Yard, appointed by President Jackson. Moved to Portsmouth. Chairman of Board of Selectmen, committee to build almshouse, instrumental in building Rockingham House.
- 1837 Returned to Hooksett, where he owned woodlands and clay. Made bricks for building Manchester; stock of Hooksett factory merged with Amoskeag. Returned to legislature from Hooksett.
- 1845 Moved to Manchester, where he had bought much real estate.
- 1848 President of Amoskeag Bank.
- 1850 Member of Convention to revise state constitution.
- 1853 February 5: died in Manchester, aged 75 years.

**Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The Richard H. Ayer, 1803-1861, Papers consist mainly of legal documents related to the life of Richard Hazen Ayer (1778-1853) and his relatives. The majority of papers concern woodlands in Hooksett and buildings in Manchester. Probate papers of relatives as well as Ayer's will are also located in the collection. There is some correspondence between Ayer and his brother-in-law, Isaac Hill, and Ayer and the Secretary of the Navy, John Branch. There are no personal/family letters. Other papers in the collection include insurance policies and other miscellaneous documents.

**Arrangement:**

The papers are arranged by Richard Hazen Ayer's activities:  
 Portsmouth Navy Yard Store Keeper, 1829-1837  
 Agent for Union Boating Company, 1821-1825  
 Londonderry Turnpike, 1842  
 Concord and Claremont Railroad, 1855

Miscellaneous papers (deeds, etc.), 1803-1846  
Insurance papers, 1843-1851  
Deeds, 1809-1852  
Probate papers for estates of various relatives, 1831-1853

## Contents List

### Box 1

- Folder 1 Inventory and genealogy of Ayer family [see also folder 16, below]
- Folder 2 Portsmouth, NH, 1829-1837  
Appointment as Naval Store Keeper, Portsmouth Navy Yard, 1829. (Col. John P. Decatur was promoted from that office to Collector of Customs, Portsmouth.) Agreement to rent house from Joseph Haven.  
Correspondence with John Branch, Secretary of the Navy, concerning reduction of salary with four letters from Isaac Hill, one with political news Letter from Isaac Hill about appointments, with opinions of Clay, Calhoun, and Webster. Interesting letter from John P. Decatur to Henry Eckford, Shipbuilder, 1830, with papers relating to a debt.
- Folder 3 Union Boating Co., 1821-1825; Boston & Concord Boating Co., 1834  
Richard H. Ayer, Agent of Company. Statements of debts and credits, receipts, letter from Albe Cady. Deed of land from Boston & Concord Boating Co. to Richard H. Ayer; note of dividends in shares of the company.
- Folder 4 Londonderry Turnpike, 1842.  
Grant of shares in Corporation to Amos G. Gale and Richard H. Ayer, signed Richard Bradley, President and Amos G. Gale, Clerk. [2 items]
- Folder 5 Concord and Claremont Railroad, 1855 [9 items]  
Notices that coupon protested for non-payment addressed to Richard H. Ayer. Numbered Bonds.
- Folder 6 Miscellaneous Papers, 1803-1846  
Deed to land in Concord, 1803.  
Expenditures made by Samuel Green as guardian for Mary Green, 1800-1807, settled 1831. Agreement for cutting hoop poles, 1831.  
Mortgage deed for personal property, 1839  
Mortgage of land in Concord to Mechanics Bank, 1840  
Lease of bookstore, counting room and safe in Concord, 1841  
Deed for sale of 3,000 chestnut posts & rails, 1841  
Receipt for a painted shower bath, 1846
- Folder 7 Insurance, 1843-1851  
New Hampshire Mutual Fire Insurance Co., R.H. Ayer President, policy on block of brick houses in Manchester, 1843  
Bonds of Hamilton Hutchins as Treasurer, 1845  
William Kent as Secretary, 1846  
Other policies: Equitable Mutual Fire Insurance Co., People's Mutual Fire Insurance Co., dwelling house and furniture in Manchester
- Folder 8 Deeds, 1809-1822

