

**AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS**

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Brigham, Elijah, Papers, 1754-1877

LOCATION(S):

Mss. boxes "B"
Folio vols. "B"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

two manuscript boxes; three folio volumes

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Gifts Mrs. Edwin A. Grosvenor, 1929, and of Gilbert Hovey Grosvenor, 1937, 1941, and 1945

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Elijah Brigham (1751-1816), son of Levi and Susanna (Grout) Brigham, was born in Westborough, Mass., on 7 July 1751. After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1778, he studied law, but did not practice. Instead, he engaged in mercantile pursuits in Westborough. He was elected selectman in 1785, 1789, and 1796, and to the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1791 to 1793. He was a justice of the Court of Common Pleas for Worcester County from 1795 to 1811, served in the Massachusetts Senate in 1796, 1798, 1801-1805, and 1807-1810, and was a Massachusetts executive councilor in 1799, 1800, and 1806. Brigham was elected, as a Federalist, to the 12th, 13th, and 14th Congresses and served from 1811 until his death in Washington, D.C., on 22 February 1816.

Brigham married, on 21 September 1780, Anna Sophia Parkman (1755-1783), the daughter of the Rev. Ebenezer Parkman (1703-1782), of Westborough, Mass. They had two children: Anna Sophia (1781-1864) and Elijah (1783-1847). He married second, on 20 April 1786; Sarah Lambert Hamock (1750-1787), the daughter of William Lambert (-), of Reading, Mass.. They had one child: Sally (1787-1867). He married third, on 16 December 1792, Sarah Ward (1756-1838), the daughter of the Hon. Artemas Ward (1727-1800), of Shrewsbury, Mass. They had five children: Anna Maria (1794-1880), who married Ebenezer Morgan Phillips (1792-1880); Sally Sophronia (1795-1810); Dana Ward (1797-1830); Susanna Walter (1798-1825); and Catharine Martha (1801-1881).

This collection consists mainly of the papers of Elijah Brigham; the papers being political, judicial, and personal in nature. Within the correspondence, there is a great deal of information concerning national issues (especially the issue of the opposition of the Federalists to the War of 1812) and politics. There is a

variety of letters to Congressman Brigham from his constituents; included among these are several letters of recommendation for office.

The collection contains many papers concerning Brigham's judicial career. These include a record of cases heard as Justice of the Peace, 1791-1793; records of cases heard in the Court of Common Pleas, 1794-1815; a document appointing Brigham to the justice of the Worcester County Court of Common Pleas, 1795; a record of recognizances of debt, 1795-1810; an account of expenses, 1803; and instructions to grand juries, 1807 and undated.

There are papers relating to Brigham's financial and business life, including account books, 1788-1816; accounts of expenses regarding the Kennebec Purchase, 1803-1804; merchandise records, 1804-1807; invoices; receipts; expense accounts; and reports and statements concerning taxes and debts. Included also are receipts against his estate, 1816-1818, as well as a small collection of receipts, 1817-1823, of his wife Sarah and receipts against her estate, 1838. There are deeds, 1754-1832, which concern Elijah and Sarah.

Included also in the collection are three notebooks from Brigham's years at Dartmouth. These include notes on moral philosophy and religion, and trigonometry, as well as other information. There are drafts of speeches (one protesting the War of 1812) and religious tracts and essays.

Other material in the collection includes a small group of papers belonging to Nancy Brigham (1763-1890); a small group of papers (mostly receipts) of Ebenezer Morgan Phillips and Anna Maria Phillips; an inventory of the estate of Eli Whitney (1741-1807); an account book that records accounts with six women for straw and bonnets; a booklet on Brigham, Ward, and Parkman genealogy; and a penmanship book of Sally Sophronia Brigham.

A previously unidentified collection of debates from Yale for the years 1827 to 1828 has been identified to be those of Asa Holman Waters (1808-1887). They have been moved to the Waters Family, Papers, 1749-1873.

See Contents List.

American Antiquarian Society
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT

ELIJAH BRIGHAM, PAPERS, 1754-1877
CONTENTS LIST

BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS
1		Correspondence, 1787 - 1816
	1	1787 - 1799
	2	1800 - 1809
	3	1810 - 1816
	4	Miscellaneous Documents, 1770 - 1816
	5	Estate Receipts, 1816 - 1818
		Deeds, 1754 - 1832
	6	1754 - 1799
	7	1800 - 1832
	8	Sarah Ward Brigham, Receipts and Estate Receipts, n.d.; 1817 - 1838
	9	Nancy Brigham, Papers, n.d.; 1789; --mainly correspondence, plus biographical material
		Phillips Family, Papers, n.d.; 1825 - 1877 --correspondence and receipts
10		Miscellaneous Papers, n.d.; 1785 - 1838 --includes a notebook containing notes on Brigham, Ward, and Parkman genealogy; a glossary; Sally Sophronia Brigham's penmanship book; letter, dated 8 October 1785, to Dr. Josiah Brigham (1758-1788); a letter, dated 16 June 1797, from Belfast, to a Mrs. Webb; an account book, 1819, which contains accounts with six women re: straw and bonnets; and a letter of recommendation, dated 26 March 1826, to the Governor of Massachusetts for Nahum Fisher (1788-) for the post of coroner in the town of Westborough; among other items

BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS
2		
	1	Miscellaneous Volumes, n.d.; 1776 - 1807
		a) Latin Compositions, n.d., 12 l.
		b) "John III. 3d", n.d., 12 l.
		c) "I Timothy vi.", n.d., 4 l.
		d) "Inhabitants of the first Parish of the Town of Sutton.", n.d., 6 l.
		e) Poem, 1776, 5 l.
		f) "A Compendium," 1777, 20 l.
		g) Notebook, ca. 1778, 9 l.
		--includes a list of world capitals (2 l.), a list of Massachusetts

counties and towns (2 l.), a list of names (1 l.), notes on diameters and distances of planets, etc. (1 l.), and sundry accounts (4 l.)

h) Notebook, ca. 1778, 33 l.
--includes notes on moral philosophy and religion

i) Notebook, ca. 1778?
--inscribed on front "Elijah Brigham's Trigonometry"

j) "Mark Ch 1 Verse 15", 1779 April 16, 8 l.

k) "Ecclesiastes vi Ch 1 & 2", 1779 June 13, 10 l.

l) Account Book, 1788 - 1796, 25 l.
--mainly with William Wood

m) Account Book, 1801 - 1819, 10 l.
--includes accounts with Stephen Maynard, John Warren, etc.

n) Account Book, 1803, 22 l. plus 1 loose leaf
--includes "account of expenses" (9 l.) and notes about court, 1794 (2 l.)

o) Account Book, 1803 - 1804; 1816, 38 l.
--includes expenses re: Kennebec Purchase; an accounting of "Money expended (belonging to the estate of the late Hon E Brigham deceased) since February 22, 1816."

p) Account Book, 1806, 5 l. plus 1 loose item
--includes "sale of tickets. College Lottery", as well as miscellaneous accounts

q) "An Inventory of the Household Furniture and other personal estate of Eli Whitney late of Westborough deceased ...," 1807 October 19, 10 l.

Court Papers, n.d.; 1798 - 1815

2 n.d.; 1798 - 1804
2 1805 - 1815

FOLIO
VOLUME

1 Record of cases as Justice of the Peace, 1791 - 1793

2 Record of recognizances of debt, 1795 - 1813

3 Merchandise records, 1804 - 1807