Joshua Coit Correspondence
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2004

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2003084978

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms006043

Prepared by Laura J. Kells
Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2006
Revised 2010 April
Collection Summary
Title: Joshua Coit Correspondence
Span Dates: 1792-1798
ID No.: MSS84978
Creator: Coit, Joshua, 1758-1798
Extent: 70 items
Extent: 1 container
Extent: .2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2003084978
Summary: Lawyer, state legislator, and United States representative. Letters from Coit to his wife Nancy, to his son Robert, and to Charles Bulkeley, all of New London, Connecticut. Most were written in Philadelphia while Coit served as a representative in the United States Congress from 1793 to 1798. Many of the letters are accompanied by typed transcripts.

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
Buckeley, Charles, 1724--Correspondence.
Coit, Joshua, 1758-1798.
Coit, Nancy, 1763-1844--Correspondence.
Coit, Robert, 1785-1874--Correspondence.
Griswold, Roger, 1762-1812.
Lyon, Matthew, 1749-1822.
Washington, George, 1732-1799.
Washington, Martha, 1731-1802.

Organizations

Subjects
Boys--Education--United States.
Families--United States.
Fathers and sons--United States.
Federal government--United States.
Letter writing--United States.
Levees--Virginia--Mount Vernon.
Sons--United States--Conduct of life.
XYZ Affair, 1797-1798.

Places
Connecticut--Politics and government--1775-1865.
Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States.
New London (Conn.)--Social life and customs--18th century.
United States--Foreign relations--1789-1809.
United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain.
United States--Politics and government--1789-1809.
United States--Religion.

Titles
Joshua Coit papers
Occupations
Lawyers.
Legislators--Connecticut
Representatives, U.S. Congress--New York (State)

Provenance
The correspondence of Joshua Coit, lawyer, state legislator, and United States representative, was purchased by the Library of Congress in 2003.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Joshua Coit is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The correspondence of Joshua Coit is 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.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Joshua Coit Correspondence, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1779</td>
<td>Admitted to bar, commenced law practice, New London, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1784-1785</td>
<td>Member, Connecticut House of Representatives, Hartford, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1785</td>
<td>Married Ann Boradill Hallam (Nancy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1789-1790</td>
<td>Member, Connecticut House of Representatives, Hartford, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1792-1793</td>
<td>Member, Connecticut House of Representatives, Hartford, Conn.; speaker of the house in 1793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1793-1798</td>
<td>Member, United States House of Representatives, Philadelphia, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1798, Sept. 5</td>
<td>Died, New London, Conn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Content Note
The Joshua Coit Correspondence span the years 1792-1798 and consist of letters from Coit to his wife, Nancy, his oldest son, Robert, and to Charles Bulkeley. Almost all of the letters were written during the period of Coit's service in the United States House of Representatives, 1793-1798, as a Federalist representative from Connecticut. The letters are most numerous for the years 1794 and 1798. Many of the letters are accompanied by typed transcripts, and two exist in transcript only.

All but two of the letters are to Coit's wife and son. Letters to his wife describe his feelings on family, religion, and politics and the burdens caused by his absence. Included in his correspondence from 1794 are details of a dinner with President George Washington and levees for Martha Washington and Coit's views on the prospect of war with Great Britain. In 1798 he remarked on an altercation between fellow representatives Roger Griswold and Matthew Lyon. Following the
XYZ Affair and as a result of his efforts to prevent war with France, Coit wrote in June 1798 that he felt he would not be reelected to Congress. Coit died of yellow fever a few months later. His letters to his son include fatherly instruction and advice and focus on the importance of good behavior and helping with household chores, schooling, and proper letter writing.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.
# Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 1     | Bulkeley, Charles, 1795-1797  
           | Coit, Nancy, 1794-1798  
           | (3 folders)  
           | Coit, Robert, 1792-1798  
           | (5 folders) |