JEREMIAH MASON PAPERS
(1796-1913)

Gift of John Chipman Gray, great-great-grandson of Jeremiah Mason, 1966. An earlier acquisition of Mason papers has been incorporated with this collection. There are now 539 items in two manuscript boxes.

Jeremiah Mason was born in Lebanon, Conn., April 27, 1768; graduated from Yale College, 1788; studied law for a year with Simeon Baldwin in New Haven, for two years with Stephen Bow Bradley in Westminster, Vermont, and was admitted to the bar of Vermont and New Hampshire, 1791. He practiced law in Westmoreland and Walpole for a few years, then settled in Portsmouth in 1797. He married Mary Means, daughter of Robert Means of Amherst, in 1799. They had eight children, George Means, Mary Elizabeth, Alfred, James, Charles, Jane, Robert Means, and Marianne (Mrs. Francis B. Ellison).

Mason served as attorney general of New Hampshire, 1802-1805, and was president of the Rockingham County Bar for many years.1 He was a U.S. Senator, 1813-1816, and a representative to the New Hampshire legislature, 1820, 1821, and 1824. From 1823 to 1832 he was president of the Portsmouth Branch of the Bank of the United States. He then moved to Boston and lived there until his death, October 14, 1848.

The contemporaries of Jeremiah Mason considered him to be one of the great men of his time. Daniel Webster wrote of him, "If there be in the country a stronger intellect; if there be a mind of more native resources; if there be a vision that sees quicker, or sees deeper into whatever is intricate, or whatever is profound, I must confess I have not known it."2 He was an eminent lawyer (Justice Story dedicated his Commentaries on Equity Pleading to him), but he never became a judge. He was an uncompromising Federalist with little taste for political life, and so held few public offices. He did not write books or tracts. Consequently his influence on public affairs was indirect and impossible to record.

Robert Means Mason, son of Jeremiah, wanted to


preserve his memory for the benefit of his descendants. For this purpose he gave his father's correspondence and other materials to George S. Hillard, a lawyer and author who had known Jeremiah Mason in his later years, and requested him to prepare a Memoir. The present collection of papers appears to be what remains of this material.

George S. Hillard produced an excellent biography titled Memoir and Correspondence of Jeremiah Mason, privately printed in a limited edition in 1873. This volume contains Mason's autobiography of his life up to 1797, when he settled in Portsmouth, followed by selected correspondence illustrating Mason's life and character, linked together and explained by biographical material. Many family letters are included as well as correspondence with Daniel Webster, Christopher Gore, Rufus King, Justice Story, and other well known men of the time. There is also an appendix giving the proceedings of the Suffolk County Bar in Massachusetts and the Rockingham County Bar in New Hampshire on the death of Jeremiah Mason, some reminiscences and anecdotes, the dedication to Jeremiah Mason by Joseph Story of his Commentaries on Equity Pleading, and biographical sketches of Jeremiah Mason's family and descendants.

The Mason Papers were used again by John Chipman Gray for his article on Jeremiah Mason in W.O. Lewis, Great American Lawyers, Vol.III (1907). There are penciled notes on the correspondence, "interesting", "not interesting now", "printed in Memoir", etc. made by Mr. Gray, and his typewritten copies of "interesting" letters are included in the present collection. Claude M. Feuss also used the papers for his article on Jeremiah Mason in the Dictionary of American Biography.

The Mason Papers contain some material which is printed in the Memoir along with much which was not printed. However, many of the letters printed in the Memoir are no longer in the collection, family letters as well as letters from prominent men. None of the printed correspondence with Daniel Webster, Christopher Gore, or Rufus King, and only one letter from Joseph Story, are now in the collection. The typewritten copies made by John Chipman Gray also include a number of letters for which there are no originals.

