

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 530 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 Row 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.<sup>1</sup> He was a U.S. Senator, 1813-1816, and a representative to the New Hampshire legislature, 1820, 1821, and 1824. From 1828 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 whatsoever is profound, I must confess I have not known it".<sup>2</sup> 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

1. See Records of the Rockingham County Bar, 1804-1824. Ms. Vol., N.H. Historical Society.

2. G.T. Curtis, Life of Daniel Webster (1870), Vol.I, p.89.

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.<sup>3</sup> 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.D. 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.

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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. 2~~8~~<sup>5</sup> items.  
Deed, letters from Jeremiah Mason to Timothy Green, receipts, accounts.
- Folder 2. Correspondence, 1798-1804. 4~~2~~<sup>5</sup> 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 - 4 Mar. 1817. 17 items.
- Folder 9. Correspondence, 1817-1821. 44 items.
- Folder 10. Correspondence, 1822-1824. 31 items.

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- 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, 18 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 Rev. Charles Burroughs, D.D. 38pp.  
By Mr. Wheelright. 3pp.
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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. Féuss. 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 A. Cheever, M.D., 1828. 25 pp. Printed.  
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 Correspondants

Allen, William  
Amory, Rufus G.  
Appleton, Rev. Jesse  
Appleton N(athan)  
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  
Browne, Causten  
Burleigh, William  
Burrroughs, Rev. Charles  
Cadwalader, T.  
Chadwick, Edmund  
Chamberlain, John C.  
Channing, Dr. W. (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.  
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, S(imon)  
Hacker, Isaiah  
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  
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.  
McGregor, David  
MacGregore, James  
Marston, Hephribah  
Mason, Alfred  
Mason, Charles  
Mason, Ellen

Mason, George M.	Spear, William H.
Mason, James	Sprague, Peleg
Mason, Jeremiah	Stebbins, Daniel
Mason, Joseph	Steele, Jonathan
Mason, Mary Means	Story, Joseph
Mason, Mary Elizabeth	Suffolk County Bar, Mass.
Mason, Robert	Sullivan, George
Means, Robert	Sullivan, William
Meilen, Prentiss	Symmes, Mary E.
Packard, A.S. (Alpheus S.)	Talbot, Theodore F.
Parker, Isaac	Taylor, James
Parkman, Samuel	Thom, James
Parrott, John F.	Thompson, Thomas W.
Payne, William	<del>Thorndike, Israel</del> <i>Thurston, Wm</i>
Payson, P.	Ticknor, George
Peabody, Oliver	Tudor, W(illiam)
Pearson, Samuel	Upham, Thomas
Pennington, William	Uphaus, Thomas
Pickering, William	Vaughan, Benjamin
Pierce, John	Waldo, Rev. Daniel
Plumer, William	Walsh, Robert, Jr.
Plumer, William, Jr.	Webster, Caroline LeRoy
Prescott, G.W. (George Washington)	Webster, Daniel
Randolph, Richard V.	Webster, Ezekiel
Ritchie, Robert	Webster, Grace Fletcher
Robinson, Beverly	Wentworth, John
Rogers, J.J.	Wheelright, Mr.
St. John's Church, Portsmouth	White, Stephen
Savage, James	Wiggin, Benjamin, Jr.
Savage, Thomas	Wiggin, B. & T. (of Boston)
<del>Selfridge, Thomas O. Shaw,</del>	Willard, J.
Sheafe, James	Williams, John
Smith, Jeremiah	Woods, Leonard, Jr..
Smith, Jeremiah, Jr.	Woodward, George
Skinner, Roger	
Scott, Agville	

Occ - Lawyers

U.S. Senators

Portsmouth, N.H.

2d Bank of the U.S. - Portsmouth Branch

Pol. M.C. N.H.

MAY 07 1812

JEREMIAH MASON (1768-1848)  
 Papers, 1796-1913  
 2 boxes ~~Papers~~ (526 items)

526

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2. G.T. Curtis, Life of Daniel Webster (1870), Vol. I, p.89.

