

American Antiquarian Society
Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Brigham, David Trowbridge, Papers, 1832-1842

Location:

Mss. boxes "B"
Folio volumes "B"

Size of collection:

1 mss. box; 1 folio volume

N.U.C.M.C. number:

RLIN id:

Sources of information on collection:

Source of collection:

Unknown

Collection description:

David Trowbridge Brigham (1806-1865), son of Edmund Trowbridge and Elizabeth or Lucy Davis Brigham, was born in Shrewsbury, Mass. He graduated from Union College in 1829 and was admitted to the bar in 1831 after studying law in Orange County, N.Y. and with Pliny Merrick (1794-1867) at Worcester, Mass. He was elected a Representative in the Massachusetts General Court in 1834, and Senator in 1836. In 1834, he became president of the Manufacturers' Insurance Company. Throughout the early and mid-1830s, he speculated in real estate unprofitably and left Worcester in the latter half of the decade owing large debts. He moved west to Alton, Ill. and then to St. Louis, Mo., living as a land speculator and railroad contractor. Brigham finally settled in Iowa, serving for several years as a member of the Senate of that state. He died at Keokuk, Iowa.

This collection of papers is mostly comprised of legal and financial documents relating to debts incurred from real estate speculations by Brigham in Worcester. The documents include: deeds, bonds, agreements, writs, suits, summons, bills, receipts, protests of non-payment of debts, and papers on the attachment of property to creditors. The main subject of the documents concerns the legal resolutions of financial problems resulting from Brigham's purchase of Governor Levi Lincoln's residence which he converted into a hotel called "Worcester House." There is much material on a civil suit initiated by a company of Boston merchants named Whitewell & Bond. There is some correspondence dealing with Brigham's financial affairs. A major figure in both the correspondence and documents is William Lincoln (1801-1843).

This collection also includes one folio volume, 1835-1836, of the "Worcester House" guest register. Entries include the guest's name and residence and room number.

5 December 1974
addition 3 May 1978
revised 13 January 1999