---

3. Reprinted 1917, Memoir, Autobiography and Correspondence of Jeremiah Mason, Illustrated and Annotated, with Enlarged and Revised Index, By J.J. Clark.
The collection consists principally of correspondence and more than one third of this is family correspondence. Much of it shows Mason's affection for his family and a concern for the education and morals of his children. But during his term in the senate, 1813-1817, he described the political scene in letters to his wife and to his brother-in-law, the Rev. Jesse Appleton, President of Bowdoin College. Mrs. Mason joined her husband during his last winter in Washington and wrote some entertaining letters to her sister in Amherst, Mrs. Caleb Ellis, describing Washington and the Wednesday evening "drawing room" of the "Queen", Mrs. Madison.

The papers are interesting for their comments on political affairs, both in the nation and in New Hampshire. Jeremiah Mason was interested in the Federalist cause, banking, the judiciary, and events in general. From 1799 until 1828, he received official papers and documents, along with unofficial news, opinions and rumors from his New Hampshire friends in Congress, William Gordon, William Plumer, Thomas W. Thompson, William Plumer, Jr., John F. Parrott, and Samuel Bell. These concerned treaties, legislation, elections, appointments and other matters. He also received news from Senators John Williams of Tennessee, Robert H. Goldsborough of Maryland, David Daggett of Connecticut, and many other people.

Besides the letters of political interest there are business affairs, letters to Timothy Green, 1796-1797, concerning their land speculations, letters from legal clients, a few deeds, accounts with John Pierce, 1799-1817. There are a few letters concerning the Dartmouth College case, 1819, including one from Daniel Webster. There is correspondence with Nicholas Biddle, President of the Bank of the United States, and with others, 1828-1832, when Mason was president of the Portsmouth Branch. The correspondence dwindled both in volume and interest after Mason moved to Boston in 1832.

The collection also includes the wills of Jeremiah and Mary Means Mason and some family prayers; Mason's autobiography; his sketch of Judge Jeremiah Smith written for John H. Morrison, Smith's biographer, and a character sketch of Mary Means; a "Discourse on the Death of Jeremiah Mason", delivered in St. John's Church, Portsmouth by the Rev. Charles Burroughs; Resolutions adopted by the Bar of the County of Suffolk on the Occasion of the Death of Hon. Jeremiah Mason”; letters to Mrs. Mason after her husband’s death; a few reminiscences by Mrs. Mason; lengthy
reminiscences by Arthur Livermore, Jr., U.S. Consul, Londonderry, Ireland, 1880-1903; anecdotes written and collected by Mason's daughter, Marianne Crafts Ellison; two preliminary drafts of C.M. Fuess' article on Jeremiah Mason in the Dictionary of National Biography.

Inventory

Box I.

Folder 1. Timothy Green, Land Transactions, 1796-1797. 27 items.
        Deed, letters from Jeremiah Mason to Timothy Green, receipts, accounts.

Folder 2. Correspondence, 1798-1804. 45 items.

Folder 3. Correspondence, 1805-1812. 40 items.

Folder 4. Correspondence, 1813. 24 items.

Folder 5. Correspondence, 1 Jan.-22 Apr. 1814. 41 items.

Folder 6. Correspondence, 14 May - 31 Dec. 1814. 30 items.

Folder 7. Correspondence, 6 Jan. 1815 - 19 Dec. 1816. 45 items.

Folder 8. Correspondence, Mrs. Mason & Mrs. Ellis, 24 Nov. 1816 - 1 Mar. 1817. 17 items.

Folder 9. Correspondence, 1817-1821. 44 items.

Folder 10. Correspondence, 1822-1824. 31 items.

Box II.

Folder 11. Correspondence, 1825-1828. 39 items.

Folder 12. Correspondence, 1829-1832. 47 items.

Folder 13. Correspondence, 1833-1847. 30 items.

Folder 14. Correspondence, Undated. 5 items.

Folder 15. John Pierce, in account with Jeremiah Mason, 1799-1817. 6 items.

Folder 16. Wills and Prayers. 7 items.
        Jeremiah Mason, will, 13 Feb. 1842, codicil, 8 May 1848. Mary Mason, will, 6 Sept. 1851.
        4 prayers for family occasions.

Folder 17. Autobiography to 1797. 1 item. Ms.
Folder 18. Writings. 3 items.
   Sketch of Judge Jeremiah Smith; sketch of
   Mary Means (Mrs. Mason); copy of legal
   opinions, 1790-1791.

