

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Cogswell, John Bear Doane, Papers, 1852-1897

**LOCATION:**

Mss. boxes "C"  
Octavo vols. "C"  
Oversize mss. boxes "C"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

1 manuscript box; 5 octavo volumes; 1 oversize folder (8 items)

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

For biographical information on Cogswell, see E.O. Jameson, *The Cogswell in America* (Boston: Alfred Mudge & Son, 1884), p. 358; *Dartmouth College ... 1769-1940* (Hanover, N.H., 1940), p. 162; and Charles Nutt, *History of Worcester and Its People* (New York City: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1919), vol. III, p. 206-207.

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Parts of the collection were the gifts of the estate of Mary Louisa Trumbull Cogswell (Mrs. Edwin M.) Roberts, and Edwin M. Roberts, 1957.

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

John Bear Doane Cogswell (1829-1889), the son of Rev. Nathaniel and Susan Doane Cogswell, was born on 6 June 1829 in Yarmouth, Mass. He married, on 19 August 1858, Mary Abbot Trumbull (1837-1864). They had one daughter: Mary Louisa Trumbull Cogswell (1861-1957), who married Edwin Melville Roberts (1880- ). John B. D. Cogswell died on 11 June 1889 at Haverhill, Mass.

John B. D. Cogswell prepared for college at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., graduated from Dartmouth in 1850, and received the degree of LL.B. from Harvard in 1852. He read law in the office of Emory Washburn (1800-1877) in Worcester, Mass., was admitted to the bar in 1853, and practiced law in Worcester until late 1857. He removed to Milwaukee, Wisc., and practiced there until 1870. He then returned to Yarmouth and practiced there until 1880. He was a representative to the Massachusetts General Court from Worcester in 1857 and was U.S. District Attorney for Wisconsin, 1861 to 1866. He was again a representative in the Massachusetts legislature from the Yarmouth district, 1871 to 1873, and served from 1877 to 1879 as state senator from the Cape district, during which time he was president of the Senate. Cogswell retired from public life in 1880 and pursued his interest in history by writing various essays on historical subjects and preparing the Memoir of Rufus Choate.

This collection consists of correspondence, articles, addresses, essays, notes, and documents. The correspondence includes letters, for the period 1852 to 1889, to and from John Ordronaux (1830-1908), of New York City, and letters and newspaper clippings, for the period 1887 to 1889, from Alfred Russell (1830-1906), of Detroit, Mich., as well as photographs of Mrs. Russell and her two daughters. There is also miscellaneous correspondence for the period 1864 to 1889.

The documents in the collections include papers, for the period 1853 to 1866, concerning Cogswell's legal career; applications for membership into the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution by Mary Louisa Trumbull Cogswell Roberts,

c. 1897; and biographical information on Cogswell, as well as information on 6 Massachusetts Avenue in Worcester (the former courthouse and Trumbull Mansion).

In 1871, Cogswell compiled five notebooks of "Testimony taken before the [Congressional] Committee to inquire into the condition of affairs in the Late Insurrectionary States." This material concerns the activities of the Ku Klux Klan by citing specific cases and victims in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, although there are references to the origin, causes, and political significance of the Klan. There are also notes that serve as an index to the five notebooks with some related material.

The addresses, articles, and essays include "A Bundle of Old Letters" (n.d.); "Which was the greater general, Napoleon or Wellington" (n.d.); "The Relation of the Sexes" (1869); "The Woman's Movement, historically considered" (1869); "Timothy Ruggles" (1879?); "Did Mr. Webster preface the 7<sup>th</sup> of March [1850] Speech with bad faith and personal deception?" (1882); "Hints towards the history of the 7<sup>th</sup> of March [1850] Speech" (1882?); and "Senator Hoar's Antecedents" (1889).

There is also a manuscript entitled "Diary of a New Hampshire Parson" and what appears to be drafts of introductions to and transcriptions of the diary (1786-1787 and 1789) of Rev. Stephen Peabody (1741-1819), who served as minister to the First Congregational Church in Atkinson, N.H., from 1772 to 1819.

There are portions of the Salem Gazette for 24 April 1885 with references to Daniel Webster (1782-1852) and Rufus Choate (1799-1859). There are also notes on Choate, two drafts of an essay entitled "Ipswich, a cradle of famous men. Rufus Choate, its most gifted son," and an essay "Choate and Chebacco."

