Lovering-Taylor Family Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Audrey Walker

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2012

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Collection Summary

Title: Lovering-Taylor Family Papers
Span Dates: 1727-1926
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1776-1888)
ID No.: MSS56382
Creator: Lovering-Taylor Family
Extent: 2,000 items ; 11 containers plus 2 oversize ; 4 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: The Lovering-Taylor families of Boston, Mass.; New York, N.Y.; and Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Correspondence, diaries, financial papers, business records, legal papers, biographical and genealogical material, clippings, printed material, and other papers chiefly of Joseph Taylor (1745(?)-1816), merchant and Loyalist, relating to business and trade during the Revolution, the Loyalist cause, mercantile insurance, and French spoliation claims. Other family members represented include William Taylor (1714-1789), Abigail Taylor Amory (born 1739), Charles Taylor (died 1837), Hannah Jones Welles Taylor (1776-1845), Mary Taylor Lovering (born 1813), Charles T. Lovering (born 1846), and members of the allied Amory (Emery) and Welles (Wells) families.

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
Amory family.
Amory, Abigail Taylor, b. 1739. Abigail Taylor Amory papers.
Amory, John, 1728-1803--Correspondence.
Amory, Jonathan, 1725 or 6-1797--Correspondence.
Amory, Rufus Greene, 1760-1833--Correspondence.
Amory, Thomas, 1762-1823--Correspondence.
Arnold, Benedict, 1741-1801--Correspondence.
Blowers, Samson Salter, 1742-1842--Correspondence.
Cruden, John, d. 1787--Correspondence.
Digby, Robert, 1732-1815--Correspondence.
Earle, William E. (William Edward), 1841-1894--Correspondence.
Lee, William, 1739-1795--Correspondence.
Leonard, George, 1742-1826--Correspondence.
Leonard, George, 1742-1826.
Lovering family.
Lovering, Charles T., b. 1846. Charles T. Lovering papers.
Lovering, Mary Taylor, b. 1813. Mary Taylor Lovering papers.
Robb, Wm. (William)--Correspondence.
Robertson, Gilbert--Correspondence.
Rogers, Samuel, 1746-1804--Correspondence.
Short, James, fl. 1796--Correspondence.
Taylor family.
Taylor, Charles, d. 1837. Charles Taylor papers.
Taylor, Hannah Jones Welles, 1776-1845. Hannah Jones Welles Taylor papers.
Taylor, Joseph, 1745?-1816. Joseph Taylor papers.
Taylor, William C., b. 1736--Correspondence.
Taylor, William, 1714-1789. William Taylor papers.
Tucker, James, Captain--Correspondence.
Upham, Joshua, 1741-1808--Correspondence.
Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852--Correspondence.

Welles family.

Organizations
Amory's & Taylor.
Amory, Taylor, & Rogers.
Associated Loyalists.
Buchanan & Young Co.--Correspondence.
Charles Wood & Co.--Correspondence.
Samuel Philips & Co.--Correspondence.
Taylor & Rogers.

Subjects
American loyalists--Massachusetts.
American loyalists.
Business insurance.
French spoliation claims.
International trade.
Merchants--Massachusetts--Boston.
Merchants--New York (State)--New York.
Merchants--Nova Scotia--Halifax.

Places
Massachusetts--Commerce.
New York (State)--Commerce.
Nova Scotia--Commerce.
Shipping--United States.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Claims.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Economic aspects.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
United States--Politics and government--1775-1783.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of the Lovering-Taylor family were given to the Library of Congress by Richard S. Lovering, Jr., in 1975.

Processing History

The Lovering-Taylor Family Papers were arranged and described in 1979. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Related Material

Material related to the early firm of Amory’s & Taylor, which is documented in this collection, can also be found in the Amory Family Papers in the Manuscript Division.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Lovering-Taylor 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, Lovering-Taylor Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Joseph Taylor

Date	*Event*
1745, Mar. 16	Born, Boston, Mass.
1765	Graduated, Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.
1772	Entered partnership in firm of Amory, Taylor, & Rogers
1774	Publicly protested patriotic proceedings of Boston, Mass., town meeting of 27 June 1774
1775	Sailed to England
1777	Returned to New York
1781	Renewed oath to the English Crown
1785	Moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
1796	Returned to Boston, Mass., and opened mercantile insurance office
1806(?)	Returned to London, England
1816	Died, Boston, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The Lovering-Taylor family papers span the years 1727-1926, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the years 1776-1888. The collection consists of correspondence, diaries, financial papers, business records, legal papers, biographical and genealogical material, clippings, and printed matter. The collection is organized into six series: Diaries, Family Correspondence, General Correspondence, Financial and Business Papers, Miscellany, and Oversize.

