



Guide to the Dover Public Library Collection, 1690-1913, bulk 1803-1871

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Dover Public Library Collection, 1690-1913, bulk 1803-1871

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
nhhistory.org

Collection Number:

1991.036

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing and updated Abigail Dollries

Creator:

Dover Public Library (Dover, N.H.)
Scales, John, 1835-1928

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

2 boxes ; 0.42 linear feet

Abstract:

The Dover Public Library Collection contains a variety of materials including correspondence, court documents, financial papers, and an account book from numerous individuals from 1690 to 1913. Many items were collected by historian John Scales, including materials related to Charles Woodman.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

This collection was a gift of the Dover Public Library on March 1, 1991.

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, reformatted by Korrena Cowing in June 2020, and updated Abigail Dollries in May 2025. 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. Stephen Toppan's account book (box 2) is in fragile condition.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Dover Public Library Collection, 1991.036. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

This biographical information is for the collector and subject of much of the collection. The Dover Public Library operates in Dover, NH. John Scales was born in 1835 in Nottingham, NH. In 1869, after a career as principal of a number of schools, he settled in Dover, NH, at Franklin Academy, where he remained until 1883. He was editor and publisher of the *Dover Enquirer* and *Dover Daily Republican* from 1883 to 1898. He was an editorial writer for *Foster's Democrat* from 1906 to 1912. Scales also wrote history volumes including Historical Memoranda of Old Dover, History of Strafford County, and copy for a history of Dover. He was a member of a number of historical organizations. In October 1865, he married Ellen A. Tasker.

Charles Woodman, Sr. (1792-1822) trained as a lawyer with his brother Jeremiah H. Woodman in Rochester and with Christopher Gore in Boston. He began practicing law in Dover in 1816. He was a representative in the state legislature in 1820 and 1821. In 1822, he was elected Speaker of the New Hampshire House and he was also a candidate for Congress, but he suddenly

died prior to the election. He was married to Dorothy Dix and they had one son, Charles Woodman, Jr.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The collection generally follows the order imposed by the Dover Public Library. The first series are items apparently received from historian John Scales. The second series contains items which were in Dover Public Library manuscripts collection. The collection is so varied that brief annotations appear with the box and folder inventory.

Arrangement:

The materials are organized alphabetically by author/subject last name. The materials in this collection are organized into the following series:

Series 1. John Scales papers, 1690-1909	Box 1
Series 2. Other papers, 1737-1876	Box 1-2

Contents List

Series 1. John Scales papers, 1690-1909

Extent: 13 folders

Scope and Content:

The first series are items received from historian John Scales. Items include court papers, correspondence, financial accounts, and manuscripts largely related to legal proceedings. This series includes items related to Charles Woodman, Moses L. Neal, and Timothy White Sr., Timothy White Jr., the Winkley family, John Hubbard, and John Gilman among others. Items in this series date from 1690 to 1909.

Box 1

Folder 1	Correspondence including two letters to J.S. from John Gilman regarding Giles family genealogy, 1909; a letter to Dr. John Ham regarding the Franklin Academy, 1913
Folder 2	John Hubbard vs. Joseph Lary, 1790 financial court papers
Folder 3-4	Andrew N. Hill papers, 1821-1835 Court papers regarding the burning down of a school house in Strafford by John Perkins; assault papers of Andrew Buzzell/John Boody as Aaron Twombly/Sally Sawin
Folder 5	Moses L. Neal, 1807 Recommendation of Enoch Place as a teacher, endorsement of Charles Woodman for Congress
Folder 6	Title search land, Thomas B. Parks to James Smith in Somersworth, 1837
Folder 7	Manuscript account of the first hanging in New Hampshire, Elisha Thomas in Dover, 1862
Folder 8	Timothy White Sr. papers, 1690-1807 including Mt. Independence receipt for 12 axes for Major Wingate's regiment, 1776; court summons, Dr. Langdon's remarks on Bishop Seabury discourse in Portsmouth, poem on the death of Amos Wingate, undated
Folder 9	Timothy White Jr. papers, 1774-1783

- Many of these papers have the name of James Richardson of Leominster, MA; there are bills including one of Enoch Chase, cabinetmaker, court case items
- Folder 10 Winkley Papers, 1803-1871
Samuel Winkley will, undated; Daniel Winkley, Justice of the Peace certificates, affidavit of election as selectman, Rev. John Winkley letter about a revival meeting in Barrington, NH
- Folder 11 Charles Woodman accounts, 1816-1822
- Folder 12 Charles Woodman/Moses L. Neal deeds, 1817-1822
- Folder 13 Miscellaneous
Judgement recovery Miciyah L. Clough of Barrington in James Carter, 1828
Travel notes, Lowell to Concord, 1832
Printed report of NH Treasury, 1834
Judgement against John Brown of Dover for James Adams of Norridgewock, 1842

Series 2. Other papers, 1737-1876

Extent: 4 folders and 1 volume

Scope and Content:

This series is comprised of items from the Dover Public Library manuscripts collection. It includes items related to Stephen Toppan, including papers and an account book. The series also contains a speech by James Bartlett, and order and letters to the Hospital Department of the U.S. Army by John R. Ham. Materials in this collection date from 1737 to 1867.

Box 1

- Folder 14 Dover book of records of highways, 1733-1807
- Folder 15 James Bartlett manuscript speech to Dover Lyceum, undated
- Folder 16 John R. Ham, order and letters Hospital Department of the U.S. Army, 1864-1866
- Folder 17 Stephen Toppan cabinetmaker, papers removed from volume, 1851, 1867

Box 2 Stephen Toppan account book, 1837-1847

Subject Terms

People:

Chase, Enoch, active 1774
Clough, Miciyah L.
Ham, John R. (John Randolph), 1842-1920
Hill, Andrew N.
Lary, Joseph
Neal, Moses Leavitt 1766-1829
Parks, Thomas B.
Richardson, James, active 1774-1783
Scales, John, 1835-1928
Thomas, Elisha, 1746?-1788
Toppan, Stephen
Woodman, Charles, 1792-1822

White, Timothy, 1733-
Wingate, Amos

Organizations:

Dover Public Library (Dover, N.H.)
Franklin Academy (Dover, N.H.)
New Hampshire. State Treasury
United States. Army

Subjects:

Accounts
Arson
Assault and battery
Correspondence
Courts
Crime
Deeds
Express highways
Genealogy
Hanging
Libraries
Roads
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783
Wills

Locations:

Dover, NH

Occupations:

Cabinetmakers
Physicians
Politicians

Related Materials

Archives

Dover Public Library Collection, 1978.023.