The collection also contains newspaper articles that appeared in the Boston Sunday Herald. The first, entitled "Daniel Webster's Desk. What a Search Among Its Pigeon Holes Revealed" (two copies), appeared in the 15 January 1882 issue. The second, entitled "Daniel Webster's Desk. Another Batch of the Statemen's Correspondence" (three copies), appeared in the 29 January 1882 issue.

One of the octavo volumes is a scrapbook that contains articles clipped from a variety of newspapers regarding the "Southern Question" c. 1876.

See Contents List.

16 September 1975  
revised 31 October 1978  
revised 16 February 2010

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John Bear Doane Cogswell, Papers, 1852-1897

Contents List

**MANUSCRIPT BOX**

Folder

**Correspondence, n.d.; 1864 - 1889; 1891**

- 1 Correspondence, n.d.; 1864 - 1879 January
- 2 Correspondence, 1879 February - 1889
- 3 Correspondence, to and from John Ordronaux, 1852 - 1889; 1891
- 4 Correspondence, to Alfred Russell, 1887 - 1888
- 5 Correspondence, to Alfred Russell, 1889;  
Photographs of Mrs. Russell and her two daughters

**Documents, 1853 - 1866; c. 1897**

- 6 Documents, concerning Cogswell's law career, 1853 - 1866  
[see also oversize folder]
- 7 Applications, for membership into the Society of DAR by Mary  
Louisa Trumbull Cogswell Roberts, c. 1897
- 8 Biographical information on Cogswell;  
Information on 6 Massachusetts Avenue (Worcester)  
[former Courthouse and Trumbull Mansion]

**Memo on the "Southern Question," 1871 (281 p.)**

- 9 North Carolina (p. 1-32)
- 10 South Carolina (p. 33-103)
- 11 Georgia (p. 104-151)
- 12 Alabama (p. 152-192)
- 13 Mississippi (p. 193-281)
- 14 Index to the "Memo on the 'Southern Question,'" plus  
miscellaneous notes

**Addresses, Articles, Essays, 1850 - 1889**

- 15 "A Bundle of Old Letters," n.d. (11 p.)
- 16 "Which was the greater general, Napoleon or Wellington?," n.d.  
(28 p.)
- 17 "Did Mr. Webster preface the 7<sup>th</sup> of March [1850] Speech with bad  
faith and personal deception?" 1882 March 7 (53 p.)  
[gift of Edwin M. Roberts, April 10, 1957]
- 18 "Senator Hoar's Antecedents," 1889 (11 p.)
- 19 Drafts of articles on Rev. Stephen Peabody, including  
transcriptions of his diary for 1786-1787 and 1789; 1889
- 20 Addresses and Articles on Rufus Choate and Ipswich, Mass.  
includes: \* "Ipswich, a cradle of famous men. Rufus  
Choate, its most gifted son," n.d. (17 p.)  
\* same, n.d. (15 p.)  
\* "Choate and Chebacco," n.d. ((11 p.)  
[see also oversize folder]

**OCTAVO VOLUMES**

- 1 "The Relation of the Sexes," 1869 December 18 (101 p.)
- 2 "The Woman's Movement, historically considered," 1869 December 18  
(102 p.)
- 3 Scrapbook, "Articles on Southern Question," 1876 (76 leaves, 38  
blank)
- 4 "Timothy Ruggles," 1879? (144 p.)

- 5 "Hints towards the history of the 7<sup>th</sup> of March [1850] Speech," 1882?  
(115 p.)

**OVERSIZE FOLDER**

- 1 Commission to Take Depositions and Acknowledgements in Wisconsin,  
1858 January 15
- 2 Notary Public Appointment, 1859 February 25
- 3 Article, "Daniel Webster's Desk. What a Search Among Its Pigeon  
Holes Revealed," The Sunday Herald, 1882 January 15 (2 copies)  
[Gift of Mary Louisa Trumbull Cogswell (Mrs. Edwin M.) Roberts  
estate, April 10, 1957]
- 4 Article, "Daniel Webster's Desk. Another Batch of the Statesman's  
Correspondence," The Sunday Herald, 1882 January 29 (3 copies)  
[Gift of Mary Louisa Trumbull Cogswell (Mrs. Edwin M.) Roberts  
estate, April 10, 1957]
- 5 Article, "Judge Shaw-Webster-Choate.," The Salem Gazette, April 24,  
1885  
[see photocopy in folder #20]