

1926-3

New Hampshire Historical Society
Manuscripts Division

JOHN HATCH GEORGE PAPERS

Register

Compiled by
Thomas E. Camden
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GEORGE, JOHN HATCH PAPERS

New Hampshire Historical Society
Manuscripts Division

JOHN HATCH GEORGE PAPERS

Biographical Sketch

- 1824 November 20, born in Concord, New Hampshire, the son of John and Mary (Hatch) George
educated in Concord Public Schools
- 1840 entered Dartmouth College
- 1843 left Dartmouth College due to the death of his father, John George
- 1843 entered the law office of Franklin Pierce and began preparation for admission to the bar
- 1846 admitted to the New Hampshire Bar
- 1846-1851 practiced law with Charles H. Peaslee
- 1847 mother, Mary Hatch George, died
- 1847-1848 served as Clerk of the New Hampshire State Senate
- 1847-1850 was aid-de-camp and chief of staff for Governor Dinsmore and commanded Company A of the "Governor's Horse Guard"
- 1847-1866 served as clerk and counsel for the Concord Railroad
- 1849 appointed Solicitor for the County of Merrimack, New Hampshire
- 1849 married Susan Ann Brigham, daughter of Levi Brigham of Boston
- 1850 served again as Clerk of the New Hampshire State Senate
- 1851 formed a copartnership with Sidney Webster in Concord, N.H.
- 1851-1853 Chairman of the Democratic State Committee
- 1852-1860 member of the National Democratic Committee
- 1853 formed partnership with William L. Foster and Charles P. Sanborn in Concord, N.H.

1853 elected a member of the state legislature but resigned his seat on accepting the appointment of U.S. Attorney

1853-1858 served as United States Attorney for New Hampshire

1854-1856 served again as Solicitor for the County of Merrimack, New Hampshire

1856 served again as Chairman of the Democratic State Committee

1859 Democratic nominee as candidate to represent the Second District in the United States House of Representatives but was not elected

1863 wife, Susan Brigham George, died

1863 again an unsuccessful Democratic candidate for the United States House of Representatives

1865 married Salvadora Meade Graham, daughter of James D. Graham of Concord

1866 unsuccessful Democratic candidate for the United States Senate

1867-1884 served as Solicitor for the Boston and Lowell Railroad

1888 February 5, died in Concord, New Hampshire

Children by marriage to Susan Brigham:

John Paul George
Jane Appleton George
Charles Peaslee George
Benjamin Pierce George
Ann Brigham George

Children by marriage to Salvadora Meade Graham:

Charlotte Graham George

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Scope and Content Note

The John Hatch George Papers, consisting of six document boxes and one oversize folder, were presented to the New Hampshire Historical Society in 1926 by Benjamin P. George of Chicago, Illinois. The collection, arranged chronologically, spans the years 1840-1886 and is composed almost totally of correspondence.

John Hatch George was born in Concord, New Hampshire where he attained prominence as a lawyer after fitting himself for the profession in the office of Franklin Pierce. Although it was in the court room that he exhibited his best powers, George was also known as an ardent politician. For most of his life he was actively involved in both the state and national Democratic Committees. He made frequent appearances and created quite a reputation for himself as a political debater and as a legal advocate.

In his later years, George received the appointment of solicitor of the Boston and Lowell Railroad. He thus became familiar not only with the details of railway administration, in the frequent cases that demanded his attention, but also with "the broader questions of expediency and public need," which often formed the subject of his appeals to legislative and municipal commissions.¹

The bulk of the John Hatch George Papers is political correspondence, largely concerning the Democratic party, and spans the period 1847-1864. Correspondence from George's student days at Dartmouth College, 1840-1842, precede the political correspondence and can be found in the first two folders of Box 1. Of special note in the collection is the information about Franklin Pierce - his nomination, the election campaign, the choice of his cabinet and the re-election effort. Sidney Webster, Pierce's private secretary, wrote frequently to George, keeping him well-informed. The decline of the Democratic party in New Hampshire is well documented in these papers, particularly the defeat by the Know-Nothing party in 1855 and the rise of the Republican party thereafter. Even though John Hatch George supported a war to prevent secession, he continuously opposed the abolition of slavery on the grounds that the Constitution provided for such an institution.

In addition, the George Papers include a small collection of correspondence of Paul Rolfe George, a half-brother of John Hatch George and a close friend of Caleb Cushing, Benjamin Butler and other prominent Democrats (Box 6, Folders 22-29). Paul Rolfe George was born in Concord on August 25, 1807, the son of John and Ruth (Bradley) George. His business career was varied and with Caleb Cushing and several others he journeyed up the Mississippi River and invested in property near St. Croix Falls in Wisconsin. During the Mexican War he served as Quartermaster under Cushing and in the Civil War served as Quartermaster under General Benjamin Butler. Paul Rolfe George died at his farm in Hopkinton, New Hampshire on February 29, 1864.

A select list of correspondents and subjects, for which cards have been made for the manuscripts room catalog, is appended to this register.

¹C.H. Bell, The Bench and Bar of New Hampshire. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin & Co.), 1894, p. 393.