*Library has Mason's copy of Story's Commentaries*



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6

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Amory, Rufus G.	Fuess, Clause M.
Appleton, Rev. Jesse	Gales, Joseph Jr.
Appleton N(athan)	Gardiner, Robert Hallowell
Atkinson, William King	Gardiner, W.H.
Baldwin, R.S. (Roger Sherman)	Gilbert, Benjamin J.
Baldwin (Simeon)	Gilman, John Taylor
Bartlett, James	Goldsborough, Robert H.
Bell, Samuel	Gordon, William
Betton, Thornton	Gore, Christopher
Biddle, Nicholas	Gray, John Chipman
Blake, Edmund	Green, Timothy
Blake, Joseph	Greenleaf, S(imon)
Bradley, Cyrus P.	Hacker, Isaiah
Brooks, P.C.	Hackett, Frank W.
Brown, Addison	Hale, Samuel
Brown, Francis	Harper, Robert G.
Browne, Causten	Haven, John
Burleigh, William	Haven, Nathaniel A.
Burrroughs, Rev. Charles	Haven, Nathaniel Jr.
Cadwalader, T.	Haven, Thomas
Chadwick, Edmund	Hillhouse, Elizabeth
Chamberlain, John C.	Hillhouse, William
Channing, Dr. <del>William</del> (Walter)	Houghton, Josiah
Chase, Rev. Carlton	Hull, Isaac
Cogswell, Nathaniel	Hunt, Samuel
Colburn & Gill (of Boston)	Jackson, Clement
Coleman, William	J(arvis), Anna
Cope, Thomas P.	Jarvis, S(amuel) Farmer
Cutts, Edward Jr.	Johnson, Moses
Daggett, David	Johnson, William
Dana, Luther	Kent, Amos
Davis, C.S.	Kent, George
Davis, Daniel	King, Charles
Dexter, Franklin	King, Rufus
Dow, Dr. (of Dover)	Livermore, Arthur
Dutton, William	Livermore, Arthur Jr.
Eaton, J.H. (John Henry)	Livermore, S.W.
Edwards, James L.	Lloyd, James
Ellis, Nancy (Mrs. Caleb)	Loring, Charles G.
Ellison, Marianne (Mason)	Lowell, Francis C.
Elwyn, E. Langdon	McGregor, David
Emery, Noah	MacGregore, James
Evans, E.	Marston, Hephribah
Everett, Edward	Mason, Alfred
Fellows, J.D.C.	Mason, Charles
Fitch, Mrs. Abigail	Mason, Ellen

Mason, George M.	Thorndike, Israel
Mason, James	Ticknor, George
Mason, Jeremiah	Tudor, W(illiam)
Mason, Joseph	Upham, Thomas
Mason, Mary Means	Uphaus, Thomas
Mason, Mary Elizabeth.	Vaughan, Benjamin
Mason, Robert	Waldo, Rev. Daniel.
Means, Robert	Walsh, Robert Jr.
Mellen, Prentiss	Webster, Caroline LeRoy
Packard, A.S. (Alpheus S.)	Webster, Daniel
Parker, Isaac	Webster, Ezekiel
Parkman, Samuel	Webster, Grace Fletcher
Parrott, John F.	Wentworth, John
Payne, William	Wheelright, Mr.
Payson, P.	White, Stephen
Peabody, Oliver	Wiggin, B. & T. (of Boston)
Pearson, Samuel	Wiggin, Benjamin Jr.
Pennington, William	Willard, J.
Pickering, William	Williams, John
Pierce, John	Woods, Leonard Jr.
Plumer, William	Woodward, George
Plumer, William Jr.	
Prescott, G.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.	
Cheafe, James	
Smith, Jeremiah	
Smith, Jeremiah Jr.	
Skinner, Roger	
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.	

Allen, William	1819	2
Amory, Rufus G.	1807	2
Appleton, Rev. Jesse (1772-1819), Pres. Bowdoin College.	1810-17	12
Appleton, Nathan	1822	2
Atkinson, William King (1765-1820) N.H. Judge <sup>(1807)</sup>	1814-17	4
Baldwin, Roger Sherman (1793-1863) Sen. Conn.	1849	1
Baldwin, Simeon (1761-1851), U.S. Rep. Conn.	1849	1
Bartlet, James (1792-1837), N.H. Senate	1828	1
Bell, Samuel (1770-1850), U.S. Sen., N.H.	1826-32	3
Betton, Thornton (1800-1841), lawyer, Derry, N.H.	1835	1
Biddle, Nicholas (1786-1844), Pres. U.S. Bank	1823-1832	16
Blake, Edmund	1806	1
Blake, Joseph	1806	1
Bradley, Cyrus P.	1834	1
Brooks, P.C.	1805-06	2
Brown, Addison	1828	2
Brown, Francis	1819	1
Brown, Causten (1828-1909), Boston lawyer	1849	1
Burleigh, William (1785-1827), U.S. Rep. Maine	1824	1
Burroughs, Rev. Charles (of Portsmouth)	1828	
	<del>1849</del>	
Cadwalander, T. Acting Pres. U.S. Bank	1829	2
Chadwick, Edmund	1806	1
Chamberlain, John C. (1772-1834), U.S. Rep., N.H.	1817	1
Channing, Dr. W	1835	1
Chase, Rev. Carlton	1846	1
Cogswell, Nathaniel (1773-1813) Sanbornton lawyer	1804	1
Colburn & Gill (of Boston)	1806	1
Coleman, William	1804	1
Cope, Thomas P.	1829	1
Cutts, Edward Jr. (1782-1844) Portsmouth lawyer	1814-1836	6
Daggett, David (1764-1851) U.S. Sen. Conn.	1818-1819	3
Dana, Luther	1804	1
Davis, C.S.	1829, 1849	2
Davis, Daniel	1804	1
Dexter, Franklin	1828	1
Dow, Dr. (of Dover)	1813	1
Dutton, William	1828	1
Eaton, J.H. (John Henry, 1790-1856) Sec. War	1829	1
Edwards, James L.	1829	1
Ellis, Nancy (Mrs. Caleb)	1816-17	18
Ellison, Marianne Mason		
Elwyn, E. Langdon		
Emery, Noah	1812	2
Evans, Estwick (1787-1866) Portsmouth lawyer	1824-28	3
Everett, Edward (1794-1865)	1823	1
Fellows, J.D.C.		
Fitch, Mrs. Abigail (sister of Jeremiah Mason)	1845-49	3
Fletcher, Richard (1788-1869) U.S. Rep. Mass.	1835	1

