Josiah Bartlett Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2001

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78011932

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms003056

Prepared by Alan Goodrich
Revised and expanded by John Monagle

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2003
Revised 2010 April
Collection Summary

Title: Josiah Bartlett family papers
Span Dates: 1710-1931
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1800-1890)
ID No.: MSS11932
Creator: Bartlett, Josiah, 1729-1795
Extent: 10,000 items
Extent: 29 containers
Extent: 11.6 linear feet
Extent: 17 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78011932
Summary: Statesmen and physicians. Correspondence, diaries, diplomas, legal and financial records, notebooks, account books, speeches, genealogical material, printed matter, and newspaper clippings documenting the Bartlett family's professional and political activity in New England in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. Topics include New England's sentiment towards the War of 1812 as well as American political life before and during the Civil War and post Civil War business developments.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Bartlett family.
Bartlett, Ezra, 1770-1848. Ezra Bartlett papers.
Bartlett, Josiah, 1729-1795.
Bartlett, Josiah, 1729-1795. Josiah Bartlett papers.

Organizations
Republican Party (N.H.)
United States. Navy.
Whig Party (N.H.)

Subjects
Depressions--1836-1837.
Indians of North America--Wars--1815-1875.
Medicine--Practice--New England.
Missouri compromise.
Seminole Indians--Wars.
Slavery--United States.

Places
New England--Commerce.
New England--Rural conditions.
New England--Social life and customs.
New Hampshire--Politics and government.
United States--Economic conditions--To 1865.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Hospitals.
United States--History--War of 1812.
United States--Politics and government.

**Occupations**
Governors--New Hampshire.
Judges.
Physicians.

**Provenance**
Although portions of the papers of the Josiah Bartlett family were acquired from multiple sources from 1938 to 1993, the bulk of the material was received by purchase in 1938 and by gift from Mrs. Mack W. Schwab in 1958. An addition was purchased in 1993.

**Processing History**
The papers of the Bartlett family were arranged and described in 1970. Material received in 1993 was processed as an addition in 2001.

**Transfers**
A map of the National Road from Washington, D.C., to Buffalo, N.Y., has been transferred to the Library's Geography and Map Division where it is identified as part of these papers.

**Copyright Status**
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Bartlett family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

**Access and Restrictions**
The papers of the Josiah Bartlett family are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

**Microfilm**
A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on seventeen reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

**Preferred Citation**
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Josiah Bartlett Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
**Biographical Notes**

**Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1729, Nov. 21</td>
<td>Born, Amesbury, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1750</td>
<td>Moved to Kingston, N.H.; began to practice medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1750, circa</td>
<td>Married Mary Barton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1775-1779</td>
<td>Member, Continental Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1776</td>
<td>Signed Declaration of Independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1782-1788</td>
<td>Justice, Superior Court, New Hampshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1788</td>
<td>Chairman, New Hampshire state convention to ratify the United States Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1790-1792</td>
<td>President of New Hampshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1791</td>
<td>First president, New Hampshire Medical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1793</td>
<td>Governor of New Hampshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1795, May 19</td>
<td>Died, Kingston, N.H.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Levi Bartlett (1763-1828)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1763</td>
<td>Born, Kingston, N.H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1778</td>
<td>Attended Dummer School, Dummer, N.H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1791-1819</td>
<td>Practiced medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1791</td>
<td>Joined New Hampshire Medical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800-1806</td>
<td>Secretary, New Hampshire Medical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1804</td>
<td>Presidential elector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1816-1820</td>
<td>Judge of Circuit Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1828</td>
<td>Died, Kingston, N.H.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Josiah Bartlett (1768-1838)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1768, Aug. 29</td>
<td>Born, Kingston, N.H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1789</td>
<td>Moved to Stratham, N.H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1792</td>
<td>Married E. Wingate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1789-1829</td>
<td>Practiced medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1799</td>
<td>Member, New Hampshire Medical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1809-1810</td>
<td>State senator, New Hampshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1811-1813</td>
<td>Member, United States Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1812</td>
<td>Married Hannah Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1815</td>
<td>President, New Hampshire Medical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1816-1817</td>
<td>Treasurer, Rockingham County, N.H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1824</td>
<td>President, New Hampshire state senate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1838, Apr. 16</td>
<td>Died, Stratham, N.H.</td>
</tr>
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**Ezra Bartlett (1770-1848)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1770</td>
<td>Born, Kingston, N.H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1794</td>
<td>Received medical certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1794-circa 1838</td>
<td>Practiced medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1798</td>
<td>Moved to Warren, N.H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1799</td>
<td>Married Hannah Gale</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1800-1823 Member, New Hampshire Medical Society
1806 State senator, New Hampshire
1812 Moved to Haverhill, N.H.
1816 Judge, circuit court
1820 Chief justice, Court of Sessions
1822-1824 Member, Governor's Council
1820-1828 Presidential elector
1848 Died, Haverhill, N.H.

