

JAMES FRANKLAND BRIGGS (1827-1905)

Acc# 1988-35 Business papers, 1841-1892, 223 items

Acc# 1991-022 Business papers, 1869-1872, 51 items

Combined collections in 1 Box

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

JAMES F. BRIGGS was born in Lancaster County, England on Oct. 23, 1827. His father, John Briggs emigrated to Massachusetts with his wife and son in 1829. By 1836 John Briggs was able to buy a small woolen mill in the town of Holderness, NH now called Ashland.

James Briggs worked in the mill until he was fourteen but during the same time was able to attend the academy at Newbury, Vermont and following that, at a school in Tilton, NH. In 1848 he began to study law in the office of William O. Thompson of Plymouth. He pursued his studies with Joseph Burrows of Holderness and completed his course with Judge Butler of Fisherville. In 1851 he was admitted to the bar and a few months later opened his office in Hillsborough Bridge starting his practice where Franklin Pierce had practiced in the preceding years.

Prior to the Civil War, Briggs represented the town of Hillsborough Bridge in the NH legislature 1856-1858. He served in the Civil War in the 11th NH as quartermaster on the staff of Colonel Walter Harriman.

In about 1870 he moved to Manchester and his Hillsborough practice was taken over by Brooks K. Webber. Briggs was appointed Manchester City Solicitor in 1871. In 1874 he again served in the legislature and two years later in the senate. In 1876 he was chosen to the Constitutional Convention. In 1877 he was elected as a Representative to Congress and was re-elected twice. In 1883, 91 and 97 he again served in the state legislature and was Speaker of the House during the latter term. In 1889 and 1902 he attended the Constitutional Convention again.

Briggs married Roxanna daughter of Obadiah and Eliza M. Smith of New Hampton. They had one son, Frank O. Briggs born in 1851.

BROOKS K. WEBBER (1837-1903) was a lawyer who came to Lower Village in Hillsborough after the Civil War. He reopened the practice made vacant by the death of Frances N. Blood. In 1872 he moved to Hillsborough Bridge and took over the practice of James F. Briggs.

CORNELIUS COOLIDGE (1828-1894) was a Hillsborough business man who was active in the settlement of estates and in town politics. From the 1860's to the 1880's he held many town offices including selectman, auditor, moderator and supervisor. He was a state representative in 1864-65 and was elected for two terms in the state senate starting in 1878.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

These two sets of papers were purchased but from different sources. Acc # 1988-35 came from an antique dealer in Maine and 1991-022 from a manuscripts dealer in Illinois. They were both processed in 1991 and it was decided to keep them together in same box. They are filed in separate series in order to retain their provenance. This decision was based on their both consisting of papers from the legal practice of the J.F. Briggs law firm.

The bulk of the papers are from his practice in Hillsborough from 1851-1870 and the remainder from his time in Manchester, 1870-1892. There are various types of materials including guardianship papers, writs, briefs, bills, deposition notices, and estate papers. Acc # 1988-35 includes correspondence to Brooks K. Webber and legal papers of Cornelius Coolidge.

Acc. # 1988-35

- Fld 1 Alcott v. Alcott, 1870 - assault and battery (3 items)
- Fld 2 Daniel Dodge v. Hiel McClintock, 1870 - damages suit (9 items)
- Fld 3 Fuller estate, 1841-1858 (15 items)
- Fld 4 Wakeman & Powers v. Craig, 1871 and Timothy Moors estate, Jos. Davis Exec., 1863 (3 items)
- Fld 5 Wakeman & Joseph Powers v. Isaac & Isreal Proctor, 1866-1869 - land suit (5 items)
- Fld 6 Eliz. Abbot, guardian of Mary E. Preston, 1861-1868 (5 items)
- Fld 7 Lavinia Smith v. Warren Clark, 1871 settlement and Edward Towne v. Eben Towne, 1870 - guardianship (6 items)
- Fld 8 Ebenezer Wyman - estate-1864-1870 and Martin Wyman v. Asa Beard, 1871 (13 items)
- Fld 9 Various individual legal notices and documents pertaining to estates, land suits, etc. (17 items)
- Fld 10 Accounts, 1858-1872 (20 items)
- Fld 11 Correspondence with Brooks K. Webber and other correspondents, 1897 (32 items)
- Fld 12 David Bass v. Franklin Smith of Antrim, 1869-1873 and Ephriam Hoyt v. George Merrill, 1872 (7 items)
- Fld 13 James Butler, 1862-1875 (12 items)
- Fld 14 D.W.C. Newman, 1866-1882 (5 items)
- Fld 15 Ida Atwood, letters to B.K. Webber from 1862 (15 items)
- Fld 16 Cornelius Coolidge - guardian of Charles Clark, 1874-1880 and administrator of estate of Ezra Clement, 1875 (27 items)
- Fld 17 Cornelius Coolidge, 1856-1892 (29 items)

Acc. # 1991-022

Fld 1 Montgomery Craig v. Welcome & Gunnison - timber
dispute, 1871-1872 (12 items)
Fld 2 White v. Summers Morse, civil suit, 1869 (5 items)
Fld 3 Fuller estate, 1849-1853 and John Page v. Susan
Blodgett, 1871 (12 items)
Fld 4 Gould v. Henniker, 1872 and George Brown v. Smith
and wife (7 items)
Fld 5 Notes, receipts & memoranda (15 items)

CARDS MADE FOR THE CATALOG:

Hillsborough, NH
Occupation-Lawyer
Estates
Guardianships
Webber, Brooks K.
Coolidge, Cornelius
Justice of the Peace