

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://lcn.loc.gov/mm2003084978>

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

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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://lcn.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

United States. Congress. House--Elections.

Subjects

Boys--Education--United States.

Families--United States.

Fathers and sons--United States.

Federal government--United States.

Housekeeping--Connecticut--New London.

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

Date	Event
1758, Oct. 7	Born, New London, Conn.
1776	Graduated Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.
1779	Admitted to bar, commenced law practice, New London, Conn.
1784-1785	Member, Connecticut House of Representatives, Hartford, Conn.
1785	Married Ann Boradill Hallam (Nancy)
1789-1790	Member, Connecticut House of Representatives, Hartford, Conn.
1792-1793	Member, Connecticut House of Representatives, Hartford, Conn.; speaker of the house in 1793
1793-1798	Member, United States House of Representatives, Philadelphia, Pa.
1798, Sept. 5	Died, New London, Conn.

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

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Bulkeley, Charles, 1795-1797 Coit, Nancy, 1794-1798 (3 folders) Coit, Robert, 1792-1798 (5 folders)