Although five generations of the Taylor and two of the Lovering family are represented in the papers, the collection focuses primarily on the business activities of Joseph Taylor, Latin scholar and Loyalist Boston merchant who was a partner in the firms of Amory's & Taylor, later Amory, Taylor, & Rogers, and finally Taylor & Rogers. When Boston was evacuated during the Revolutionary War, Taylor was in England, but his partner, Samuel Rogers, moved the business to Nova Scotia and later to New York. In mid-1777, Taylor returned to America. Rogers went to England in November 1777. Taylor continued to transact business in New York until 1785 when he moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Toward the end of 1795 he returned to Boston and established himself as a mercantile insurance broker.

Joseph Taylor's papers present the shipping trade from the Loyalist point of view. The General Correspondence series contains numerous letters from Rogers and a few from Taylor between the years 1777 and 1785 that document in detail the difficulties of conducting trade during and immediately after the war and include comments on the military and political situation during the war. The letters also show how delays in communication, problems of credit, and doubts concerning decisions affecting the business placed a strain on the relationship between the two men that eventually led to the dissolution of the partnership.

After the end of the Revolutionary War, the United States government finally paid American debts owed British merchants, but the Loyalists were forced to seek restitution from the British government. The collection includes memorials that support Taylor's claims for losses incurred as a result of the war. The papers also contain a file that explains Taylor's financial connection with the Associated Loyalists and presents his claims for a share of any compensation awarded George Leonard, as leader of the Associated Loyalists, for services rendered the British cause during the war.

During the wars of the French Revolution, American commerce suffered at the hands of both France and Great Britain. Both countries captured American ships. However, after the conclusion of Jay's Treaty, the French regarded America as an ally of Britain, and French privateers freely attacked and seized American ships. As a broker underwriting marine insurance policies on ships and their cargoes, Taylor sustained financial losses during this quasi-war with France. The Lovering-Taylor Papers contain several groups of papers relating to these spoliation claims. The General Correspondence includes letters written in 1802 by merchants in New York, Baltimore, Norfolk, Charleston, and Boston that illustrate the efforts of Americans to organize and seek redress for shipping losses caused by foreign governments. Evidence of other attempts to present claims is found in the collation of insurance policies with ships prior to 1864, in papers relating to the detention of ships in South America, and in the first spoliation claims file. However, the major group of papers pertaining to the claims was assembled after Congress passed the 1885 act for the ascertainment of claims of American citizens for spoliations committed by the French prior to July 31, 1801. The General Correspondence between 1876 and 1888 deals almost exclusively with the efforts of Charles T. Lovering (born 1846) to initiate claims for losses of his great-grandfather, Joseph Taylor. The post-1885 French spoliation claims file reflects the tedious research and documentation necessary to establish the validity of Taylor's claims by his heirs.

The Taylor family's ties to international trade are also shown in the papers of Charles Taylor, particularly in his letterbooks covering the years 1796 and 1797, and in the accounts and property papers in the Financial and Business Papers series. The remaining financial papers are mostly personal and deal with routine accounts, bills and receipts, acquisition and management of property, and the estates of various members of the Taylor and Lovering families.

The Miscellany series includes a holograph and a printed copy of the oration that Joseph Taylor delivered in Latin at the funeral of Edward Wigglesworth of Harvard and a printed copy of the *Patent for Plymouth* published in 1751.

Other family members represented include William Taylor (1714-1789), Abigail Taylor Amory (born 1739), Charles Taylor (died 1837), Hannah Jones Welles Taylor (1776-1845), Mary Taylor Lovering (born 1813), and members of the allied Amory (Emery) and Welles (Wells) families.

Additional correspondents include John Amory, Jonathan Amory, Rufus Greene Amory, Thomas Amory, Benedict Arnold, Samson Salter Blowers, Buchanan & Young Co., Charles Wood & Co., John Cruden, Robert Digby, William E. Earle, William Lee (1739-1795), George Leonard,, Wm. Robb, Gilbert Robertson, Samuel Rogers, Samuel Philips & Co., James Short, William Taylor, Captain James Tucker, Joshua Upham, and Daniel Webster.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in six series:

- Diaries, 1801-1836
- Family Correspondence, 1772-1902
- General Correspondence, 1750-1896
- Financial and Business Papers, 1727-1926
- Miscellany, 1751-1868
- Oversize

