

WILLIAM PLUMER (1759-1850)

Papers, 1794-1856.

2 linear feet. 93 items in $\frac{1}{2}$ box & 10 vols.

Gift of William L. Plumer on behalf of Gov. Plumer's grandchildren. 1886.
Also a deposit by William Plumer Fowler of 31 autograph letters. Prior to 1948.

Biographical Information. See Lynn Turner, William Plumer of New Hampshire.

1759 June 25 - Born Newburyport, Mass.

1768 - family moved to Epping, N.H. Studied law.

1787 - admitted to the bar; practiced in Epping.

1788-1791; 1797-1800. Member State House of Representatives.

1791-1792 - Member state constitutional convention.

1802-1807 - U.S. Senator. Federalist.

1810-1811 - State Senator, President. Democrat.

1812, 1813, 1816-1819. Governor of New Hampshire.

Retired from public life and engaged in literary pursuits; wrote articles for the newspapers as "Cincinnatus". Intended a History of the U.S. and wrote biographical sketches of well known persons.

1823 - One of the founders and the first president of the New Hampshire Historical Society.

1850 Dec. 22 - Died in Epping, N.H.

He married Sally Fowler in 1788. Their eldest son was named William, and was closely associated with his father.

1789 Feb. 9 - born, Epping, N.H.

1809 - graduated Harvard college.

1812 - admitted to the bar, practiced Epping.

1819-1825 - U.S. House of Representatives.

1827, 1828 - member of State Senate.

Mostly interested in history and literary composition. Wrote a biography of his father.

1854 Sept. 18 - Died, Epping, N.H.

WILLIAM PLUMER PAPERS

Inventory

Correspondence

Correspondence, 1794-1856. ½ box (87 items)

Chiefly letters addressed to William Plumer relating to political affairs, his historical and biographical writings, and the New Hampshire Historical Society; most of them for the period 1823-1829; includes correspondence concerning revelation of secession plot of 1804. Fowler collection of 31 autograph letters included.

Writings

Biographical Sketches. 5 vols.

Includes short sketches of more than 2000 persons. Index printed in Proceedings, vol. 1, pp. 435-457; 34 of the sketches printed in State Papers, vols. XXI, XXII. (V920.073 - P7347)

Legal Forms. 1 vol.

Forms of declarations, pleas, replications, etc. collected from several eminent lawyers for the use of the editor. (V347.9 - P734)

Historical References. 1 vol.

References to state papers, political and historical tracts, letters, etc. relating to the United States, taken from the books and manuscripts in my library, and chronologically arranged. (V016.973 - P734)

History of North America. 1 vol.

Draft of a history of North America from its discovery to the present time. [History in Library of Congress] (V970 - P734)

List of Aged People in the United States. 1 vol.

Collected by William Plumer for his use. (V312 - P734)

Deaths in Epping, 1768-1842. 1 vol.

Commenced collecting materials, 1814. (V929.3778 - E646d)

Repository, Vol. V. Scandalous anecdotes about members in the Eighth Congress of the U.S., 1803-1805. Copies from Provincial Records. Index.

See Library Catalogue. Printed pamphlets: An Address to the Electors of New Hampshire (Portsmouth, 1804), by "Impartialis," and An Address to the Clergy of New England on Their Opposition to the Government (Concord, 1814), by A Layman; and articles in the N.H.H.S. Collections. Farmer & Moore Collections. Speeches and addresses to the Legislature.

Index cards made for catalogue. Dates of letters are entered on the cards.

Name Cards

Allen, William
Bartlett, Ichabod
Bartlett, Richard
Betton, Silas
Brackett, Joshua
Bradford, A.
Bradley, William C.
Cutts, Edward → *Gilman, Nathaniel*
Goddard, Calvin
Hale, Salma
Halliburton, A.
Hamilton, Alexander, Jr.
Harris, Samuel D.
Harvey, Jonathan
Harvey, Matthew
Hill, Mark Langdon → *Jefferson, Thomas*
Lawrence, David
Lawrence, Prescott
Low, Joseph
Mann, John
Moore, Jacob Bailey (2) → *Northey, Abijah*
Phillips, John
Phillips, Samuel
Pickering, William
Plumer, Moses
Plumer, Sarah Elizabeth
Plumer, William
Plumer, William, Jr. (2)
Prescott, William
Richardson, William Merchant
Walker, Charles
Woodbury, Levi

Subject Cards

Banking
Bradford Academy
Bunker Hill Monument Assoc.
Dartmouth College
Epping, N.H.
Federalist Party -
 Secession Plot
Lawyers
Militia
New Hampshire Historical Soc.
New York, Le Roy, Genessee Co.
Politics.

