

Clapp Family Papers

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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm79015909>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: Clapp Family Papers

Span Dates: 1789-1935

ID No.: MSS15909

Creator: Clapp family

Extent: 3,800 items ; 23 containers ; 8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Merchant family of Maine. Correspondence, estate and business papers, and genealogical material relating primarily to the family's shipping and commercial activities and to the handling of the Clapp family estate. Includes genealogical records of the Clapp, Dearborn, Lee, and Woodbury families, and several letters between Henry Dearborn and his wife, Sarah Bowdoin Dearborn.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Clapp family.

Clapp, Asa W. H. (Asa William Henry), 1805-1891. Asa William Henry Clapp papers.

Clapp, Asa, 1762-1848. Asa Clapp papers.

Clapp, Charles Q., 1799-1868. Charles Q. Clapp papers.

Clapp, Mary Jane Emerson, 1835-1922. Mary Jane Emerson Clapp papers.

Dearborn family.

Dearborn, Henry, 1751-1829--Correspondence.

Dearborn, Sarah Bowdoin, 1762-1826--Correspondence.

Lee family.

Woodbury family.

Woodbury, Elizabeth Williams Clapp. Elizabeth Williams Clapp Woodbury papers.

Organizations

Aurora (Schooner)

Diomedes (Brig : 1828)

Subjects

Genealogy.

Merchants--Maine.

Ship's papers--18th century.

Ship's papers--19th century.

Shipping--Maine.

Places

Maine--Commerce.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of the Clapp family, merchant family of Maine, were given to the Library of Congress in 1934 and 1936 by Gist Blair.

Processing History

The collection was processed prior to 1970. The finding aid was revised in 1987 and 2010.

Transfers

Two silver salt spoons from the Clapp Family Papers were transferred to Blair House, 1651 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Related Material

Other collections in the Manuscript Division relating to the papers of the Clapp family include the [Levi Woodbury Family Papers](#) and the [Blair Family Papers](#).

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Clapp family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Clapp 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.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Clapp Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Asa Clapp

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1762, Mar. 15	Born, Mansfield, Mass.
1776	Enlisted, Revolutionary War
1787	Married Elizabeth Wendell Quincy
1796	Merchant in Portland, District of Maine
1811	Member, Council of the Commonwealth of Mass.
1816	Commissioner for subscriptions to Bank of the United States
1819	Member, Maine Constitutional Convention
1820-1823	Member, Maine House of Representatives
1848, Apr. 17	Died, Portland, Maine

Asa W. H. Clapp

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1805, Mar. 6	Born, Portland, Maine
1823	Graduated, Norwich Military Academy, Norwich, Vt.
1824-1848	Portland, Maine, merchant involved in domestic and foreign shipping

1847-1849	Member, United States House of Representatives
1848, 1852	Delegate, Democratic National Convention, Baltimore, Md.
1891, Mar. 22	Died, Portland, Maine

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Clapp family span the years 1789-1935, with the bulk of the material consisting of the papers of Asa William Henry Clapp (1805-1891). Some of the additional family members represented in the collection include Asa Clapp (1762-1848), Charles Q. Clapp (1799-1868), Mary Jane Emerson Clapp (1835-1922), and Elizabeth Williams Clapp Woodbury (1796-1873).

The [family correspondence and genealogical material](#) series contains correspondence written by various family members from 1802 to 1935.

The earliest family correspondence, 1802-1817, consists of several letters written between Secretary of War Henry Dearborn and his wife, Sarah Bowdoin Dearborn. The remainder of the family correspondence, 1832-1891, usually concerns financial matters between Asa W. H. Clapp and other family members.

The genealogical material contains several letters concerning genealogical matters, lists of family members, clippings, obituaries, portraits of Asa Clapp and Asa W. H. Clapp, and a certificate from the Daughters of the American Revolution for Mary Jane Emerson Clapp.

The [papers of Asa Clapp](#), merchant, shipmaster and legislator, span the period from 1789 to 1876. These papers consist of incomplete files. A letterbook, 1831-1841, chiefly concerns shipping and other business matters, but includes letters sent to several family members, including his son-in-law, Levi Woodbury. An account book of receipts, 1845-1849; ships' records, 1789-1828, for the schooner *Aurora*, the brig *Diomede*, and others; and a miscellany of leases and other papers concerning his estate, 1799-1876, are all that remain. There are no manuscripts related to his various elected positions in the Maine legislature, or his activities in 1816 securing subscriptions for the Bank of the United States.