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1	**Diaries, 1801-1836** Diaries kept by Charles Taylor during trip to Europe in 1801 and trip to Virginia in 1836, and an unidentified diary recording Taylor's business operations during his absence on the latter trip. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	**Family Correspondence, 1772-1902** Letters sent and received between members of the family. Arranged alphabetically by name of writer.
BOX 1-3	**General Correspondence, 1750-1896** Letters received and copies of letters sent. Includes two letterbooks. Arranged chronologically within letterbook and correspondence groupings.
BOX 4-10	**Financial and Business Papers, 1727-1926** Accounts, account books, a waste book, bills and receipts, deeds, estate papers, mercantile insurance papers, promissory notes, and groups of business papers relating to ships insured by Joseph Taylor and various claims for losses incurred during the American Revolutionary War and the quasi-war with France. Arranged by type of material and subject and further differentiated by family members where possible.
BOX 10-13	**Miscellany, 1751-1868** Biographical and genealogical material, certificates, clippings, lottery tickets, miscellaneous manuscripts, and printed material. Container 12 consists of oversize correspondence, financial papers, and other large material, and Container 13 contains oversize household account books of Charles Taylor. Arranged by type of material.
BOX OV 1-OV 2	**Oversize** General correspondence, financial and legal material, land grants, spoilation claims, certificates, passes, and other oversize items. Arranged according to type of material.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1	**Diaries, 1801-1836**
	Diaries kept by Charles Taylor during trip to Europe in 1801 and trip to Virginia in 1836, and an unidentified diary recording Taylor's business operations during his absence on the latter trip.
	Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	Diary, Charles Taylor
BOX 1	1801, Oct.-Dec.
BOX 1	1836, 21 Apr.-4 June
BOX 1	Diary, unidentified, 1836, 2 May-4 June
BOX 1	**Family Correspondence, 1772-1902**
	Letters sent and received between members of the family.
	Arranged alphabetically by name of writer.
BOX 1	Amory, Jonathan
BOX 1	Lovering, Joseph S.
BOX 1	Taylor, Charles
BOX 1	Taylor, Joseph
BOX 1	Taylor, Nathaniel
BOX 1	Taylor, William
BOX 1	Taylor, William C.
BOX 1	Other family members
BOX 1-3	**General Correspondence, 1750-1896**
	Letters received and copies of letters sent. Includes two letterbooks.
	Arranged chronologically within letterbook and correspondence groupings.
BOX 1	Letterbooks
BOX 1	Joseph Taylor, 1778-1779
BOX 1	Charles Taylor, 1796-1797
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1764-1777
BOX 1	1778
BOX 2	1779
BOX 2	Jan.-Mar.
BOX 2	Apr.-Nov.
BOX 2	1780-1781
BOX 2	1782
BOX 2	Jan.-June
BOX 2	July-Dec.
BOX 2	1783
BOX 2	Jan.-May

Container	*Contents*
BOX 2	June-Dec.
BOX 3	1784-1785
BOX 3	1786-1789
BOX 3	1791-1799
BOX 3	1800-1801
BOX 3	1802
BOX 3	Jan.-June
BOX 3	July-Dec
BOX 3	1803-1807
BOX 3	1813-1864
BOX 3	1873-1896
BOX 3	Undated
BOX 4-10	**Financial and Business Papers, 1727-1926**
	Accounts, account books, a waste book, bills and receipts, deeds, estate papers, mercantile insurance papers, promissory notes, and groups of business papers relating to ships insured by Joseph Taylor and various claims for losses incurred during the American Revolutionary War and the quasi-war with France.
	Arranged by type of material and subject and further differentiated by family members where possible.
BOX 4	Accounts
BOX 4	Lovering, Charles T.
BOX 4	Lovering, Charles T., and Joseph Lovering
BOX 4	Lovering, Joseph S.
BOX 4	Account book, 1851-1861
BOX 4	Accounts and papers relating to Nahant cottage
BOX 4	Accounts with daughters and Arnold Welles Taylor, 1875-1877
BOX 4	Account with W. Sohier and Charles J. Taylor
BOX 4	Taylor, Ann
BOX 4	Taylor, Charles
BOX 4	Accounts, 1803-1832
BOX 4	Account books, 1834, 1836-1837
BOX 4	Discount book, 1795, and bankbook, 1831-1837
BOX 4	Financial notebook and cash book, 1801-1802; 1807-1816; and 1807-1809
BOX 4	Household account books, 1810-1814
BOX 5	Waste book, 1827-1837
BOX 5	Taylor, George A.
BOX 5	Account book, 1833-1834
BOX 5	Dorcas Bower account
BOX 5	Taylor, Hannah Jones
BOX 5	Taylor, Joseph
BOX 5	Accounts, 1785-1807
BOX 5	Account books, 1768-1772, 1797-1803
BOX 5	Taylor, William
BOX 5	Taylor and Rogers
BOX 5	Bills and receipts

