



## Guide to the Piscataqua Bridge Records, 1793-1855

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Piscataqua Bridge Records, 1793-1855

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Number:**

2008.039

2013.035

**Author of Finding Aid:**

The original 2008 finding aid was written by an unknown person. Sandra L. Wheeler incorporated that information when she rewrote and formatted it in 2014 to include the 2013 donation.

**Creator:**

Proprietors of the Piscataqua Bridge.

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

5 boxes and two oversize account books in envelopes

**Abstract:**

The Piscataqua Bridge Records, 1793-1855, consist of stock certificates, receipts, bills, directors' minutes, and account books and account book pages. Originally constructed in 1794 as the longest span bridge in the world, the bridge later collapsed in 1830. It was rebuilt in 1830 by Cyrus Frink. It was not rebuilt following a final collapse.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

The Piscataqua Bridge Records came to the New Hampshire Society in two parts. In 2008, the Society purchased around 1,800 items, mostly stock certificates, bills and receipts, from M&S Rare Books, Providence, RI (accession #2008.039). In 2013, David S. Brooke of West Windsor, New Jersey, gave the Society two Cyrus Frink Account Books (2013.035). Those books have their accession number penciled in them.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was first processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. It was reprocessed by Sandra L. Wheeler in June, 2014. The original finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown time and rewritten and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler in June, 2014. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

### **Access Restrictions:**

None

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

### **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**

This is a paper based collection and there are no technical requirements for use.

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Researchers are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

### **Preferred Citation:**

The Piscataqua Bridge Records, 2008.039, 2013.035. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date Accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Administrative Information:**

The Piscataqua Bridge was completed in 1794 connecting Dover, NH and Newington, NH. It was designed by architect Timothy Palmer as part of the 1st New Hampshire Turnpike, which ran from Concord, NH to Portsmouth, NH. The bridge was 2,360 feet long and 38 feet wide and was the longest span bridge in the world at the time. The water at the bridge site was about 52 feet deep requiring major falsework. Palmer designed and built a main span over the navigable channel of 244 feet. The bridge was privately owned and financed by the sale of stock certificates, many purchased by the City of Portsmouth. The bridge was rebuilt by Cyrus Frink after it collapsed in 1830. Frink leased the toll house, made repairs, and bought up much of the stock. Many of the records in the

collection come from this later period, when Frink operated the bridge. The bridge was not rebuilt following a final collapse in 1855.

**Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The Piscataqua Bridge records consist of stock certificates, receipts, bills, directors' minutes, and account books and account book pages. The account books contain names of workers and other individuals receiving payment; holders of stock certificates are identified by name. There is no personal correspondence in the records.

**Arrangement:**

The materials have been divided into three series.

**Series I: Stock certificates, 1793-1850.** These are filed chronologically by the date the certificate was first issued, not by subsequent redemption or transfer dates.

**Series II: Bills and receipts, 1798-1859, 1870-1886.** Filed chronologically.

**Series III: Bound volumes, 1801-1856** Account books

## Contents List

### Box 1

Folder 0	Finding aid
Folder 00	Secondary information
<b>Series I: Stock Certificates, 1793-1850</b>	
Folder 1	1793-1794
Folder 2	1804
Folder 3	1812-1813
Folder 4	1815-1816
Folder 5	1817
Folder 6	1818
Folder 7	1819
Folder 8	1821-1827
Folder 9	1830-1831
Folder 10	1832
Folder 11	1833
Folder 12	1834
Folder 13	1835
Folder 14	1836
Folder 15	1837-1839
Folder 16	1840-1849
Folder 17	1850
Folder 18	Blanks

### Box 2

**Series II: Bills, receipts, 1793-1828**

Folder 1	1793, 1794, 1796
----------	------------------

Folder 2	1810-1812
Folder 3	1813
Folder 4	1814
Folder 5	1815
Folder 6	1816
Folder 7	1817
Folder 8	1818
Folder 9	1819
Folder 10	1820
Folder 11	1821
Folder 12	1822
Folder 13	1823
Folder 14	1824
Folder 15	1825
Folder 16	1826
Folder 17	1827
Folder 18	1818

### **Box 3**

#### **Series II: Bills, receipts 1829-1886, not dated**

Folder 1	1829
Folder 2	1830
Folder 3	1831
Folder 4	1832
Folder 5	1833
Folder 6	1834
Folder 7	1835
Folder 8	1836
Folder 9	1837
Folder 10	1838
Folder 11	1839
Folder 12	1840
Folder 13	1841
Folder 14	1842
Folder 15	1843
Folder 16	1844
Folder 17	1845
Folder 18	1847
Folder 19	1848
Folder 20	1849
Folder 21	1850
Folder 22	1851
Folder 23	1852
Folder 24	1853
Folder 25	1854

Folder 26 1855  
Folder 27 1859  
Folder 28 1870, 1881, 1885, 1886, 1888  
Folder 29 Not dated  
Folder 30 Fragments

#### **Box 4**

##### **Series III: Bound Volumes, 1801-1854**

Folder 1 Accounts, 1801-1855  
Folder 2 Directors Minutes, 1813-1854; Accounts, 1795-1853  
Folder 3 Accounts, 1838-1854

#### **Box 5**

##### **Series III: Bound Volumes, 1814-1844**

Folder 1 Accounts, 1828-1844 [Accession # 2013.035, Cyrus Frink's Day Book]  
Folder 2 Bank Books [3]: 1814-1816, 1817-1820, 1821-1823  
Folder 3 Record of tolls collected, 1820-1824

##### **Series III: Bound Volumes, Oversize, 1811-1856**

Envelope 1 Accounts, 1811-1826 [Accession #2013.035, Cyrus Frink's account book]  
Envelope 2 Account Book, 1838-1855

#### **Subject Terms**

##### **People:**

Frink, Cyrus  
Goddard, John  
Haven, John  
Rice, William  
Sheafe, John  
Sheafe, Samuel

##### **Organizations:**

Proprietors of Piscataqua Bridge

##### **Subjects:**

Account Books  
Bridges  
Business Records  
Transportation

##### **Locations:**

Dover, NH  
Newington, NH  
Portsmouth, NH

##### **Occupations:**

Bridge Construction  
Toll collector