Folder 19. "Resolutions adopted by the Bar of the County
   of Suffolk, on the occasion of the death of
   Hon. Jeremiah Mason." 1 item. Ms.

Folder 20. Eulogies on death of Jeremiah Mason. 2 items.
   By Mr. Wheelwright. 3pp.

   Condolences and reminiscences.

Folder 22. Mrs. Mason's Reminiscences. 4 items.

Folder 23. Anecdotes of Jeremiah Mason. 12 items.
   Written by daughter Marianne Crafts Ellison;
   also letters to family and 3 letters from Frank
   W. Hackett to N.H. Historical Society, 1889-1913.

Folder 24. Arthur Livermore, Jr. Letters to Mason Family,
   1848, 1880-1903. 12 items.
   Reminiscences of Jeremiah Mason.

Folder 25. John Chipman Gray. Letter from Dartmouth
   College, 19 Jan. 1906. 1 item.

Folder 26. Claude M. Feuss. Biographical sketch of
   Jeremiah Mason. 2 items. tpw.
   Preliminary drafts of article for D.A.B.

Folder 27. Obituaries of Alfred Mason and Mary E. Mason. 3 items.
   Resolution of meeting at Forensic Hall,
   Portsmouth, signed by W.H.Y. Hackett. Ms.
   Address on the Death of Alfred Mason, by Charles
   Obituary notice of Mary E. Mason, reprinted
   from Portsmouth Journal, May 21, 1859.

Folder 28. Typewritten copies of some of the Mason
   correspondence made by John Chipman Gray.
List of Correspondents

Allen, William
Amory, Rufus G.
Appleton, Rev. Jesse
Appleton Nathan
Atkinson, William King
Baldwin, R.S. (Roger Sherman)
Baldwin (Simeon)
Bartlett, James
Bell, Samuel
Bettis, Thornton
Biddle, Nicholas
Blake, Edmund
Blake, Joseph
Bradley, Cyrus P.
Brooks, P.C.
Brown, Addison
Brown, Francis
Browne, Causten
Burleigh, William
Burroughs, Rev. Charles
Caldwell, T.
Chadwick, Edmund
Chalmers, John C.
Channing, Dr. W(illiam)
Chase, Rev. Carlton
Cogswell, Nathaniel
Colburn & Gill (of Boston)
Coleman, William
Cope, Thomas P.
Cutts, Edward, Jr.
Daggett, David
Dana, Luther
Davis, C.S.
Davis, Daniel
Dexter, Franklin
Dow, Dr.
Dutton, William
Eaton, J.H. (John Henry)
Edwards, James L.
Ellis, Nancy (Mrs. Caleb)
Ellison, Marianne (Mason)
Elwyn, E. Langdon
Emery, Noah
Evans, E.
Everett, Edward
Fellows, J.D.C.
Fitch, Mrs. Abigail
Fletcher, R(ichard)
Fuess, Claude M.
Gales, Joseph, Jr.
Gardiner, Robert Hallowell
Gardiner, W.H.
Gilbert, Benjamin J.
Gilman, John Taylor
Goldsborough, Robert H.
Gordon, William
Gore, Christopher
Gray, John Chipman
Green, Timothy
Greenleaf, Simon
Hackett, Caleb
Hackett, Frank W.
Hale, Samuel
Harpur, Robert G.
Haven, John
Haven, Nathaniel A.
Haven, Nathaniel, Jr.
Haven, Thomas
Hillhouse, Elizabeth
Hillhouse, William
Houghton, Josiah
Hull, Isaac
Hunt, Samuel
Jackson, Clement
J(arvis), Anna
Jarvis, S(ameul) Farmer
Johnson, Moses
Johnson, William
Kent, Amos
Kent, George
King, Charles
King, Rufus
Livermore, Arthur
Livermore, Arthur, Jr.
Livermore, G.W.
Lloyd, James
Loring, Charles G.
Lowell, Francis C.
McCormack, David
MacGregor, James
Marston, Hebr'bah
Mason, Alfred
Mason, Charles
Mason, Ellen
Mason, George M.
Mason, James
Mason, Jeremiah
Mason, Joseph
Mason, Mary Means
Mason, Mary Elizabeth
Mason, Robert
Means, Robert
Mellen, Prentiss
Packard, A.S. (Alpheus S.)
Parker, Isaac
Parkman, Samuel
Parrott, John F.
Payne, William
Payson, P.
Peabody, Oliver
Pearson, Samuel
Pennington, William
Pickering, William
Pierce, John
Plumer, William
Plumer, William, Jr.
Prescott, O.W. (George Washington)
Randolph, Richard V.
Ritchie, Robert
Robinson, Beverly
Rogers, J.J.
St. John's Church, Portsmouth
Savage, James
Savage, Thomas
Selfridge, Thomas C. (now)
Sheafe, James
Smith, Jeremiah
Smith, Jeremiah, Jr.
Skinner, Roger
Scott, Pugilet
Spear, William H.
Sprague, Peleg
Stebbins, Daniel
Steele, Jonathan
Story, Joseph
Suffolk County Bar, Mass.
Sullivan, George
Sullivan, William
Symmes, Mary E.
Talbot, Theodore F.
Taylor, James
Thom, James
Thompson, Thomas W.
Thorndike, Israel
Ticknor, George
Tudor, W(illiam)
Upman, Thomas
Upman, Thomas
Vaughan, Benjamin
Waldo, Rev. Daniel
Walsh, Robert, Jr.
Webster, Caroline LeRoy
Webster, Daniel
Webster, Ezekiel
Webster, Grace Fletcher
Wentworth, John
Wheelright, Mr.
White, Stephen
Wiggin, Benjamin, Jr.
Wiggin, B. & T. (of Boston)
Willard, J.
Williams, John
Woods, Leonard, Jr.
Woodward, George

