

Joseph Sewall Papers

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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: Joseph Sewall Papers

Span Dates: 1832-1907

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1832-1842)

ID No.: MSS39529

Creator: Sewall, Joseph, 1795-1851

Extent: 3,700 items ; 14 containers ; 5.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Adjutant general of Maine and collector of customs for the District of Bath. General business correspondence, including correspondence with the Treasury Department, account books, printed documents, receipts, abstracts, and business files, relating exclusively to Sewall's position as collector of customs. Includes correspondence, certificates, and military papers of Frederick Dummer Sewall, army officer and internal revenue agent.

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

Campbell, John, 1789-1866--Correspondence.

Sewall, Frederick Dummer, 1826-1907. Frederick Dummer Sewall papers. 1862-1907.

Sewall, Joseph, 1795-1851.

Woodbury, Levi, 1789-1851--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Department of the Treasury--Correspondence.

United States. Office of Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Subjects

Customs administration--Maine.

Places

Bath (Me.)--History.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations

Adjutants general.

Customs agents.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Joseph Sewall, adjutant general of Maine and collector of customs for the District of Bath, were given to the Library of Congress by the American Antiquarian Society in 1935.

Processing History

The papers of Joseph Sewall were arranged and described in 1971. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Other Repositories

Other Sewall papers are held by the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass., and the Bowdoin College library, Brunswick, Maine.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Joseph Sewall is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Joseph Sewall 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, Joseph Sewall Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Joseph Sewall was born in 1795, in Bath, Maine, graduated from Bowdoin College in 1812, and practiced law in Bath, where he was collector of customs, 1842-1842, and adjutant general for the state of Maine, 1833-1834. Sewall died in 1851. His birth and death dates were obtained from the Library of Congress catalog that cites a lecture read by Sewall before the Lyceum (1833), entitled "the History of Bath," Collections of the Maine Historical Society, vol. 2, 1847, pp. 189-228. Genealogical information was obtained from Louis Clinton Hatch, *Maine: A History* (New York, American Historical Society, 1919). vol. 4, pp. 383-385.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Joseph Sewall (1795-1851) span the years 1832-1907, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1832-1842. The collection consists of business correspondence, including correspondence with the Treasury Department, account books, printed documents, receipts, abstracts, and other files relating exclusively to Sewall's position as collector of customs in Bath, Maine, for the port of Bath, 1832-1842. Correspondents include John Campbell, treasurer of the United States, and Secretary of the Treasury Levi Woodbury.

A small portion of the papers, 1862-1907, relates to Joseph Sewall's son, Frederick Dummer Sewall, an army officer and internal revenue agent. Included are correspondence, military papers, and certificates.

A miscellany file contains two items of unrelated correspondence. One is a letter addressed to Henry Sewall from Elbridge G. Savage. The other is addressed to Samuel A. Morse from Mary Spinney and is apparently written in another hand.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Joseph Sewall papers
BOX 1	General business correspondence
BOX 1	1833-1837 (4 folders)
BOX 2	1838-1842, undated (4 folders)
BOX 3	Correspondence with U.S. Treasury Department, 1834-1842, undated
BOX 3	Letterbook, 1839-1842
BOX 4	Account books, 1834-1840 (4 folders)
BOX 5	Fishing vessel agreements
BOX 5	1834-1838 (5 folders)
BOX 6	1839-1840, undated (3 folders)
BOX 6	Sailing agreements
BOX 6	1833-1836 (2 folders)
BOX 7	1837-1841 (5 folders)
BOX 7	Certificates of inward foreign entry, 1835-1837, undated
BOX 7	Receipts
BOX 7	Printed
BOX 7	1835-1837 (3 folders)
BOX 8	1838-1841 (3 folders)
BOX 9	Miscellaneous, 1834-1840
BOX 9	Handwritten
BOX 9	1834-1837 (4 folders)
BOX 10	1838-1841, undated (5 folders)
BOX 10	Abstracts
BOX 10	Quarterly returns relating to the U.S. Marine Hospital, 1834-1841
BOX 10	<i>Ad valorem</i> duties on merchandise imported, 1835-1840
BOX 10	Allowances to fishing vessels, 1837-1838
BOX 10	Amounts due to from U.S. to Sewall, 1834-1838
BOX 10	Debentures for drawback of duties, 1834-1837
BOX 10	Entries of vessels at the Port of Hallowell, Maine, 1834-1840
BOX 10	Goods, wares, and merchandise imported by foreign vessels, 1836-1839
BOX 10	Interest received on duty bonds, 1835, 1838

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 10	Merchandise free of duty, 1834-1839
BOX 10	Moneys received from masters and owners of vessels, 1837, 1840
BOX 10	Payments into the Maine Bank, 1835, 1837
BOX 10	Payments made to inspectors, 1836
BOX 11	Specific duties on merchandise imported, 1832-1841 (3 folders)
BOX 11	Miscellaneous, 1835-1840
BOX 11	Business files
BOX 11	Accounts associated with Sewall, 1834-1841
BOX 11	Appointments and oaths of office
BOX 11	Document entitled "Know all men by these presents."
BOX 11	Documents transmitted to the register of the U.S. Treasury, 1836-184xxx
BOX 11	Fisherman's papers, 1834-1839
BOX 11	Lists of bonds taken in the district of Bath, Maine, 1834-1840
BOX 12	Monthly returns of David White and Stephen Woodman, 1836-1841
BOX 12	Papers relating to real estate in Bath, Maine, 1835-1841
BOX 12	Papers relating to the U.S. Marine Hospital "Pay to the Bearer," notes 1834-1841
BOX 12	Public auction receipts, 1834-1839
BOX 12	Receipts relating to the Maine District Court, 1834-1840
BOX 12	Statements and petitions by groups, 1834-1839, undated
BOX 12	Statements of duties accrued on merchandise, 1836-1840
BOX 12	Statements of the amount of tonnage registered, 1832-1835
BOX 12	Suits directed to be instituted, 1839-1840
BOX 12	Miscellaneous files
BOX 12	Unidentified and incomplete
BOX 13	Frederick Dummer Sewall papers
BOX 13	Correspondence, 1862-1907, undated
BOX 13	Letterbooks
BOX 13	1875-1879 (2 vols.)
BOX 14	1897-1905
BOX 14	Certificates
BOX 14	Miscellany
BOX 14	Henry Sewall and other papers, 1839