

1877-1  
1965-44

New Hampshire Historical Society  
Manuscripts Division

FARRAR PAPERS  
(Acc.# 1877-1)

Compiled by  
R. Stuart Wallace  
1973

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FARRAR PAPERS

Biographical Sketch

Timothy Farrar, Sr. (1747-1849)

Farrar was born in the part of Concord, Massachusetts, which is now the town of Lincoln, on June 28, 1747. His parents were Deacon Samuel and Lydia Barrett Farrar. From 1763 to 1767 he attended Harvard College, graduating in 1767. For the next two years he taught school in Massachusetts. In 1670, Farrar moved to New Ipswich, N.H., occupying the home his brother James had left at his death in 1767. Timothy soon became prominent in New Ipswich. In 1774, he was chosen as both Selectman and Town Clerk. In 1775, he was appointed Associate Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, as well as a Major in the militia. From 1778 to 1782, he served on a state convention to adopt a new state constitution. Later, he sat on the committee which drafted the new constitution. In 1779, he married Anna Bancroft of Pepperell, Massachusetts.

In 1791, Farrar was appointed an Associate Justice of the N.H. Superior Court. In 1796, he briefly resigned the bench because of the legislature's failure to grant higher salaries to the judges. However, he was persuaded to return, and in 1802, was asked to be Chief Justice of the N.H. Superior Court. Having a modest view of his own ability, Farrar agreed only to serve in an acting capacity. Farrar's friend Jeremiah Smith was chosen to be permanent Chief Justice the following year. Timothy was also selected to be a trustee of Dartmouth College in 1804, and became part of the famous "Octagon" opposing President Wheelock.

Farrar remained modest about his ability and qualifications, even if his fellow statesmen did not agree. In 1804, Farrar was chosen as part of a five-man committee to select a site for the N.H. state prison. From 1813 to 1816 he served as Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. Perhaps the height of his prestige came in 1814 when he was nominated by the Federalist Party to run for Governor against William Plumer. Farrar declined the nomination, however.

Farrar formally retired from the bench in 1816. Shortly afterward his wife Anna died. Judge Farrar lived to be 101 years of age, dying in 1849. He was the last remaining Harvard graduate to graduate prior to Independence. He left behind four children - a son and three younger daughters.

Timothy Farrar, Jr. (1788-1874)

Timothy Farrar, Jr. was born on his father's farm in New Ipswich, N.H., on November 17, 1788. He attended Dartmouth College from 1803 to 1807, graduating in 1807. For the next three years he studied law in Daniel Webster's law office in Portsmouth. He was admitted as attorney in Rockingham County in 1810, and for the next three years practiced law in New Ipswich. Webster asked the younger Farrar to be his law partner in 1813, and the partnership lasted until Webster's departure for Boston in 1816.\*

Farrar remained in Portsmouth until moving to Hanover in 1822. In Hanover, he continued his practice as well as serving as secretary, treasurer, and librarian of Dartmouth College. From 1824 to 1833, he also served as Associate Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. From 1833 to 1836, Farrar resumed his law practice in Portsmouth. In 1836, he moved to Exeter and worked in the Exeter Bank. In 1844, he moved to Boston, where he lived for the rest of his life. Farrar died on October 27, 1874 in Boston.

Farrar served as one of several counselors for the trustees of Dartmouth College in the Dartmouth College Case. He was appointed by the trustees to write the legal history of the case. In August, 1819, he sent legal accounts of both the hearing before the State Superior Court and the U.S. Supreme Court to the printer. Along with Report of the Case of the Trustees of Dartmouth College Against William H. Woodward, Farrar also wrote Review of the Dred Scott Decision (1857), Manual of the Constitution of the United States (1867), and Memoir of the Farrar Family (n.d.)

Dartmouth College Case

Although Judge Timothy Farrar, Sr. was a trustee of Dartmouth College, little of the correspondence pertaining to the elder Farrar concerns the College. This may be because he was dismissed as trustee in 1817. In selecting attorneys to represent them before the Superior Court, the trustees chose Jeremiah Smith, Jeremiah Mason, and Daniel Webster. Webster handled the Woodward case and related cases before the Supreme Court in Washington. Timothy Farrar, Jr. took an active interest in the College Case at least as early as 1817, and actively corresponded with various trustees, President Brown, and Webster through the publication of his book in 1819. In preparing his book, Farrar collected copies of documents relating to Dartmouth College, many of which appear in this collection.

