

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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Name of collection:

The National Aegis (Worcester, Mass.),  
Business Records, 1806-1891

Location:

Manuscript boxes "N"

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Size of collection:

3 manuscript boxes

N.U.C.M.C. #:

RLIN id: MAAR91-A205

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Sources of information on collection:

For information on The National Aegis, see Daniel Hull, *History of Worcester Newspapers* (n.p.: n.p., n.d.), p. 21-46.

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Source of collection:

Articles of copartnership, 1869, etc. transferred from the manuscript collection of the Chase Family papers. Remainder of collection the bequest of William Lincoln, c. 1843.

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Collection description:

The National Aegis was a weekly newspaper established in Worcester, Mass., in 1801. Francis Blake (1774-1817), the first editor, devoted the paper to the support of Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) and the Republican party, but he also included one page of literary essays for each issue. After Blake's retirement in 1804, the paper went through several years of turmoil before Henry Rogers (1786-1855) purchased it in 1807. The paper continued under Rogers' direction from 1807 to 1826. In 1833, it was consolidated with the Massachusetts Yeoman. To this partnership was added the Worcester Palladium in 1834 and The National Aegis ceased to be printed. However, in 1838, Henry Rogers revived The National Aegis and sold it to Thomas W. Butterfield (1807-1890) in 1839. The newspaper eventually merged with The Daily Morning Transcript and it became known as the Aegis and Gazette. This paper ceased printing in 1896.

Among the editors of The National Aegis were Edward Dillingham Bangs (1790-1838), Levi Lincoln (1782-1868), Enoch Lincoln (1788-1829), William Lincoln (1801-1843), and Christopher Columbus Baldwin (1800-1835).

This collection includes legal and business papers, letters written to William Lincoln as editor, and poetry, as well as notes, memoranda, articles on various topics for publication in The National Aegis, and questionnaires on the politics and government of Worcester County.

The first folder of box one contains business and legal papers, for the period 1806 to 1826, of The National Aegis, including a report, dated 1806, on the establishment of a newspaper, letters regarding the purchase of type and other printing supplies, lists of subscribers, and a transcript of a court case, dated 1807, for non-payment of a debt.

The second folder of box one contains agreements of sale of The National Aegis, 1865, 1867, and 1891, and a copartnership agreement, 1871, to publish the Aegis and Gazette between Charles H. Doe (1838-1900) and Charles Augustus Chase (1833-1911).

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Collection description (continued):

Folders three through five of box one contain letters, c.1838, to William Lincoln as editor of The National Aegis. The letters are concerned with a variety of topics, such as history and local events, and especially, politics and government. The final folders in box one contain poetry, c.1838, arranged alphabetically by title, which was submitted to William Lincoln for publication.

Box two contains notes, memoranda, and articles by William Lincoln, c.1838, for publication in The National Aegis. The first three folders contain material on "politics and government," such as election results and memoranda on legislation. The final four folders contain notes and memoranda for articles on a wide variety of subjects. Included in the folders are obituaries, as well as notes on history, Indians, banks, railroads, and businesses. There are also local and national news items and topics of general interest.

The first two folders of box three contain questionnaires sent out by The National Aegis, 1837 and 1838, requesting information about the towns of Worcester County. Each questionnaire records the names of town officials, physicians, clergymen, and information on taxes. A third questionnaire, dated 1840, requests information on the voting patterns of the town in Worcester County.

See Contents List.

7 June 1978  
contents list added 30 April 1991  
revised 13 July 1999

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Contents List

Box 1

- Folder 1: Legal and business papers, 1806-1826
- Folder 2: Legal papers, 1864-1891
- Folder 3: Letters to William Lincoln, arranged alphabetically
- Folder 4: Letters to William Lincoln, with pseudonyms
- Folder 5: Letters to William Lincoln, unsigned
- Folder 6: Poetry, A-M
- Folder 7: Poetry, N-W

Box 2

- Folder 1: Material concerning politics and government
- Folder 2: Material concerning politics and government
- Folder 3: Material concerning politics and government
- Folder 4: Articles and notes
- Folder 5: Articles and notes
- Folder 6: Articles and notes
- Folder 7: Articles and notes

Box 3

- Folder 1: Questionnaires
- Folder 2: Questionnaires
- Folder 3: Questionnaires