Josiah Bartlett (1803-1853)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1803, May 3</td>
<td>Born, Warren, N.H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1812</td>
<td>Moved with family to Haverhill, N.H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1824</td>
<td>M.D., Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moved to Stratham, N.H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1824-1853</td>
<td>Practiced medicine, Stratham, N.H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1824-1853</td>
<td>Member, New Hampshire Medical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1827</td>
<td>Married Hannah E. W. Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Died, Norwalk, Conn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Bartlett family represent five generations of the family from 1710 to 1931, with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1800 and 1890.

The papers consists of correspondence, diaries, notebooks, legal papers, diplomas, financial papers, account books, drafts of speeches, bills of lading, school compositions, genealogical material, photographs, maps, printed matter, biographies, obituaries, scattered individual issues of newspapers, and miscellaneous items.

The collection describes in detail the professional and political careers of Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795), signer of the Declaration of Independence and governor of New Hampshire, and his sons, Levi Bartlett (1763-1828) and Ezra Bartlett (1770-1848), both physicians and jurists, and Josiah Bartlett (1768-1848), physician, member of Congress, and president of the New Hampshire State Senate, as well as the papers of Ezra's son, Josiah Bartlett, (1803-1853), also a physician, and other descendants.

The papers primarily reflect the professional affairs of rural physicians and the daily activities and concerns of a large New England family in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. Specific topics in the early correspondence include activities in Congress prior to the declaration of war on Great Britain in 1812, sentiment in New Hampshire favoring the war, and an account by an American combatant of the repelling of the British attack on Fort McHenry and Baltimore in 1814.