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\*In Clifford K. Shipton's biographic sketch of Timothy Farrar, Sr., in Sibley's Harvard Graduates, XVI, 1764-1767 (Boston, 1972), pp. 466-469, Shipton states that it was with the elder Farrar that Webster formed a partnership. This is incorrect. See the agreement between Webster and the younger Farrar in the collection (folder 5).

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Scope and Content Note

The Farrar Papers contain the correspondence of Judge Timothy Farrar, Sr., (29 items), and the correspondence and miscellaneous paperwork of Timothy Farrar, Jr., especially pertaining to the Dartmouth College Case (76 items). The correspondence of Timothy Farrar, Jr., contains 17 letters to Farrar from Daniel Webster, as well as the partnership agreement between the two men and a rough draft of a speech given by Webster in 1812.

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FARRAR PAPERS

Inventory

Folder

Description

1

Miscellaneous (10 items)

This folder contains a photograph of each of the Farrar's, documents relating to the acquisition of the Farrar papers, a partial inventory of the papers taken in 1877, some miscellaneous letters relating to the Farrar family, and two typed copies of a letter of Timothy Farrar, Jr., the original being located elsewhere in the collection.

2 - 3

Timothy Farrar, Sr., Correspondence, 1791-1808  
(19 items)

Official notification to various posts: Associate Justice of the Superior Court, Elector of President and Vice-President, committee member of State Prison Committee, trustee of Dartmouth College, Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum, and various personal letters to Farrar related to these appointments. Also, three letters from Farrar, Sr. To Farrar, Jr., a thank-you note from Daniel Webster, and a letter from Thomas W. Thompson, trustee of Dartmouth, asking Farrar, Sr. To run for Governor. Letters of resignation from Superior Court, in 1796 and again in 1803.

4

Timothy Farrar, Sr., Correspondence, 1813-1815,  
(10 items)

Official notification to posts of Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum and Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for the Eastern Circuit. Letters telling Farrar he has been nominated for Governor and asking him to accept. Letter notifying Farrar he has been elected President of the New Hampshire Bible Society. Minutes of a Federalist caucus where Farrar is selected to run for Governor.

5 - 7

Timothy Farrar, Jr., Correspondence, 1812-1818,  
(21 items)

Letters from Daniel Webster to Farrar, Jr. including invitation for Farrar to join him in partnership. Partnership agreement between Webster and Farrar. Draft of speech by Webster concerning war with Britain. Letters concerning the Dartmouth College Case, especially from Thomas W. Thompson and Charles Marsh, trustees, and Francis Brown, President of Dartmouth College. Letter from Benj. J. Gilbert concerning Hatch vs. Lang.

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
8 - 11	<p>Timothy Farrar, Jr., Correspondence, 1819-1820 (27 items)</p> <p>Letters concerning the Dartmouth College case in Washington, including several from Daniel Webster, informing Farrar of the progress and eventual victory in the Woodward case. Letters asking Farrar about the progress of the book about the College case.</p>
12	<p>Timothy Farrar, Jr., Correspondence, 1821-1867 (6 items)</p> <p>Miscellaneous letters pertaining to Farrar, Jr. and relatives, including his biographical sketch of his uncle, Rev. Stephen Frarrar (1739-1809), of which there are two typed copies in folder 1. Also, Farrar's appointment as Associate Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. Letter by Farrar, Sr. to Farrar, Jr's daughters describing some details of their father's family life. Also, letter to Farrar, Jr. from his grandson, T.F. Burke.</p>
13 - 15	<p>Timothy Farrar, Jr., Working Papers, (20 items)</p> <p>Miscellaneous copies of documents collected by Farrar concerning the Dartmouth College Case. Letter by Farrar to Webster discussing these coudments as well as the progress of the College Case. Also, an abstract of all the documents which Farrar collected to help him prepare his book on the College Case. Copied documents range from those pertaining to the founding of Dartmouth College to more recent actions taken by the trustees of the College, especially actions concerning Marsh vs. Allen and Pierce &amp; Lyman vs. Gilbert &amp; the trustees of the College</p>
16	<p>Timothy Farrar, Jr., Miscellaneous, (2 items)</p> <p>Letter to Farrar from the executors of Daniel Webster's estate asking for any information or documents pertaining to Webster. Various notes and pieces of notes, written by Farrar, containing biographic data on Webster and Judge Jeremiah Smith.</p>