Occ - Lawyers
U.S. Senators
Portsmouth, N.H.
2d Bank of the U.S. - Portsmouth Branch
May 6, 1884
JEREMIAH MASON (1768-1848)
Papers, 1796-1913.
2 boxes
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Box II (cont.)

Folder 20. Eulogies on death of Jeremiah Mason. 2 items.
By Mr. Wheelwright. 3 pr.

Condolences and letters acknowledging receipt
of pamphlet of proceedings of bar associations
of Mass. and N.H. on death of Jeremiah Mason.

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Mason. 2 items.
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"Address on the Death of Alfred Mason," by Charles
A. Cheever, M.D., 123. 25 pp. Printed. Resolution
of meeting at Forensic Hall, Portsmouth, signed by
W.H.Y. Hackett. Ms. Obituary notice of Mary E.
Mason, reprinted from Portsmouth Journal, May 21, 1859.

Folder 28. Typewritten copies of some of the Mason Correspondence
made by John Chipman Gray.
LIST OF CORRESPONDENTS

Allen, William
Amory, Rufus G.
Appleton, Rev. Jesse
Appleton, Nathan
Atkinson, William King
Baldwin, R.S. (Roger Sherman)
Baldwin, Simeon
Bartlett, James
Bell, Samuel
Betton, Thornton
Biddle, Nicholas
Blake, Edmund
Blake, Joseph
Bradley, Cyrus P.
Brooks, P.C.
Brown, Addison
Brown, Francis
Brown, Causten
Burleigh, William
Burroughs, Rev. Charles
Cadwallader, T.
Chadwick, Edmund
Chamberlain, John C.
Channing, Dr. William (alter)
Chase, Rev. Carlton
Cogswell, Nathaniel
Colburn & Gill (of Boston)
Coleman, William
Cope, Thomas P.
Cutts, Edward Jr.
Daggett, David
Dana, Luther
Davis, C.S.
Davis, Daniel
Dexter, Franklin
Dow, Dr. (of Dover)
Dutton, William
 Eaton, J.H. (John Henry)
Edwards, James L.
Ellis, Nancy (Mrs. Caleb)
Ellison, Marianne (Mason)
Elwyn, E. Langdon
Emery, Noah
Evans, E.
Everett, Edward
Fellows, J. D.C.
Fitch, Mrs. Abigail
Fletcher, Richard
Fuess, Clausen M.
Gales, Joseph Jr.
Gardiner, Robert Hallowell
Gardiner, W.H.
Gilbert, Benjamin J.
Gilman, John Taylor
Goldsborough, Robert H.
Gordon, William
Gore, Christopher
Gray, John Chipman
Green, Timothy
Greenleaf, Simon
Hackett, Frank W.
Hale, Samuel
Harper, Robert G.
Haven, John
Haven, Nathaniel A.
Haven, Nathaniel Jr.
Haven, Thomas
Hillhouse, Elizabeth
Hillhouse, William
Houghton, Josiah
Hull, Isaac
Hunt, Samuel
Jackson, Clement
Janes, Anna
Jarvis, Samuel Farmer
Johnson, Moses
Johnson, William
Kent, Amos
Kent, George
King, Charles
King, Rufus
Livermore, Arthur
Livermore, Arthur Jr.
Livermore, J.W.
Lloyd, James
Loring, Charles C.
Lovett, Francis C.
MacGregor, David
MacGregor, James
Marston, Nephew
Mason, Alfred
Mason, Charles
Mason, Ellen
Mason, George M.
Mason, James
Mason, Jeremiah
Mason, Joseph
Mason, Mary Means
Mason, Mary Elizabeth
Mason, Robert
Means, Robert
Mellen, Prentiss
Packard, A.S. (Alpheus S.)
Parker, Isaac
Parkman, Samuel
Parrott, John F.
Payne, William
Payson, P.
Peabody, Oliver
Pearson, Samuel
Pennington, William
Pickering, William
Pierce, John
Plumer, William
Plumer, William Jr.
Prescott, G.W. (George Washington)
Randolph, Richard V.
Ritchie, Robert
Robinson, Beverly
Rogers, J.C.
