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 5: Farmington, Maine. Miscellaneous letters, 1820 and 1868.

John Snipe, Georgetown (Maine ?) papers, 1773-1798, including inventory of Estate of Charles Snipe, 1783.


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.


Box 2:


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 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
Patterson
Philenia 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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