



Inventory of the Captain Charles Thompson Collection (Collection #34)

The Brick Store Museum
Kennebunk, Maine

Compiled by J. Butler, Manuscript Curator
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Physical Description:

This collection of papers was purchased by the Museum from Fred Rouleau, local dealer. Although it has some integrity as a collection, it is also probably a collection of assorted papers that came to Rouleau's hand over a period of time. The largest number of related papers seem to be those of Captain Charles Thompson of Kennebunk, thus the collection has been given his name.

The papers cover a wide geographic area and time span. While a majority of the papers are of Kennebunk people and ships, there are also papers from other Maine towns (even as far afield as Bangor), as well as papers from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, even Illinois. It is possible they came to Thompson's hand through his business dealings, but not certain. An attempt has been made to break them down and store them logically, as groups of papers relating to certain local people or ships are together, papers from assorted Maine towns are together, papers of a legal nature (which have no other cohesion) are together. In date the papers range from 1773 to 1916. The bulk falls within the mid-19th century.

The collection is stored in two boxes with a few oversize or specialized items stored elsewhere, as indicated in the box and folder breakdown. The collection's acquisition number is 83.15.

Box and Folder Breakdown:

Box 1:

- Folder 1: Charles Thompson receipts, 1837-1856.
- Folder 2: Charles Thompson receipts, 1857-1869.
- Folder 3: Charles Thompson receipts. 1870-1882 and n.d.
- Folder 4: Portland, Maine, businesses receipts, 1869-1903. Includes 1824 Writ of Replevin and 1822 tax receipts.
- Folder 5: Farmington, Maine. Miscellaneous letters, 1820 and 1868.
John Snipe, Georgetown (Maine ?) papers, 1773-1798, including inventory of Estate of Charles Snipe, 1783.
- Folder 6: Religious flyers, 1835-1858, including *The Missionary Herald*, April 1835.
Civil War items, miscellaneous.
Broadsides (2) of T. C. Boyd, San Francisco, n.d. but Civil War vintage.
Sons of Temperance Commission, Gorham, District #9, 1860.
Kennebunkport advertising cards as follows:
C. Trott, boatbuilder, 1892
Ocean Bluff Hotel
Henry Paston Clark, cottages to rent, 1897
Cliff House, 1881
- Folder 7: Maine. Miscellaneous letters, deeds, receipts, etc., from various towns in Maine, 1796-1876. Includes "Bill of the Fees" of the First Transverse Jury, York County, October 1810. These papers are not sorted chronologically.
- Folder 8: Kennebunk people. Letters and receipts, 1836-77, including tax receipts, particularly of George Emmons and Clement Littlefield, shipbuilders of Lower Village.
- Folder 9: Charles Thompson, letters, 1853-77.
- Folder 10: Charles Thompson, accounts, 1848-75.
- Folder 11: Daniel Hill, Calais, Maine. Receipts and business correspondence, 1881-87.
- Folder 12: Joseph and Elizabeth Porter, Kennebunk. Papers, 1843-76. Includes inventory (household furnishings) estate of Joseph Porter, n.d.
- Folder 13: Charles P. Clark, Boston (later Kennebunkport). Business correspondence, carbons, some to D. W. Lord, Kennebunkport, 1857-1858.
- Folder 14: Joseph Titcomb, Kennebunk. Business letters (5), carbons, 1875.
- Folder 15: Bourne and Kingsbury. Receipts and accounts of George W. Bourne and Henry Kingsbury, shipbuilders, Kennebunk, 1833-60.
- Folder 16: Capt. John Hill, Kennebunk (?). Receipts, accounts, letters, etc., 1835-62. Some concern ships Bohemia, Liverpool, Luna, and Helios. Also included, citizenship paper for Capt. Hill 1840 which gives physical description of him.