St. John's Church, Portsmouth
 Savage, James
 Savage, Thomas
 Selfridge, Thomas G.
 Sheafe, James
 Smith, Jeremiah
 Smith, Jeremiah Jr.
 Skinner, Roger
 Spear, William H.
 Sprague, Fagel
 Stebbins, Daniel
 Steele, Jonathan
 Story, Joseph
 Suffolk County Bar, Mass.
 Sullivan, George
 Sullivan, William
 Symmes, Mary E.
 Talbot, Theodore F.
 Taylor, James
 Thom, James
 Thompson, Thomas W.
Thorndike, Israel
Ticknor, George
Tudor, W(illiam)
Upham, Thomas
Uphaus, Thomas
Vaughan, Benjamin
Waldo, Rev. Daniel
Walsh, Robert Jr.
Webster, Caroline LeRoy
Webster, Daniel
Webster, Ezekiel
Webster, Grace Fletcher
Wentworth, John
Wheelright, Mr.
White, Stephen
Wiggin, B. & T. (of Boston)
Wiggin, Benjamin Jr.
Willard, J.
Williams, John
Woods, Leonard Jr.
Woodward, George
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen, William</td>
<td>1819</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amory, Rufus G.</td>
<td>1807</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appleton, Rev. Jesse (1772-1819), Pres.</td>
<td>1810-17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowdoin College</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Appleton, Nathaniel</td>
<td>1822</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Atkinson, William King (1765-1820) N.H.</td>
<td>1814-17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baldwin, Roger, Scherman (1793-1863) Sen.</td>
<td>1849</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conn.</td>
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<td>Baldwin, Simeon (1761-1851), U.S. Rep.</td>
<td>1849</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conn.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bartlet, James (1792-1837), N.H. Senate</td>
<td>1828</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell, Samuel (1770-1850), U.S. Sen., N.H.</td>
<td>1826-32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betton, Thornton (1800-1841), lawyer, Derry, N.H.</td>
<td>1835</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biddle, Nicholas (1786-1844), Pres. U.S.</td>
<td>1823-32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blake, Edmund</td>
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<td>Bradley, Cyrus P.</td>
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<td>Brooks, P.C.</td>
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<td>Brown, Francis</td>
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<td>Brown, Causten (1828-1909), Boston lawyer</td>
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<td>Burleigh, William (1785-1827), U.S. Rep.</td>
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<td>Maine</td>
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<td>Darloughs, Rev. Charles (of Portsmouth)</td>
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<td>Cadwalander, T. Acting Pres. U.S. Bank</td>
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<td>Channing, Dr. W</td>
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<td>Chase, Rev. Carlton</td>