The [papers of Asa W. H. Clapp](#), by far the largest group in the collection, span the years 1825-1904. Asa W. H. Clapp, along with his brother Charles Q. Clapp, assisted in the shipping and other business activities of their father, Asa Clapp. There is a small group of Asa W. H. Clapp's business correspondence and matters related to the settlement of his estate, 1849-1904. Account books, 1849-1893, concern the various Clapp family real estate business investments. By far the largest portion of Asa W. H. Clapp's papers consist of the extensive financial records he maintained in administering the complex family trust accounts of his nephew, Andrew L. Emerson Clapp, and his sister, Elizabeth Williams Clapp Woodbury. There is some family correspondence in these financial papers, especially in the files of Andrew L. Emerson Clapp's divorce from Abba Clapp, and in the settlement of Elizabeth Williams Clapp Woodbury's estate. These letters provide some of the only glimpses at the relationships between various family members.

The [papers of Mary Jane Emerson Clapp](#) span the period from 1851 to 1915, and relate entirely to personal business matters and the administration of the Clapp family trust.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Family Correspondence and Genealogical Material, 1802-1935](#)
- [Asa Clapp Papers, 1789-1876](#)
- [Asa W. H. Clapp Papers, 1825-1904](#)
- [Mary Jane Emerson Clapp Papers, 1851-1915](#)
- [Oversize, 1811-1889](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<p><u>Family Correspondence and Genealogical Material, 1802-1935</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received by family members with miscellaneous attachments and enclosures, and genealogical material, including lists, clippings, printed matter, portraits, obituaries and certificate.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 1-2	<p><u>Asa Clapp Papers, 1789-1876</u></p> <p>Letterbook, account book of receipts, ships' records, and other business papers.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 3-16	<p><u>Asa W. H. Clapp Papers, 1825-1904</u></p> <p>Business correspondence, account books, and business, trust and estate records for Andrew L. Emerson Clapp, Charles Q. Clapp, and Elizabeth Williams Clapp Woodbury.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 17-18	<p><u>Mary Jane Emerson Clapp Papers, 1851-1915</u></p> <p>Business correspondence, account books, and other business and investment records.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 19-23	<p><u>Oversize, 1811-1889</u></p> <p>Account book of Asa Clapp and business, investment, and trust records of Asa W. H. Clapp.</p>

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Family Correspondence and Genealogical Material, 1802-1935 Letters sent and received by family members with miscellaneous attachments and enclosures, and genealogical material, including lists, clippings, printed matter, portraits, obituaries and certificate. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
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BOX 1	Genealogical material, 1848-1935
BOX 1-2	Asa Clapp Papers, 1789-1876 Letterbook, account book of receipts, ships' records, and other business papers. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 1	Letterbook, 1831-1841
BOX 1	Account book, 1811-1817 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Account book of receipts, 1845-1849
BOX 1	Estate matters, 1799-1876 (1 folder)
BOX 2	(1 folder)
BOX 2	Leases, 1828-1841
BOX 2	Marston, Zacharia, estate, undated
BOX 2	Ships' records
BOX 2	<i>Aurora</i> (schooner), 1796-1800
BOX 2	<i>Diomede</i> (brig), 1828
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1789-circa 1828
BOX 3-16	Asa W. H. Clapp Papers, 1825-1904 Business correspondence, account books, and business, trust and estate records for Andrew L. Emerson Clapp, Charles Q. Clapp, and Elizabeth Williams Clapp Woodbury. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
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BOX 4	1857-1869
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BOX 5	1884-1887
BOX 5	1887-1893

Asa W. H. Clapp Papers, 1825-1904

Container

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BOX 6	1891
BOX 6	Miscellany of account book fragments, concerning trusts, 1855-1885
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BOX 6	Accounts, bills and receipts miscellany, 1831-1897 (2 folders)
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BOX 7	Back Cove Co., 1848-1849; 1876-1889
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Asa W. H. Clapp Papers, 1825-1904

Container

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BOX 15	Miscellaneous, account book, 1815-1889 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 17-18	Mary Jane Emerson Clapp Papers, 1851-1915 Business correspondence, account books, and other business and investment records. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
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