



Guide to the James F. Briggs (1827-1905) Papers, 1848-1894

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

James F. Briggs Papers, 1848-1894

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

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

Collection Number:

M 1970.039

Author of Finding Aid:

Original author unknown, rewritten and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler, March, 2014.

Creator:

Unknown

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box; Approximately 400 items.

Abstract:

These are the business papers of James F. Briggs, who served in the Civil War as a quartermaster with the 11th New Hampshire Volunteers from 1862 to 1863. He was an attorney and a U.S. Congressman, serving from 1877 to 1883. Although there are a few personal papers, the collection centers on his war service and legal practice, especially *Manchester & Keene RR v. City of Keene*, 1882-1885.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The James F. Briggs papers were a gift of Mrs. Chapin Hoskins acting for the Hopkinton Antiquarian Society in December, 1970.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The author of the original finding aid is likewise unknown; it was rewritten and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler in March, 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:

One box with 17 folders, approximately 400 items.

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:

James F. Briggs Papers, M1970.039. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH.
Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information

James F. Briggs (1827-1905) was born in Bury, England. He was brought to the United States when his parents emigrated to Holderness, NH, in 1829. He studied law with W.C. Thompson, J. Burrows and N. Butler and was admitted to the bar in 1851. He practiced in Hillsborough, NH, until August, 1862, when he was mustered in as Quartermaster in the 11th NH Volunteers. After the battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862, he resigned but was reappointed and mustered in again in January, 1863. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg, MS and was discharged again in August, 1863.

He returned to the practice of law after the Civil War and in 1871, moved to Manchester, NH. He was elected to Congress and served from 1877 to 1883. He died in Manchester on January 21, 1905.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

Most of the James F. Briggs Papers fall into two categories: those documenting his Civil War service and those from his legal practice. The Civil War materials are chiefly quarterly returns of stores received and issued, with some orders and correspondence. His law papers are scattered among five legal cases, most items being from the Manchester & Keene Railroad v. City of Keene litigation dated 1882-1885.

In addition, there are work receipts from a textile mill for several women with surname Briggs dated 1848. Some deeds, certificates, and writings that are either school essays or addresses given to unidentified audiences are included in the collection.

There is no personal correspondence.

Arrangement:

The papers have been separated into three parts.

Folders 1-3 contain a miscellany of documents and writings: work receipts in textile mills for several women with a Briggs surname but whose relationship to James F. Briggs is unknown, deeds, certificates, bills, and what seem to be school essays or speeches for unidentified audiences. 1848-1984 and not dated.

Folders 4-9 each contain documents about a legal case, 1865-1873.

Folders 10-17 are Quartermaster returns, correspondence, orders and reports generated during his Civil War service in the 11th NH Volunteers. 1862-1863.

Contents List

Box 1

Folders 1-3: Miscellaneous

Folder 1: Personal Papers, 1848-1894 (6 items)

Receipts for work in a textile mill by Mary, Ruth, Elizabeth and Margaret Briggs, 1848; certificates for application to the bar by James F. Briggs, 1851; bill to the Republican Press Association, 1882; oath as Special Assistant Attorney of the US, 1894 (6 items)

Folder 2: Deeds, 1858-1876 (12 items)

For James F. Briggs property in Hillsborough; the contents of a printing office.

Folder 3: Writings or addresses, not dated. (6 items)

'Report of a visit to Fishersville High School,' 'Address to the Holderness Temperance Society,' 'Is Phrenology a Science.'

Folders 4-9: Law Cases

Folder 4: Timothy Lewis – Pension, 1865 (4 items)
Folder 5: Lewis Goodale – Land in Wayne County, PA, 1860-1867 (6 items)
Folder 6: Abbot Farm, Hillsborough, 1869 (3 items)
Folder 7: Frank H. Newman, 1870-1871 (6 items)
Folder 8: Francis E. Chesley, 1867-1873 (11 items)
Folder 9: Manchester & Keene RR v. City of Keene, 1882-1885 (42 items)
Correspondence, receipts and accounts of money collected and disbursed in the case. Includes letters from William E. Chandler and other attorneys.

Folders 10-17: Civil War Quartermaster materials, 11th NH Volunteers

Folder 10: Correspondence, special requisitions, 1862
Invoices and lists of stores transferred to Lieutenant James F. Briggs. Some correspondence, chiefly letters of enclosure.
Folder 11 - 12: Returns – Third Quarter, 1862
Copies of quarterly returns of stores received and issued, quarter ending September 30, 1862.
Folder 13: Returns – Fourth Quarter, 1862
Copies of returns for quarter ending December 31, 1862. Chiefly special requisitions, tents and winter coats.
Folder 14: Correspondence, Orders, 1863
Estimates of tents, transportation, forage, tools. “We move at 6 ½ o’clock tomorrow morning,” Lancaster, KY, May 22, 1863. Axes to build a hospital; to turn property of brigade over to Lieutenant A.F. Upton.
Folder 15: Reports – first quarter, 1863
Copies of quartermaster’s reports for quarter ending March 31, 1863, Newport News, VA
Folder 16: Reports – second quarter, 1863
Copies of quartermaster’s reports for quarter ending June 30, 1863, in the field and Lancaster, KY
Folder 17: Reports – July 1863
Copies of quartermaster’s reports for the month ending July 31, 1863. Includes lists of stores transferred. (He was discharged on August 1, 1863.)

Separated Materials:

Folder of miscellaneous deeds, 1855-1860 (8 items). Filed in Miscellaneous Deeds – Hillsborough.

Subject Terms

People:

Briggs, James F., 1827-1905
Chandler, William E.
Chesley, Francis E.
Goodale, Lewis

Lewis, Thomas
Newman, Frank H.

Organizations:

Manchester & Keene Rail Road
United States – History – Civil War – 11th NH Volunteers

Subjects:

Civil War – 11th NH Volunteers
Lawyers
Mill Girls
Railroads – Manchester & Keene
Republican Press Association
Women – factory workers

Locations:

Concord, NH
Hillsborough, NH
Manchester, NH

Occupations:

Attorneys
Military -- Quartermaster
Textile Mill workers