



Guide to the Samuel Cummings Webster Papers, 1788-1835

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Samuel Cummings Webster, 1788-1835

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

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

Collection Number:

1972.012

Author of Finding Aid:

Katelynn Vance

Creator:

Samuel Cummings Webster, 1788-1835

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box

Abstract:

Papers, 1788-1835, of Samuel Cummings Webster, a lawyer from Plymouth, NH. The collection is mostly made up of Webster's writings but also includes some town records and other miscellaneous items.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Samuel Webster Papers were a gift of Mrs. Bertram L. Forbes, Jr. in 1972.

Processing Information:

The finding aid was updated by Katelynn Vance in October 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.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

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Preferred Citation:

Item title, Samuel Cummings Webster Papers, 1972.012. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date Accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information/ Administrative Information:

Samuel Cummings Webster, was a lawyer from Plymouth, NH, was prominent in local politics, and was a Democrat. Below is a chronology of his life:

1788, June 28: Born Plymouth, NH

1808: Graduated Dartmouth College

1812: Admitted to Bar; practiced Swanzey, NH, then Plymouth, NH, 1814-1832

1816: Married Katherine, daughter of Moore Russell

1822, 1826, 1827, 1832: Representative to state legislature

1830: Speaker of the House, upon James B. Thornton's resignation

1831: Member of Executive Council of Governor Dinsmore

1832: Delegate to National Democratic Convention

1828-1831: Town Clerk, Plymouth, NH

1833: Appointed Sheriff for Grafton County, moved to Haverhill, NH

1835, July 21: Died in Haverhill, NH

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The papers are chiefly drafts of articles written for the Newspaper, 1828-1834. Samuel C. Webster is the author of the articles which appeared in Isaac Hill's N.H. Patriot, signed "A Citizen". These papers include drafts for the articles which appeared on September

17, October 1, October 22, November 5, and December 24, 1827, and January 7, 1828. They are recognizable but drastically changed before publication. There are also drafts of other articles which may or may not have appeared in the paper, and one dealing with the “Ebony and Topaz” toast which President Adams gave at a dinner in Baltimore, MD, which caused much comment because of its obscurity (Patriot, Nov. 5, 1827). There is a long toast to “our Republican Institutions” which may have been given at a Jackson Day Dinner, January 8, 1828. There is a note to Isaac Hill “we will do our duty but no flesh can tell the result in this County.” The election resulted in a victory for the Federalists and Samuel C. Webster was not returned to the legislature that year. In 1830, when Samuel C. Webster was speaker of the house there is a list of members under Republican and Federal party labels and a list of “not on committee”.

There are three items relating to local elections in 1810, one accusing General Moody Bedel of electioneering for himself while promoting Mr. Langdon’s election; one promoting Moore Russell, later his father-in-law, for Senator in District No. 12; and one complaining about the distribution of patronage.

There is a debate on the advisability of raising an army of 25,000 (1811) and a debate condemning the abolition society, supporting the slave holding states, not dated, probably 1830s.

There are some miscellaneous items including an account with the Daniel Webster, 1813, a journey by Joseph Meloon, 1821, “& hang me if I ever go hunting again”; an insurance policy with the Farmers’ Mutual Fire Insurance Company, July 15, 1853, and a few other papers of Samuel C. Webster, merchant of Plymouth, NH, the son of Samuel C. Webster (1817-1883).

Arrangement:

This collection contains five folders organized in semi-chronological order.

Contents List

- Folder 1 Writings, 1810-1811
- Folder 2 Writings re: Election of 1828
- Folder 3 Pro Slavery Writings, 1830-1834
- Folder 4 Miscellaneous, 1821-1822; 1853
- Folder 5 Extracts from Town Records

Subject Terms

People:

- Bedel, Moody
- Hill, Isaac, 1789-1851
- Melon, Joseph C.
- Webster, Daniel
- Webster, Samuel Cummings

Subjects:

Government
Newspapers
Newspaper editors
Politics
Slavery

Locations:

Plymouth, NH

Occupations:

Author s
Journalists
Lawyers
Newspaper editors
Politicians