SOURCES CONSULTED

C.H. Bell. The Bench and Bar of New Hampshire. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin & Co.), 1894.

Dartmouth College. Necrology of Dartmouth Alumni for 1887-1888.

George, John Hatch. Sketch of Capt. Paul Rolfe George of Hopkinton, N.H. (Concord), 1885.

History of Merrimack and Belknap Counties, New Hampshire. (J.W. Lewis & Co.: Philadelphia), 1885.

The Granite Monthly. "Col. John Hatch George." (Vol. II, No. 7), April 1879.

Original

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JOHN HATCH GEORGE PAPERS

Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	Correspondence. John Hatch George. 1840-1841
	2	1842
	3	1843-1844
	4	1845
	5	1846
	6	1847
	7	Jan-May 1848
	8	June-Dec 1848
	9	Jan-May 1849
	10	June-Dec 1849
	11	Jan-July 1850
	12	Aug-Dec 1850
	13	March-Oct 1851
	14	Nov-Dec 1851
	15	Jan 1852
	16	Feb 1852
	17	March 1852
	18	April-May 1852
	19	June 5-20, 1852
	20	June 21-30, 1852
2	1	Correspondence. John Hatch George. July 1-15, 1852
	2	July 16-25, 1852
	3	July 26-27, 1852
	4	July 28, 1852
	5	July 29-30, 1852
	6	July 31, 1852
	7	August 2, 1852
	8	August 3-5, 1852
	9	August 6-8, 1852
	10	August 9, 1852
	11	August 10-12, 1852
	12	August 13-15, 1852
	13	August 16, 1852
	14	August 17, 1852
	15	August 18-23, 1852
	16	August 24-31, 1852
	17	September 1-10, 1852
	18	September 11-20, 1852
	19	September 21-30, 1852

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	20	Correspondence. John Hatch George.
		October 2-10, 1852
	21	October 11-15, 1852
	22	October 16-20, 1852
	23	October 21-31, 1852
	24	November 1852
	25	December 1852
3	1	Correspondence. John Hatch George.
		January 1853
	2	February 1853
	3	March 2-18, 1853
	4	March 21-31, 1853
	5	April 1853
	6	May 1853
	7	June-July 1853
	8	August-September 1853
	9	October-December 1853
	10	January 4-15, 1854
	11	January 16-31, 1854
	12	February 2-14, 1854
	13	February 18-28, 1854
	14	March 1854
	15	April 1854
	16	May 1854
	17	June 1854
	18	July 1854
	19	August 1854
	20	September 1854
	21	October 1854
	22	November-December 1854
	23	January-February 1855
	24	March-April 1855
	25	May-August 1855
	26	September-October 1855
27	November-December 1855	
4	1	Correspondence. John Hatch George.
		January 1856
	2	February 1856
	3	March 1856
	4	April 1856
	5	May-June 1856
	6	July 1856
	7	August 1-14, 1856
	8	August 16-30, 1856
	9	September 1-25, 1856
	10	September 26-30, 1856
	11	October 1-10, 1856
12	October 11-15, 1856	

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	13	Correspondence. John Hatch George.
		October 16-20, 1856
	14	October 21-27, 1856
	15	October 28-29, 1856
	16	October 30-31, 1856
	17	November 1-20, 1856
	18	November 21-30, 1856
	19	December 1856
	20	January 1857
	21	February 1857
	22	March-April 1857
	23	May-June 1857
	24	July-September 1857
	25	October-November 1857
26	December 1857	
5	1	Correspondence. John Hatch George.
		January 1858
	2	February 1858
	3	March 1858
	4	April-June 1858
	5	August-September 1858
	6	October-November 1858
	7	December 1858
	8	January 1859
	9	February 1859
	10	March-April 1859
	11	May-July 1859
	12	August-October 1859
	13	November 1859
	14	December 1859
	15	January-February 1860
	16	March 1860
	17	April-May 1860
	18	June-July 1860
	19	August-September 1860
	20	October-November 1860
	21	December 1860
	22	January 1861
	23	February-April 1861
	24	May-August 1861
	25	September 1861
	26	October 1861
27	November-December 1861	
6	1	Correspondence. John Hatch George.
		January-December 1862
	2	January 2-25, 1863
	3	January 26-30, 1863

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
6	4	Correspondence. John Hatch George. February 2-10, 1863
	5	February 11-20, 1863
	6	February 23-28, 1863
	7	March 1-15, 1863
	8	March 16-27, 1863
	9	April 1863
	10	May 1863
	11	June-July 1863
	12	August-September 1863
	13	October-December 1863
	14	January-February 1864
	15	March-June 1864
	16	July 1864
	17	August 1864
	18	September 1864
	19	October-December 1864
	20	1865-1886
	21	Undated
	22	Correspondence. Paul Rolfe George. 1842-1845
	23	1846-1848
	24	1849-1850
	25	1851-1852
	26	1853
	27	1854
	28	1855-1860
	29	1861-1863

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Correspondents

Cards for the following have been filed in the manuscripts catalog. This constitutes a select list, not a complete index.