Container	*Contents*
BOX 5	Taylor, Charles, N. Allen St. wharf
BOX 5	Taylor, George A.
BOX 5	Taylor, Joseph
BOX 5	Taylor, William
BOX 5	Welles, Arnold and John
BOX 5	Other family members
BOX 6	Deeds
BOX 6	Taylor, Charles
BOX 6	Taylor, Charles J. and George A.
BOX 6	Taylor, George A.
BOX 6	Taylor, Hannah J.
BOX 6	Taylor, Joseph
BOX 6	Taylor, William
BOX 6	Taylor, William C.
BOX 6	Taylor, Winslow
BOX 6	Welles, Arnold
BOX 6	Estate papers
BOX 6	Armory, Abigail and Jonathan
BOX 6	Jones, Hannah
BOX 6	Lovering, Joseph S.
BOX 6	Savage, Thomas
BOX 6	Taylor, Charles J.
BOX 6	Taylor, Hannah J.
BOX 6	Schedules of property division
BOX 6	A. Cotting's account with G. A. Taylor
BOX 6	A. Cotting's account with heirs
BOX 7	J. S. Lovering's account with heirs
BOX 7	G. A. Taylor's account with heirs
BOX 7	William Sohier, trustee
BOX 7	Account heirs
BOX 7	Account with Mary Taylor Lovering
BOX 7	Church tax receipts
BOX 7	Correspondence
BOX 7	Tax receipts
BOX 7	Vouchers
	(2 folders)
BOX 7	Taylor, Joseph
BOX 7	Taylor, Winslow
BOX 7	Welles, Arnold
BOX 8	Insurance papers
BOX 8	Listings merchant ship insurance policies
BOX 8	Insurance policies, Joseph Taylor, broker
BOX 8	Notes on merchant ship insurance policies held by Joseph Taylor
BOX 8	Miscellaneous
BOX 8	Legal business papers
BOX 8	Taylor and Rogers

Container	*Contents*
BOX 8	Miscellaneous
BOX 8	Miscellaneous
BOX 8	Promissory notes
BOX 8	Charles Taylor
BOX 8	Joseph Taylor
BOX 8	Ship's papers and protests
BOX 8	*Bethiah*
BOX 8	*Eagle*
BOX 8	*Eliza*
BOX 8	*Governor Strong*
BOX 8	*Hannah*
BOX 8	*Julia*
BOX 9	*Lively*
BOX 9	*Maria*
BOX 9	*Maria and Eliva*
BOX 9	*Mark and Mary*
BOX 9	*Nathaniel*
BOX 9	*Polly*
BOX 9	*Prudence*
BOX 9	*Sheldrake*
BOX 9	*Smaragda*
BOX 9	*Thorn*
BOX 9	Stocks
BOX 9	Charles Taylor
BOX 9	Charles J. Taylor and George A. Taylor
BOX 9	Joseph Taylor
BOX 9	Other business papers
BOX 9	Associated Loyalists
	(2 folders)
BOX 9	Farm at Colchester (Charles Taylor)
BOX 9	Memorials of Joseph Taylor to British officials
BOX 9	Papers relating to
BOX 9	Detention of American ships in South America
BOX 9	French spoliations claims after 1885 act
BOX 9	(2 folders)
BOX 10	(4 folders)
BOX 10	Joseph Taylor's claims for losses incurred during the American Revolutionary War
BOX 10	Obligations given at Barcelona, Spain, to pay damages on bills drawn on Vera Cruz, Mexico, and Havana, Cuba (Charles Taylor)
BOX 10-13	**Miscellany, 1751-1868**
	Biographical and genealogical material, certificates, clippings, lottery tickets, miscellaneous manuscripts, and printed material. Container 12 consists of oversize correspondence, financial papers, and other large material, and Container 13 contains oversize household account books of Charles Taylor.
	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 10	Biographical and genealogical data

Container	*Contents*
BOX 10	Certificates, Nathan Adams's service as pilot of British ships
BOX 10	Citizenship certificates, passports
BOX 10	Arnold Taylor
BOX 10	Charles Taylor
BOX 10	Clippings
BOX 10	Drawings
BOX 10	Lottery tickets
BOX 11	Miscellaneous manuscripts
BOX 11	Legal documents
BOX 11	Charles T. Lovering
BOX 11	Charles Taylor
BOX 11	George A. Taylor
BOX 11	Joseph Taylor
BOX 11	Other miscellaneous material
BOX 11	Papers relating to the American Revolutionary War
BOX 11	Printed matter
	(2 folders)
BOX 11	Street maps and plats
BOX OV 1-OV 2	**Oversize**
	General correspondence, financial and legal material, land grants, spoilation claims, certificates, passes, and other oversize items.
	Arranged according to type of material.
BOX OV 1	General correspondence
BOX OV 1	Accounts
BOX OV 1	Deeds
BOX OV 1	Insurance policies
BOX OV 1	Ships' papers and protests
BOX OV 1	French spoliation claims
BOX OV 1	Joseph Taylor's claims
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Citizenship certificates, Charles Taylor
BOX OV 1	Nova Scotia land grant
BOX OV 1	Pass for ship *John Sloop*
BOX OV 2	Account books