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FARRAR PAPERS

Selected Correspondents

Catalog cards have been prepared for the following individuals:

Adams, Ebenezer (Professor)  
Brown, Francis (Pres. of Dartmouth)  
Burke, Timothy Farrar  
Burke, William Craig  
Church, John H.  
Farrar, Stephen (Rev.)  
Gilbert, Benjamin J.  
Goddard, John  
Greeley, Philip  
Hale, Samuel (Judge)  
Homes, John (Judge)  
Kent, Moody  
Marsh, Charles  
Putnam, John N. (Professor)  
Smith, Ethan  
Smith, Jeremiah (Judge)  
Story, Joseph (Judge)  
Thompson, Thomas W.  
Webster, Daniel  
Woodward, William

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
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DATA SHEET FOR THE NATIONAL UNION CATALOG OF MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Name of Repository: New Hampshire Historical Society

Reported by: R. Stuart Wallace, Manuscript Asst.

Date: 2 June 1973

1. Name of collection and inclusive dates of material:

Farrar Papers, 1791-1867

2. Principal name around which the collection is formed; i. e., person (full name, birth and death dates), family, business, society, governmental agency, or some other corporate body:

Timothy Farrar, Jr. (Nov 17, 1788-Oct 27, 1874)

Give relationship to the collection; i. e., writerXX, addresseeXX, collectorXX, other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

3. Occupation or type of activity of the principal person, family, or corporate body; significant events and dates in the career or activity; and place of residence or location of activity:

Timothy Farrar, Sr. (1747-1849); Judge, New Ipswich, N. H. (1791-1816)

Timothy Farrar, Jr. (1788-1874); Lawyer, Portsmouth, N.H. (1813-1822, 1833-1836),  
Lawyer, Hanover, N. H. (1822-1833).

4. Number of linear shelf feet (if 1 foot or more)\_\_\_\_\_ or number of items 105 (known \_\_\_\_\_ or estimated \_\_\_\_\_).

5. If the collection contains copies of manuscripts, describe the form (s) of reproduction (handwritten or typewritten transcripts, positive or negative photocopies, positive or negative microfilm with no. of reels) and give the number (or fraction of total) of each kind. Give location of originals, and dates and circumstances under which the copies were made:

The bulk of the collection is in the form of handwritten manuscripts. The original documents are in the possession of the New Hampshire Historical Society. The collection includes several volumes of the diary of Timothy Farrar, Jr. and other papers. The collection also includes several volumes of the diary of Timothy Farrar, Sr. and other papers. The collection is arranged chronologically. The original documents are in the possession of the New Hampshire Historical Society. The collection includes several volumes of the diary of Timothy Farrar, Jr. and other papers. The collection also includes several volumes of the diary of Timothy Farrar, Sr. and other papers. The collection is arranged chronologically.

6. Full citation of any published or unpublished description, guide, index, calendar, etc.:

7. Research access restricted\_\_\_\_, unrestricted\_\_\_\_. State nature of restriction and when it will be terminated:

8. Information on literary rights available in repository: Yes , Do not know .
9. Nature of acquisition (gift, <sup>permanent</sup> deposit, etc.), date (s) and source (s) of acquisition and former owner (s):

Permanent gift of Mrs. A. B. F. Crane, June 11, 1877. Also, permanent gift of Trevor Kincaid, Oct 18, 1965.

10. If this is, or was, part of another collection, state name and relationship:

11. DESCRIPTION OF CONTENT AND SCOPE OF THE COLLECTION.

This description should cover: types of papers (e. g., correspondence, letters, diaries, documents, etc.); dates, subjects, and types of groups of materials that bulk largest; relationship of the material to specific phases of the career or activity of the principal named in item 2; full names, dates, and biographical identification of other persons and names of corporate bodies significant (by quality and quantity of material) to the collection, showing dates, types, and subject matter; geographical areas covered; specific events, topics, and historical periods with which the materials deal; and particular items of extraordinary interest.

