

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Goffe, Joseph, Papers, 1721-1846

LOCATION(S):

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

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

22 octavo volumes; 1 manuscript box; 1 oversize folder (4 items)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

See *Centennial History of the Town of Millbury, Mass.* (Millbury, 1915), pp. 428-430, 551-552.

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Diaries, purchased from L. F. Manfredi, 1941; other papers, the gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Goffe Peirce, 1920.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Joseph Goffe (1766-1846) was born in Bedford, N.H. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1791, and was ordained pastor of the Congregational Church at Sutton, Mass., in 1794, and was dismissed from that church in 1830. His published works include: The Flaming Sword ... (Worcester, 1816); Incapable of Vindication ... (Worcester, 1817); Spirits in Prison ... (Worcester, 1803); and others.

Rev. Goffe married, on 20 December 1796, Elizabeth Waters (1771-1839), the daughter of Ebenezer and Mary Adams Waters. They had five children, including Ebenezer Waters (1799-1872), Joseph (1804-1847), and Eliza (1808-1859).

Ebenezer Waters (1739-1808), a surveyor, was born in Sutton, Mass., on 3 July 1739. He married, on 10 December 1767, Mary Adams (1748-1771). About 1804, he married Polly (later known as Mary) Clough (-1833), the daughter of William Clough (1716-) and the granddaughter of Benjamin Clough (-1744). Ebenezer died, in Boston, Mass., on 2 February 1808.

This collection of papers, for the period 1721 to 1846, includes the papers of the Clough and Waters families, and of Rev. Joseph Goffe. Most of the Clough family papers belong to Benjamin Clough and his estate, and to his son William Clough. These include deeds, wills, receipts (many for medicine and medical attendance), two bills of sale (one for one-quarter of a sloop and one for a church pew), and a Clough/Waters family genealogy.

The Waters family papers include a bond, a memo relating two terrible events experienced by Ebenezer Waters, and several receipts for carpeting, wallpaper, border, and china, as well as a receipt for medical attendance.

The papers of Rev. Goffe cover the period 1789 to 1846 and include twenty-one octavo volumes that consist of diaries, sermons, a lecture, and an account book. His miscellaneous papers include a note, in Latin, from John Gove, c. 1789; a letter from a Mr. Williams (Goffe's former instructor from Windham), 1789; a poem entitled "Trumbull's Last Love Letter", 1792; a recommendation by Jonathan Edwards (1745-1801) for Goffe as a candidate for the ministry, 1792; a report on a dispute between Goffe and Dr. Amasa Braman (1766?-1830), 1806; a leaf of diary entries, 10-31 December 1826; papers regarding the estate of Ebenezer Waters, 1836; "Some Directions for my Family after my decease", 1842; a receipt for his subscription to Dartmouth College, 1844; and court summonses, 1844.

There are several folders containing long and detailed letters, from the 1826 to 1838, to and from Goffe's three children who had settled in the South (see above). These letters contain vivid descriptions of Southern towns (such as Savannah, Ga., and Charleston, S.C.), churches, and family life, and conditions of the slaves.

The collection also contains a newspaper clipping of an autobiographical article written by Goffe; three leaves of genealogical information prepared for the Millbury Centennial History, 1912; and an anonymous journal of a trip to the "Western Country," 1830, the purpose of which was to find a suitable place for a colony of Easterners to settle, and which includes descriptions of towns from Buffalo to Chicago, along with regional, social, and religious conditions, topography, etc.

See Contents List.