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<td>Cogswell, Nathaniel (1773-1813) Sanbornton lawyer</td>
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<td>Colburn &amp; Gill (of Boston)</td>
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<td>Cope, Thomas P.</td>
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<td>Cutts, Edward Jr. (1782-1844) Portsmouth lawyer</td>
<td>1814-1836</td>
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<td>Daggett, David (1764-1851) U.S. Sen. Conn.</td>
<td>1818-1819</td>
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<td>Dana, Luther</td>
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<td>Davis, G.S.</td>
<td>1829, 1849</td>
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<td>Eaton, J.H. (John Henry, 1790-1856) Sec. War</td>
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<td>Edwards, James L.</td>
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<td>Ellis, Nancy (Mrs. Caleb)</td>
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<td>Evans, El(stwick) (1787-1866) Portsmouth lawyer</td>
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<td>Everett, Edward (1794-1865)</td>
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<td>Fellows, J.D.C.</td>
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<td>Fitch, Mrs. Abigail (sister of Jeremiah Mason)</td>
<td>1845-49</td>
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</table>
Gales, Joseph, Jr. 1821
Gardiner, Robert Hallowell 1824
Gardiner, W.H. 1822
Gilbert, Benjamin J. (1764-1839) Hanover lawyer 1820
Goldsborough, Robert H. (1779-1836) U.S. Sen. Maryland 1814-18
Gore, Christopher (1758-1827) U.S. Sen. Mass. 1816-1824
Gray, John Chipman 1906
Green Timothy 1796-97
Greenleaf, S. 1838, 1843
Hacker, Isaiah 1829
Hackett, Frank W. 1912-13
Hale, Samuel 1832
Haven, John 1829
Haven, Nathaniel Jr. 1815
Haven, Thomas 1830
Hillhouse, Elizabeth (sister of Jeremiah Mason) 1808
Hillhouse, William 1803, 1815
Houghton, Josiah Deerfield lawyer 1828
Hull, Isaac (Commodore) 1814
Jackson, Clement (of Portsmouth) 1802
Jarvis, Anna (dau. of Samuel P. Jarvis) 1837-38
Jarvis, Samuel Farmer (1786-1851) Conn. Bishop 1847
Johnson, Moses 1806
Johnson, William 1806
Kent, Amos (1774-1824) N.H. Sen. 1815
Kent, George (1796-1884) Lawyer, cashier Concord Bank 1823
King, Charles (son of Rufus) 1842
King, Rufus (1725-1827) U.S. Sen. N.Y. C.J. 1814
Livermore, Arthur (1766-1853), judge superior Court, N.H. 1799
Livermore, C.W. 1804
Lloyd, James 1817
Loring, Charles G. 1844
Lowell, Francis C. 1806
McGregor, David 1822
MacGregore, James 1806-07
Marston, Hephribah 1796
Mason, Alfred 1822-28
Mason, Charles 1835, 1848
Mason, Ellen (granddaughter of Jeremiah) c. 1890
Mason, George M. (1800-1865) 1810-1848
Mason, James 1814-30
Mason, Jeremiah, (nephew of Jeremiah) 1838
Mason, Joseph (brother of Jeremiah) 1831
Mason, Mary Means (1777-1858) wife of Jeremiah 1799-1849.
Mason, Mary Elizabeth daughter 1813-28
Mason, Robert 1830-35
Mellen, Prentiss (1764-1840) U.S. Sen. Mass. 1806, 1822