These papers include correspondence of Judge Timothy Farrar, Sr. (1747-1849) for the years 1791 to 1815, and correspondence and collected notes of Timothy Farrar, Jr. (1788-1874) for the years 1812 to 1867. The papers of Judge Timothy Farrar, Sr. include official notification of some of his numerous State appointments as well as correspondence related to his nomination as the Federalist candidate for Governor (1814-1815).

The bulk of the collection is concerned with Timothy Farrar, Jr. and specifically, his dealings related to the Dartmouth College Case. The correspondence of Timothy Farrar, Jr. includes several letters from Daniel Webster, Farrar's law partner (1813-1816), and chief attorney for the trustees of Dartmouth College during the hearing before the U. S. Supreme Court.

Timothy Farrar, Jr. also published an account of the Dartmouth College Case at the request of the trustees of the College, entitled, Report of the Case of the Trustees of Dartmouth College against William H. Woodward (1819). One folder of this collection contains copies of documents related to Dartmouth College which Farrar used in the preparation of his book. Also included in the papers of Timothy Farrar, Jr. are numerous letters Farrar received from trustees and professors of Dartmouth College, as well as letters from Francis Brown, President of Dartmouth College.

Inventory-Timothy Farrar Manuscripts

The Farrar collection consists of 111 letters written by Farrar to his son, also Timothy Farrar, between 1802 and 1833. During this time T. Farrar, Jr. was at Groton Academy, Dartmouth College (for B.A. and Law) and Portsmouth, (c. 1816-1822) and Hanover, New Hampshire, (c. 1822-1833).

As far as can be gathered from the letters, T. Farrar, Sr. was a lawyer and possibly a judge, the latter being implied in a letter dated April 11, 1825 concerning the time "since I left the bench." He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of Dartmouth College until May 5, 1826, when he handed in his resignation (of which a copy is included.) Nothing is mentioned as to when he began serving, but it seems to have been prior to 1802. At the same time, he was a small scale farmer growing hay for sale. He also kept some farm animals such as cows for milk and the very necessary horses for traveling. Finally, the family seems to have had land holdings in several places which provided material for a great many letters.

He and his wife had four children. Their names were Timothy, Anna, Sarah, and Elizah. No ages are given. Sarah is only a guess from the contents of the letters. As far as one can tell, the family was not in good health and was ill quite often. However, from the context, the poor health seems to be a general characteristic of the times and not a unique family feature.

The son, after completing his legal studies at Dartmouth, set up his law practice in Portsmouth (c. 1810-1822). Then he moved back to Hanover where he remained through 1833. During this time

he married and had two daughters. (He was supposedly the law partner of Daniel Webster but this is never indicated in the letters. There is one reference to a Mr. Webster in a letter about the Supreme Court of the United States and problems with the reports in the Federal papers. The date is March 19, 1818.)

The contents of the letters are concerned about the daily events and reveal interesting facets of finances, travel, religion, health, education, postal service, etc. There are several items that might be specified. May 9, 1807 concerns the insurrection against the government at Cambridge University, and references to a similar movement at Dartmouth; June 23, 1809, comments on the death of the New Ipswich minister and the probable difficulties in finding another because of "inattention to religion, and practical infidelity which is so prevalent here . . ."; 1820-1 concern several Board of Trustees meetings at Dartmouth relating to the choosing of a president after the death of President Brown; March 31, 1823 concerns political parties brought about by his son's joining the Democrats; 1823-24 contain much information dealing with the minister of New Ipswich and his conflict with the people of the town.

Almost all the letters refer to traveling either for pleasure or business, or in relation to the sending of mail. Because of lack of security of the mail, there is also the need for recognition of letters received in letters sent. Furthermore, property and financial transactions are constantly under discussion in later letters (c. 1824-1833). All the letters are personal in nature, however, and the topics described herein apply only as they affect the writer and his immediate family.