Allen, Albert G.	Duncan, William Henry
Atherton, Charles Gordon	Florence, Thomas Birch
Ayer, Benjamin Franklin	Forney, John Wein
Ayer, Samuel Hazen	Foster, William L.
Baker, Nathaniel Bradley	Fowler, Asa
Baldwin, Henry E.	Gayarre, Charles
Barnes, Isaac Orr	George, John
Bayly, Thomas Henry	George, John Hatch
Bell, Charles Henry	George, Paul Rolfe
Bell, Samuel Dana	George, Philip B.
Berry, Nathaniel S.	Gerry, Elbridge
Blair, Montgomery	Gilchrist, John James
Bouton, Nathaniel	Gilman, J.T.
Bradbury, Bion	Gilmore, Joseph A.
Breckinridge, John Cabell	Gorman, Willis Arnold
Brenton, Samuel	Gove, Charles Frederick
Brodhead, John Minor	Grandin, William
Brodhead, Joseph C.	Greene, Charles Gordon
Burke, Edmund	Greene, Isaac T.
Butler, Benjamin Franklin	Hallett, Benjamin Franklin
Butterfield, William	Hamlin, Hanibal
Cable, Joseph	Harriman, Walter
Campbell, James E.	Harvey, Matthew
Carter, Ezra Jr.	Hatch, John K.
Chandler, William E.	Hawthorne, Nathaniel
Cilley, Bartlett Gershom	Henn, Bernhart
Clarke, John Badger	Hibbard, Harry
Cobb, Howell	Hinman, John E.
Cochrane, John	Hirst, William L.
Concord Female Benevolent Association	Hobart, Aaron
Corbin, Austin	Hoit, Moses F.
Crittenden, John Jordan	Hubbard, Henry
Cross, Col. Edward Ephraim	Ingersoll, Colin Macrae
Cushing, Caleb	Jennifer, Daniel
Davis, Jefferson	Jewell, Harvey
Dean, Benjamin	Jones, Jehu Glancy
Dinsmoor, Samuel Jr.	Jones, S.W.
Dix, John Adams	Kelly, Moses
Dobbin, James Cochrane	Kent, George
Dodge, Augustus C.	Kent, Col. Henry O.
Doe, Charles	King, Horatio
Dorr, Thomas Wilson	Kittredge, George Washington

Krum, John M.
Lamprey, Uri
Lord, Rev. Nathan
Loring, George Bailey
Low, Joseph
McFarlan, Asa
McLane, Robert Milligan
March Charles W.
Marcy, Daniel
Marcy, William Learned
Martin, Noah
Mason, Larkin D.
Metcalf, Ralph
Minot, Josiah
Moore, John C.
Morgan, George Washington
Morrison, George Washington
Morton, William Saxton
Nesmith, James Willis
O'Reilly, John Boyle
Orr, James Lawrence
Parker, Joel
Peaslee, Charles H.
Perkins, George Hamilton
Perley, Ira
Pierce, Franklin (subject)
Potter, Chandler Eastman
Pratt, James Timothy
Prescott, Benjamin Franklin
Reding, John Randall
Richardson, William Alexander
Rix, James M.
Robinson, A.H.
Sanborn, Dyer H.
Sargent, Jonathan Everett
Seymour, Horatio
Shaw, Southworth
Smith, Rev. Asa Dodge
Snow, William W.
Stanton, Henry Brewster
Stearns, Onslow
Steele, John H.
Sullivan, John
Swasey, Samuel
Tappan, Mason Weare
Taylor, Zachary
Thomas, John Addison
Thomas, Philip F.
Thorn, George
Tyler, Robert
Uphan, Nathaniel G.
Vallandigham, Clement Laird
Van Buren, John
Voorhees, Daniel Wolsey

Walker, Joseph B.
Walker, Lyman Bradstreet
Waterbury, Nelson J.
Webster, Sidney
Wells, John
Wells, John Sullivan
Whipple, Thomas Jefferson
Whittemore, Bernard Bemis
Whittier, John Greenleaf
Wilson, John C.
Wise, Henry A.
Woodbury, Charles Levi
Woodman, Charles William

*NOTE: Correspondence with Franklin
Pierce has been filed with the
Franklin Pierce Papers.

Correspondence with Edna Dean Proctor
has been filed with the Edna Dean
Proctor Papers.

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Subjects

Cards for the following have been filed in the manuscripts catalog. This constitutes a select list, not a complete index.

American Party
Civil War
Concord, N.H.
Dartmouth College
Democratic Party
Democratic State Committee
Election of 1852
Election of 1856
Election of 1860
Election of 1864
Hillsboro, N.H.
Kansas - Nebraska Bill
Lawyers
New Hampshire Militia
Political - 1851-1864
Mexican War
Wisconsin - St. Croix Falls

NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Manuscripts Section

SEPARATION RECORD

Acc. Number 1926-3

The following items have been removed from the collection:

JOHN HATCH GEORGE PAPERS

Item	Disposition
<p>John Hatch George. Masonic appointment. Scottish rite, created Sovereign Grand Inspector General, active member of Supreme Council, May 1865</p>	<p>Oversize case - manuscripts</p>