- Chiefly land in Chester, Dunbarton and Goffstown that became Hooksett, 1822, purchased by R.H. Ayer  
 Layout of road, 1821  
 Description of lots in Chester
- Folder 9 Deeds, 1823-1845  
 Land, chiefly in Hooksett, purchased by R.H. Ayer. Includes sketch of house and outbuildings of James Collins in Goffstown, made 1838 [these have been removed to oversize maps]  
 Two tax collector's deeds  
 Sketch of lot #50 granted by Rebekah Duncan to Richard Bradley and Richard H. Ayer  
 Several deeds and lands sold to Ayer by his son-in-law, Amos Gale, 1838-1843
- Folder 10 Deeds, Manchester, 1845-1852  
 Property in Manchester, lots on plan of Amoskeag Manufacturing Company.  
 Mortgage to Amoskeag Co., 1845
- Folder 11 Deeds: Dr. Amos G. Gale, 1833-1861  
 To land in Hooksett, Bow, Manchester. Some from his father-in-law, Richard H. Ayer
- Folder 12 Papers: Dr. Amos G. Gale, 1842-1861  
 Purchase of horse and wagon  
 Deed 1856  
 Insurance policies, property in Manchester  
 Account with Mace Moulton, settled 1842  
 Account with Daniel Rowe, settled 1842  
 Will, 1856  
 Contract for granite tomb, 1855, with bill and correspondence
- Folder 13 Estate: Richard Ayer (1757-1831), 1831-1843 [see also folder 16]  
 Died intestate. Appointment of son, Richard H. Ayer, administrator  
 Account with Richard Bradley  
 Notes in handwriting of Isaac Hill with receipt, 1841
- Folder 14 Estate: Levi Brigham, 1826-1831  
 Housewright of Boston, MA, husband of Ann Ayer, died intestate, Richard H. Ayer, brother-in-law, administrator  
 Insurance policies on house, 1827, 1831  
 Inventory of household goods, sale at auction  
 Administrator's account
- Folder 15 Estate: Samuel Ayer, 1834-1841  
 Physician, Eastport, ME. Died intestate.  
 Richard H. Ayer, brother, appointed guardian of Harriet O. Ayer, a minor child, 1834  
 R.H. Ayer appointed administrator of estate, 1836  
 Administrator's account, bill, 1841
- Folder 16 Estate: Richard H. Ayer, 1853-1855

Copy of will, showing all relatives and property with Amos G. Gale  
appointed executor, 1853  
Suit by Richard Bradley for amount owing from estate of father, Richard  
Ayer  
John H. George, notes and letter  
Folder 17 Miscellany  
Estate of John Severance, bills etc.  
Estate of Moses Burbank  
A few executions addressed to R.H. Ayer as Sheriff  
Schedule of lands purchased by Thomas W. Thompson for 4 men, various  
towns, shows original proprietor, distance from Merrimack River, 1806. 1  
volume

**Separated Materials:**

Oversize item, sketch of house and outbuildings of James Collins in Goffstown, 1838,  
moved to East Storage map collection

**Subject Terms**

**People:**

Ayer, Richard H., 1757-1831  
Ayer, Samuel  
Bell, Samuel  
Bradley family  
Bradley, Richard  
Branch, John  
Brigham, Levi  
Burbank, Moses  
Cady, Albe  
Cilley, Daniel  
Collins, James  
Coolidge, Joseph  
Decatur, John Pine, 1786-1832  
Dexter, Aaron  
Eckford, Henry, 1775-1832  
French, Joseph  
Gale, Dr. Amos G.  
George, John H.  
Green, Samuel  
Greenleaf, Abner  
Haven, Joseph  
Hill, Isaac  
Hutchins, Hamilton  
Kent, William  
Severance, John

Sullivan, John L.  
Sullivan, William  
Thompson, Thomas  
Whitney, Samuel

**Organizations:**

Amoskeag Manufacturing Co.  
Atlas Insurance Co., Boston  
Concord and Claremont Railroad  
Equitable Mutual Fire Insurance  
NH Mutual Fire Insurance Co.  
Peoples Mutual Fire Insurance  
Portsmouth Navy Yard  
Union Boating Co.

**Subjects:**

Architecture – 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Deeds  
Estate inventories  
Genealogy – Ayer family  
Household goods  
Lumbering  
Merrimack River  
Politics – New Hampshire  
Roads – Londonderry Turnpike  
Wills

**Locations:**

Concord, NH  
Goffstown, NH  
Hooksett, NH  
Manchester, NH  
Portsmouth, NH

**Occupations:**

Coopers

**Related Materials**

Potter, C.E. "Biography of Hon. Richard Hazen Ayer, of Manchester." *The Farmer's Monthly Visitor*, Vol. XIII, No. 3, March 1853