Guide to the Jonathan Freeman Papers, 1775-1872

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:
Jonathan Freeman Papers, 1775-1872

Repository:
New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
https://www.nhhistory.org/

Collection Number:
1920.002

Author of Finding Aid:
Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing

Creator:
Freeman, Jonathan, 1745-1808

Language:
The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:
1 box ; 0.42 linear feet

Abstract:
Papers, mainly letters (1797-1801) to Jonathan Freeman during his service in Congress, concerning Dartmouth and the lotteries, political news from New Hampshire, and comments on national affairs. Also includes commissions and correspondence of Freeman's son, Asa Freeman; correspondence of his grandson, Francis Atkinson Freeman; and correspondence and papers of William King Atkinson.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:
The Jonathan Freeman Papers were the gift of Charles H. Batchelder in April 1920.

Processing Information:
This collection was processed by an unidentified person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unidentified person at an unknown date and reformatted by Korrena Cowing in June 2020. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:
Available for research.

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

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:
The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

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Preferred Citation:
Item title, Jonathan Freeman Papers, 1920.002. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:
Jonathan Freeman (1745-1808) was for forty years Treasurer of Dartmouth College. He was a representative to the U.S. Congress, 1797-1801, as well as a state representative and member of the council of New Hampshire. At Hanover, NH, on February 2, 1775 he married Sarah Huntington. She was born December 15, 1748 at Norwich, CT, the daughter of Jeremiah and Hannah (Watrous) Huntington. Sarah bore eleven children. Jonathan died at Hanover on August 20, 1808. Sarah died there on September 8, 1846.

Asa Freeman (1788-1867), son of Jonathan and Sarah, was born January 9, 1788 at Hanover, NH. He received his law training at the office of his brother, Payton R. Freeman in Portsmouth and with Isaac Lyman of York, ME. He practiced in York until 1818 when he moved to Dover, NH. He was appointed a commissioner of the United States and elected delegate to the constitutional convention in 1850 and to the state senate in 1851 and 1852. In 1857 he was appointed Register of Probate for Strafford County. He married Frances, daughter of Hon.

William K. and Abigail (Pickering) Atkinson, on December 1, 1819 at Dover. Frances was born at Dover on June 21, 1797. She and Asa had four children: Abbie, Francis, Abigail, and Sarah. Asa died at Dover on December 8, 1867. Frances died there on December 5, 1883.

Francis Atkinson Freeman (1822-1884), son of Asa and Frances, was born in Dover, NH. He studied law in his father's office and with Charles W. Woodman and at Harvard Law School. In 1847 he began his practice in Boston, but shortly thereafter moved to California. He served as Judge of the County Court until his return to New Hampshire in 1872. He died unmarried November 14, 1884 at Dover.

William King Atkinson (1765-1820) was born in Portsmouth, NH, with the name of William King. He studied law with John Pickering in Portsmouth. He practiced in Berwick, ME, for one year and then moved to Dover in 1787. At the death of his uncle, George Atkinson, he received a large inheritance on condition that he change his name to Atkinson, which he did. About the same time, he was appointed Register of Probate for Strafford County. He was also appointed first solicitor in his area to conduct business in the absence of the Attorney General. From 1803 to 1805, he was appointed and served as a Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature. In 1807 he was appointed Attorney General and served for five years. Atkinson was married to Abigail, daughter of Judge John and Abigail (Sheafe) Pickering of Portsmouth, on September 1, 1788 at Portsmouth. She was born June 14, 1770 at Portsmouth. His daughter Frances married Asa Freeman. William died September 29, 1820 at Dover. Abigail died February 27, 1838.

Collection Scope and Content Note:
The papers of Jonathan Freeman consist of correspondence to him from prominent business and political figures such as Ezra Woodward, J. T. Gilman, Benjamin Gilbert, and Nathaniel Rogers. Matters addressed are state, national, and foreign politics, including reference to the French Revolution and the U.S. Navy. Land taxes, the building of a turnpike to Hanover, and military matters are also mentioned.

The papers of Asa Freeman contain correspondence to his son Francis, then away at college, concerning money, clothing, studies, etc. In a later letter, he refers to his son's business in California. Asa's business correspondence concerns court business and personal matters and comes from prominent New Hampshire figures, including a letter with views on slavery from Nathaniel P. Rogers.

Francis A. Freeman's correspondence is largely concerned with college activities, studies, his health, and problems of settling in a career and keeping in touch after college.

Other materials include the will of Theodore Atkinson (1697-1779) and of George and Susanna Atkinson; a few letters to William King Atkinson (1765-1820), Dover lawyer and judge; an act to change his name from William King to Atkinson (1788); deeds to land in Dover; and an estate inventory (1820).

Arrangement:
The materials in this collection are organized into folders by person.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 1 Jonathan Freeman correspondence, 1787-1796
Folder 2 Jonathan Freeman correspondence, 1797
Folder 3 Jonathan Freeman correspondence, 1798
Folder 4 Jonathan Freeman correspondence, 1799
Folder 5 Jonathan Freeman correspondence, 1800-1806
Folders 6-7 William King Atkinson will, legal papers, name changes, 1775-1820
Folder 8 William King Atkinson correspondence, 1800-1837
Folder 9 Asa Freeman correspondence outgoing, 1838-1867
Folder 10 Asa Freeman correspondence incoming, 1819-1868
Folder 11 Francis Atkinson Freeman correspondence to Asa Freeman, 1838-1844
Folders 12-15 Francis Atkinson Freeman correspondence from others, 1839-1872

Subject Terms

People:

Atkinson, William King, 1765-1820
Bartlett, Ichabod, 1786-1853
Bellows, Thomas
Bonine, Sylvanus
Buck, Daniel
Carey, H.
Cass, Jonathan
Clary, Timothy F.
Cleveland, Josiah
Conner, Benjamin
Dane, N.
Dickenson, Fred
Dunham, Capt. J.
Duxbury, Charles
Freeman family
Freeman, Asa, 1788-1867
Freeman, Francis Atkinson, 1822-1884
Freeman, Jonathan, 1745-1808
Gilbert, Benjamin
Gilman, J.T.
Guppy, Joshua G.
Haddock, Charles B.
Hale, William
Hoskins, I.C.C.
Hubbard, G.G.
Hugh, David
Humphrey, D.
Hutchinson, A.

Jones, J.W.
Kent, Alex H.
Kent, William A.
Kimball, Hazen
Kitteridge, J.
Lathrop, D.
Lord, Jonathan
Moore, Jacob B.
Morse, Samuel Finley Breese, 1791-1872
Niles, Nathaniel
Payne, Elisha
Plumer, William, 1759-1850
Putnam, E.W.
Ripley, John P.
Rogers, Nathaniel P., 1794-1846
Root, David
Sigourney, Elisha
Smith, Jeremiah
Sparhawk, Nathaniel
Steele, Jonathan
Sullivan, Jonathan
Thatcher, George
Tilton, Henry
Webb, Azariah
Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852
Wells, William Hill
Whipple, Oliver
Willard, Joseph
Wingate, Paine, 1739-1838
Woods, Leonard
Woodward, Ezra
Woodward, William

Organizations:

United States. Navy

Subjects:

Correspondence
Elections
France--History--Revolution, 1789-1799
Inventories
Politics and government
Toll roads
Universities and colleges
Wills

Locations:

Dover, NH
Hanover, NH

Portsmouth, NH

Occupations:

Lawyers
Judges
Students