Provenance

From Proceedings of the New Hampshire Historical Society
Vol. I (1872-1888).

June 14, 1876 (p. 108). " On motion of Mr. J.B. Walker, Mr. B.F. Prescott was appointed a committee to solicit of the family of the late Gov. Plumer, for preservation in the Archives of this Society, such of his manuscripts and other papers as they may be willing to place here for use and preservation."

March 19, 1878 (p. 126) " On motion of Mr. S.C. Eastman, the committee on the 'Plumer Papers' was instructed to inquire what books and ~~xxx~~ papers belonging to the late Gov. Plumer can be obtained for the society, and at what expense."

June 9, 1886 (p. 376). "A collection of biographical sketches written by Ex-Governor William Plumer, and presented by William L. Plumer of Epping, in behalf of the grandchildren of the writer - being the children of his sons, William, Samuel and George W., - was accepted with the thanks of the Society. The aforesaid papers were ordered to be bound and indexed by Mr. John C. Ordway; the index to be printed in the Transactions of the Society."

The volume of legal forms and the volume references to state papers are marked "Presented by Kate J.P. Pearson" 1886; and probably the other volumes were presented at the same time. The correspondence is part of Plumer's collected correspondence, with its sheets numbered. Additions have been made to it from other sources.

A portfolio of 31 autograph letters, deposited by William Plumer Fowler prior to 1948, has been placed in the box with the other correspondence.

June 8, 1887 (p. 379). Mr J.B. Walker, in a verbal report from the standing committee ... the Plumer Papers had been bound.

pp. 435-457. "Index to the Genealogical and Biographical Sketches, prepared by the late Governor William Plumer."

1892, 1893. State Papers of New Hampshire, A.S. Batchellor, ed., Vols. XXI, XXII, contain, in appendix, biographical sketches of 34 men who were important in the government during the period 1784-1793, copied from the manuscript of William Plumer.

See Lynn W. Turner, William Plumer of New Hampshire, (1962), pp. 349-351, for division of Plumer's papers and their present location in the New Hampshire State Library, the Library of Congress, and the New Hampshire Historical Society.

William Plumer, Autograph Collection, 1804-1856. 31 letters.

List of cards made for catalogue:

Bancroft, George	
Cilley, Mrs. Hannah	
Clinton, Dewitt	Concord, N.H. - High School
Fowler, Asa	
Hill, Isaac	Louisiana Territory
Hale, John Parker	
Holt, Rev. Peter	Politics
Knox John (of Pembroke)	
Madison J. (James)	
Mason, Jeremiah	
Park, Dr. John	
Pickering, John - Impeachment	
Pierce, Franklin	
Plumer, Sally	
Smith, Jeremiah	
Stanton, Benjamin	
Woodbury, Levi	
,Adams, John	
Adams, John Quincy	

New Hampshire Historical Society

William Plumer was one of the founders and the first president of the Society. His contributions are mentioned in the Proceedings:

Vol. I, p. 66, May 22, 1873, the 50th anniversary of the Society. William Plumer "contributed to the first volume of the society's published Collections, and made to the library a handsome donation of desirable books and manuscripts."

Vol. III, 1896 - Annual address by Albert S. Wait of Newport, "The Life, Character & Public Services of Governor William Plumer. " P. 139 - mentions his notes of decisions of the court, etc. "this volume he carried constantly with him and found useful in his professional labor.
p. 140 - his biographies are in the New Hampshire Historical Society.
p. 141 - "He presented to it his earlier and more valuable state papers, consisting of nearly 300 volumes, which, at present, probably compose the best collection of the early American state papers to be met with in our state."

Vol. IV, June 10, 1903. Report of Special Committee on disposition of certain publications and pamphlets.
p. 295 - "The collection of about 150 volumes collected and bound by one of the charter members of the Society, Governor Plumer, should not be disposed of. They contain some papers which are rare and may be unique, and are associated with Governor Plumer and were a special gift to the Society and should be retained."

The pamphlet collection was separated and scattered through the library, classified by subjects. There are many with Plumer's name on them, but we do not have a list of them.