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Joseph Goffe, Papers, 1721-1846

Contents List

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VOLUME

- 1 Diary, 1796
--kept in *Thomas's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode-Island, Newhampshire & Vermont almanack, with an ephemeris, for the year of our Lord 1796 . . .*, (Worcester: Isaiah, [1795])
- 2 Diary, 1797
--kept in *Thomas's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode-Island, Newhampshire & Vermont almanack, with an ephemeris, for the year of our Lord 1797 . . .*, (Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, [1796])
- 3 Diary, 1798
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode-Island, Newhampshire & Vermont almanack, with an ephemeris, for the year of our Lord 1798 . . .*, (Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, [1797])
- 4 Diary, 1799
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode-Island, Newhampshire & Vermont almanack, with an ephemeris, for the year of our Lord 1799 . . .*, (Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, [1798])
- 5 Diary, 1800
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode-Island, Newhampshire & Vermont almanack, with an ephemeris, for the year of our Lord 1800 . . .*, (Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, [1799])
- 6 Diary, 1801
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode-Island, Newhampshire & Vermont almanack, with an ephemeris, for the year of our Lord 1801 . . .*, (Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, [1800])
- 7 Diary, 1802
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode-Island, New Hampshire & Vermont almanack, with an ephemeris, for the year of our Lord 1802 . . .*, (Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, [1801])
- 8 Diary, 1803
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New-Hampshire and Vermont almanack, with an ephemeris, for the year of our Lord 1803 . . .*, (Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, [1802])
- 9 Diary, 1804
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas, Junr's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhodeisland, New-Hampshire and Vermont almanack, with an ephemeris, for the year of our Lord 1804 . . .*, (Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, Jr., [1803])
- 10 Diary, 1805
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas, Junr's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhodeisland, New-Hampshire and Vermont almanack, with an ephemeris, for the year of our Lord 1805 . . .*, (Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, Jr., [1804])
- 11 Diary, 1806
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas, Junr's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhodeisland, New-Hampshire and Vermont almanack, with an ephemeris, for the year of our Lord 1806 . . .*, (Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, Jr., [1805])

**OCTAVO
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- 12 Diary, 1807
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas, Junr's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhodeisland, New-Hampshire and Vermont almanack, with an ephemeris, for the year of our Lord 1807 . . .*, (Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, Jr., [1806])
- 13 Diary, 1814
--kept in *The Clergyman's almanack; or, An astronomical diary and serious monitor, for the year of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ 1814 . . .*, (Boston, [1813])
- 14 Diary, 1816
--kept in *The Clergyman's almanack; or, An astronomical diary and serious monitor, for the year of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ 1816 . . .*, (Boston, [1815])
- 15 "Ante Sermonem," n.d.
- 16 "Immersion Lecture," 1800 November 6
- 17 Sermon, 1805 May 1
- 18 Sermon, 1810 January 14
- 19 Sermon, 1830 February 6
- 20 "Lectures on the Millennium," 1838 January
- 21 Account Book, 1794-1815
- 22 Journal of a Trip to the Western Country, 1830

BOX FOLDER CONTENTS

Miscellaneous Papers, n.d.; 1725/26 - 1846

- 1 n.d.; 1725/26 - 1747 [10 items]
- 2 1749 - 1763 July [12 items]
- 3 1763 September - 1789 [13 items]
- 4 1792 - 1826 [13 items]
- 5 1830 - 1842 [10 items]
- 6 1844 - 1846 [4 items]

Correspondence (with children), 1826 - 1838

- 7 1826 - 1828 [7 items]
- 8 1829 - 1832 [8 items]
- 9 1833 - 1834 [7 items]
- 10 1836 - 1837 [6 items]
- 11 1838 [4 items]
- 12 Newspaper Clipping, n.d. [1 item]
--autobiography written by Goffe
- 13 "Millbury Centennial History. Genealogical Information. . . ., 1912 [3 items]
- 14 Letter, Mrs. Charles H. Woodbury, of Lakewood, N.J., to Mrs. [Elizabeth Goffe] Peirce, n.d.
--re: genealogical information

**OVERSIZE
BOX****CONTENTS**

- Deed, 1721 May 1 (Benjamin Clough)
- Deed, 1724/25 January 13 (Benjamin Clough)
- Deed, 1724/25 January 13 (witnessed by John and Benjamin Clough)
- Quit-Claim Deed, 1836 January 21 (Joseph Goffe)