Box 2:

- Folder 1: Kennebunk ships. Miscellaneous papers, 1841-81. Includes ships Levi H. Gale, Steamer St. John Smith, the Simoda, and the Horizon.
- Folder 2: Ship Lexington, papers including 1849 building contract with Nathaniel L. Thompson, 1849-57.
- Folder 3: Ship Lizzie Thompson, papers, 1854-61.
- Folder 4: Ship Nathaniel Thompson, papers, 1854-61.
- Folder 5: Ship Cheltenham, papers, 1860-63.
- Folder 6: Ship Patterson, papers, 1855-61.
- Folder 7: Ship Laurens, papers, 1863-65.
- Folder 8: Fred Rouleau, Kennebunk. Business letters, 1962 and 1981.
- Folder 9: Receipts, Boston, New York, and New Hampshire companies, 1840s-1880s, including papers of H. P. Chandler, Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts, 1865-1816.
- Folder 10: Legal papers, miscellaneous (not Maine) 1850-80. Letters, miscellaneous (not Maine).
- Folder 11: Massachusetts documents, miscellaneous 1783-1833. Way Bill, U. S. mail Coach, Brattleboro (VT.) to Boston, 1839.
Shipping papers, not local.
- Folder 12: Miscellaneous items including memorabilia for Massachusetts fraternal organizations and a few Civil War documents.

Also included in this collection is the following:

Ledger, stockholders Portland Stage Company, July 18, 1833 – January 21, 1847. This is stored on the ledger shelf under the company's name.

Tourist maps for Casco Bay and Sebago Lake, 1896 and 1900, stored in Map Box #1, Folder 8.

Statement of General Average, Brig Vernon, Kennebunk, November 1831 – Misc. Box (0) #2, Fold 12.

Copies of the *Kennebunk Gazette and Maine Palladium*, April 30, August 27, 1831, and July 14, 1832, and October 6, 1838. Newspaper Box #3.

Poster, War Production Board, 1942. Metal Case, Shelf 4, Folder 1.

The collection also includes the following photographs:

Two postcards of Abbott Graves paintings (“The Fish Story,” “The Town Clock”) which are with the Abbott Graves materials.

Acadia postcards, fold out – with Maine postcards.

“Ship Building at Kennebunkport” lithograph cut from 1856 wall map – with photo number 84.L.364.

Ship Vigilant and Bark Hiram Emery under construction – with photo 83.18.3 (duplicate).

Also photos numbered 83.15. 1 through 4.

Subject Tracings:

Bourne and Kingsbury

Calais, Maine

Casco Bay

Chandler, H. P. (Jamaica Plans, MA)

Civil War

Clark, Charles P.

Clark, Henry Paston

Cliff House

Emmons and Littlefield

Farmington, Maine

Gorham, Maine

Hill, Daniel

Hill, Captain John

Kennebunk Gazette and Maine Palladium

Kennebunkport

Lord, D. W.

The Missionary Herald

Ocean Bluff Hotel

Porter, Elizabeth

Porter, Joseph

Portland, Maine

Portland Stage Company

Rouleau, Fred

Sebago Lake

Ships:

Alameda

Bohemia

Charles Hill

Columbus

Cheltenham

Friedlander

Golden Eagle

Helios

Horizon

James Titcomb

Laurens

Levi H. Gale

Lexington

Liverpool

Lizzie Thompson

Loring

Luna

Nathaniel Thompson

Ocean Wave

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Patterson
Philena Winslow
Regulus
Simoda
St. John Smith
Sterling
Superior
Vernon
Whitaker

Snipe, Charles
Snipe, John
Temperance, Sons of
Thompson, Charles
Thompson, Nathaniel L.
Titcomb, Joseph
Trott, Charles
World II

Reference Resources:

The standard histories of Kennebunk, Bourne's *History* and Remich's, will provide much information on the Kennebunk related people whose papers are in this collection.

For more detailed information about the Thompsons, particularly Nathaniel and his ships, see *Captain Nathaniel Lord Thompson and the Ships He Built, 1811-89*, by Margaret Jeffords Thompson.

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