Gales, Joseph, Jr.	1821	1
Gardiner, Robert Hallowell	1824	1 t.c.
Gardiner, W.H.	1822	1
Gilbert, Benjamin J. (1764-1839) Hanover lawyer	1820	1
Goldsborough, Robert H. (1779-1836) U.S. Sen. Maryland	1814-18	1, 4 t.c.
Gordon, William (1763-1802) U.S. Rep. N.H.	1799-1800	6
Gore, Christopher (1758-1827) U.S. Sen. Mass.	1816-1824	10 t.c.
Gray, John Chipman	1906	1
Green Timothy	1796-97	27
Greenleaf, S.	1838, 1843	2
Hacker, Isaiah	1829	1
Hackett, Frank W.	1912-13	3
Hale, Samuel	1832	1
Harper, Robert G. (1765-1825) U.S. Rep. S.C.	1807	1
Haven, John	1829	2
Haven, Nathaniel A. (1762-1831) U.S. Rep. N.H.	1816, 1823	2
Haven, Nathaniel Jr.	1815	1
Haven, Thomas	1830	1
Hillhouse, Elizabeth (sister of Jeremiah Mason)	1808	1
Hillhouse, William	1803, 1815	2
Houghton, Josiah Deerfield lawyer	1828	1
Hull, Isaac (Commodore)	1814	1 tpw.
Hunt, Samuel (1765-1807) U.S. Rep. N.H.	1803	1
Jackson, Clement (of Portsmouth)	1802	1
J(arvis), Anna (dau. of Samuel F. Jarvis)	1837-38	2
Jarvis, Samuel Farmer (1786-1851) Conn. Bishop	1847	1
Johnson, Moses	1806	1
Johnson, William	1806	1
Kent, Amos (1774-1824) N.H. Sen.	1815	1
Kent, George (1796-1884) Lawyer, cashier Concord Bank	1823	1
King, Charles (son of Rufus)	1842	1 t.c.
King, Rufus (1725-1827) U.S. Sen. N.Y. C.J.	1814	1 t.c.
Livermore, Arthur (1766-1853), judge superior Court, N.H.	1799	1
Livermore, Arthur, Jr. (b.1811) lawyer, U.S. Consul	1848, 1880-1903.	12
Livermore, G.W.	1804	1
Lloyd, James	1817	1
Loring, Charles G.	1844	1
Lowell, Francis C.	1806	2
McGregor, David	1822	1
MacGregore, James	1806-07	3
Marston, Hephribah	1796	1
Mason, Alfred	1822-28	4
Mason, Charles	1835, 1848	2
Mason, Ellen (granddaughter of Jeremiah)	c. 1890	3
Mason, George M. (1800-1865)	1810-1848	5
Mason, James	1814-30	18
Mason, Jeremiah, (nephew of Jeremiah)	1838	1
Mason, Joseph (brother of Jeremiah)	1831	1
Mason, Mary Means (1777-1858) wife of Jeremiah	1799-1849.	...
Mason, Mary Elizabeth daughter	1813-28	15
Mason, Robert	1830-35	6
Means, Robert ( father-in-law of Jeremiah)	1814	1 t.c.
Means, Robert	1835	1
Mellen, Prentiss (1764-1840) U.S. Sen. Mass.	1806, 1822	2