Later correspondence concerns the Missouri Compromise, Republican and Whig politics in New Hampshire, antislavery sentiment, the Seminole War, the Panic of 1837, life in the United States Navy, activities in military hospitals during the Civil War, and business developments in New England after the war.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- Diaries and Notebooks, 1737-circa 1865
- Correspondence, 1710-1931
- Legal Papers, 1728-1913
- Financial Papers, circa 1789-circa 1913
- Speech File, circa 1800-1913
• Miscellany, 1775-1931
• Addition, 1783
### Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td><strong>Diaries and Notebooks, 1737-circa 1865</strong></td>
<td>Diaries and notebooks. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2-18 REEL 1-12</td>
<td><strong>Correspondence, 1710-1931</strong></td>
<td>Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 19-20 REEL 13</td>
<td><strong>Legal Papers, 1728-1913</strong></td>
<td>Indentures, deeds, contracts, court orders, depositions, case books, wills, and miscellaneous items. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 21-24 REEL 13-15</td>
<td><strong>Financial Papers, circa 1789-circa 1913</strong></td>
<td>Bills and receipts, court payrolls, county receipts, and account books. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 25 REEL 16</td>
<td><strong>Speech File, circa 1800-1913</strong></td>
<td>Draft speeches by Josiah Bartlett (1768-1838), Josiah Bartlett (1803-1853), and Amos G. Draper. Arranged by type of material or author.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 26-29 REEL 16-17</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1775-1931</strong></td>
<td>Biographies, obituaries, genealogical material, printed matter, photographs, compositions, newspapers, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets. Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 29 not filmed</td>
<td><strong>Addition, 1783</strong></td>
<td>Letter from John Taylor Gilman to Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</table>
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | **Diaries and Notebooks, 1737-circa 1865**  
Diaries and notebooks.  
Arranged chronologically.  |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | 1737-circa 1865  
(5 folders)  |
| BOX 2-18 REEL 1-12 | **Correspondence, 1710-1931**  
Letters sent and received.  
Arranged chronologically.  |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | 1710-1813  
(5 folders)  |
| BOX 3 REEL 2 | 1814-1819  
(6 folders)  |
| BOX 4 REEL 2-3 | 1820-1824  
(6 folders)  |
| BOX 5 REEL 3 | 1825-1832  
(6 folders)  |
| BOX 6 REEL 3-4 | 1833-1839  
(7 folders)  |
| BOX 7 REEL 4-5 | 1840-1846  
(6 folders)  |
| BOX 8 REEL 5 | 1847-1852  
(6 folders)  |
| BOX 9 REEL 5-6 | 1853-1857  
(5 folders)  |
| BOX 10 REEL 6-7 | 1858-1863  
(6 folders)  |
| BOX 11 REEL 7 | 1864-1868  
(6 folders)  |
| BOX 12 REEL 8 | 1869-1872, Apr.  
(5 folders)  |
| BOX 13 REEL 8-9 | 1872, May-1874  
(5 folders)  |
| BOX 14 REEL 9 | 1875-1879  
(6 folders)  |
| BOX 15 REEL 10 | 1880-1885  
(6 folders)  |
| BOX 16 REEL 10 | 1886-1890  
(6 folders)  |
| BOX 17 REEL 11 | 1891-1931, undated  
(7 folders)  |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</table>
| BOX 18 REEL 12 | Undated and fragmentary  
(6 folders) |
| BOX 19-20 REEL 13 | **Legal Papers, 1728-1913**  
Indentures, deeds, contracts, court orders, depositions, case books, wills, and miscellaneous items.  
Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein. |
| BOX 19 REEL 13 | Case books, 1825-1826  
Court orders, depositions, and warrants, 1789-1909  
(3 folders)  
Indentures, deeds, and contracts  
1728-1806 |
| BOX 20 REEL 13 | 1817-1902  
(4 folders)  
Wills, 1752-1913, undated  
Miscellany, 1775-1903, undated |
| BOX 21-24 REEL 13-15 | **Financial Papers, circa 1789-circa 1913**  
Bills and receipts, court payrolls, county receipts, and account books.  
Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein. |
| BOX 21 REEL 13 | Account books  
1793-1802 |
| BOX 22 REEL 14 | 1789-1848  
(2 folders)  
Court and county accounts  
County receipts, 1807-1817  
(2 folders)  
Court payrolls, 1812-1817  
(2 folders) |
| BOX 23 REEL 14-15 | Bills and receipts  
Personal  
circa 1795-circa 1819, undated  
(5 folders) |
| BOX 24 REEL 15-16 | circa 1794-circa 1913, undated  
(5 folders)  
Mills, George, circa 1817-circa 1848, undated |
| BOX 25 REEL 16 | **Speech File, circa 1800-1913**  
Draft speeches by Josiah Bartlett (1768-1838), Josiah Bartlett (1803-1853), and Amos G. Draper.  
Arranged by type of material or author. |
| BOX 25 REEL 16 | Speech drafts and notes  
Bartlett, Josiah (1768-1838), circa 1800-1838, undated  
Bartlett, Josiah (1803-1853), 1828-1850, undated |
Speech File, circa 1800-1913

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 26-29 REEL 16-17 | Miscellany, 1775-1931  
Biographies, obituaries, genealogical material, printed matter, photographs, compositions, newspapers, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets.  
Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 26 REEL 16 | Bills of lading, 1819  
Church papers, 1826-1837, undated  
School compositions and notes, 1775-1875, undated  
Diplomas and certificates, 1824  
Insurance policies, 1825-1851  
Legislative papers, 1781, 1814, undated  
Maps, 1802, undated  
Paper currency, 1800-1821  
Petitions, 1791, 1810, undated  
Photographs and prints, 1827  
Miscellaneous official records, 1863-1930, undated  
Biographies, eulogies, and genealogical material, 1801-1898  
Miscellany, 1807-circa 1910, undated |
| BOX 27 REEL 17 | Printed matter  
Broadsides, proclamations, and circulars, 1804-1888, undated  
Cards and tickets, 1811-1868, undated  
Forms, circa 1790-1874, undated  
Invitations, programs, catalogs, passes, and menus, 1821-1912, undated  
Pamphlets, 1814-1819, undated |
| BOX 28 REEL 17 | Newspapers  
1778-1877, June  
(13 folders) |
| BOX 29 REEL 17 | 1877, Aug.-1916  
(7 folders)  
Newspaper clippings, 1806-1931 |
| BOX 29 not filmed | Addition, 1783  
Letter from John Taylor Gilman to Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795). |
| BOX 29 | Correspondence  
Gilman, John Taylor, to Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795), 1783 |