

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Trumbull Family, Papers, 1773-1903

LOCATION(S):

Octavo vols. "T"
Folio volumes "T"
Mss. boxes "T"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

21 octavo volumes; 4 folio volumes; 1 manuscript box

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

For biographical information on Joseph Trumbull and George Augustus Trumbull see: Charles Nutt, History of Worcester and Its People (N.Y.: Lewis Publishing Co., 1919), vol. III, p. 205-206; and James Henry Lea, A Genealogy of the Ancestors and Descendants of George Augustus and Louisa (Clap) Trumbull, of Trumbull Square, Worcester, Mass. (Privately printed, 1886).

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Joseph Trumbull's almanacs, gift of Max Slater, 1957; remainder, gift of Edwin Melville Roberts, 1955; Louisa Clap Trumbull's diaries, purchased from Mrs. Aldona T. Sullivan, 1987; George A. Trumbull's copy-book, purchased from Paige and Parchment, 1995

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

The Trumbull family of Worcester, Mass., traces its history back to John Trumbull (-1657), who came to America from Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, about 1637. He settled in Roxbury, Mass., but soon afterwards removed to Rowley, Mass., where he remained until his death. One of his sons, Joseph (1647-1684), originally removed to Suffield, Conn., in 1670, but Indian hostilities forced him to retreat. He returned again in 1676 and remained there until his death. Subsequent generations also remained in Suffield, until Joseph, the son of Joseph and Obedience (Belden) Trumbull.

Joseph Trumbull (1756-1824), born in Suffield on 12 October 1756, arrived in Worcester in 1778 and opened a general store. In 1779 he formed a partnership with Isaiah Thomas (1749-1831) and established an apothecary shop. He became sole owner of the shop in late 1783, but sold the business a few months later. For a number of years he practiced medicine in Petersham, Mass., but continued his business interests in Worcester. He returned to Worcester in 1803 and remained there until his death on 2 March 1824.

Joseph married, on 14 February 1786, Elizabeth Paine (1766-1832), youngest daughter of Hon. Timothy and Sarah (Chandler) Paine, of Worcester. They had one son: George Augustus (1792-1868).

George Augustus Trumbull (1792-1868) was born in Petersham on 23 January 1792. He attended Philips Academy in Exeter, N. H. In 1813 he bought the bookstore of Isaiah Thomas, Jr. (1773-1819), and published the Massachusetts Spy from 1819 to 1823. He opened a brewery in 1822 and the following year sold his interest in the publishing business. From 1824 to 1836 George was a cashier for the Central Bank of Worcester. He then became first cashier for the Citizens Bank of Worcester, a position he held until his retirement in 1858. He died at Worcester on 17 August 1868.

George married, on 20 September 1815, Louisa Clap (1798-1885), daughter of Capt. Caleb and Elizabeth (Stone) Clap, of Greenfield, Mass. They had twelve children: Elizabeth (1816-1900), who married William Sever Lincoln; George Clap (1818-1885), who married Nancy (Woodbury) Moore; Caroline Burling (1820-1880), who married Francis Blake; Louisa Jane (1822-1890) who married Henry Lea; Sarah Paine (1824-1871), who married John Clap Ripley; Joseph (1826-1880), who married (1) Frances Towne Hamilton, and (2) Mary Moore Johnson; John (1828-1832); Charles Perkins (1830-), who married Mary Norwood; Susan Trumbull (1832-1902), who married Dr. Harry H. Price; Isabella Frink (1834-), who married George Franklin Hartshorn; Mary Abbot (1837-1864), who married John Beare Donne Cogswell; and John (1841-1893).

The collection includes ten interleaved almanacs, for the years 1808, 1809, 1813-1819, and 1822, which contain Joseph Trumbull's accounts and notes.

There are two octavo volumes in which Louisa Clap Trumbull kept her "... feelings ... thoughts ... doings and undoings ..." for the period March 1829 to December 1879. The entries are sporadic (sometimes only one or two per year), though some are quite lengthy. Louisa recounts the history of her family, her early life, her present life, the life of her husband, and the lives of her children, as well as their spouses and children.

There are also diaries of Louisa Jane Trumbull for the years 1829-1834; 1834-1835; 1836; and 1835-1836. They were kept because her sisters had journals and because her mother wanted her "to write what happens every day." The entries are sporadic and at times state that nothing of importance has occurred. The entries describe the activities and travels of the Trumbull family and their many visitors. There are references to Louisa's brothers and sisters and uncomplimentary comments about the Irish. There is also mention of sickness in the family and the death of her young brother, John. The later journals include entries listing what she has read, as well as her reflections on self-improvement.

For the year 1841, Louisa Jane Trumbull kept a record of her correspondence in The Boston Almanac for the year 1841 (Boston: Thomas Groom, c1840). She made note of to whom letters were written and from whom letters were received, along with a note regarding the total number of each.

The folio volumes include George A. Trumbull's one-volume account book, 1819-1823, in which he recorded the purchase and sale of books and paper supplies.

There is also a family ledger kept from 1865-1885, in which is first recorded the income and expenditures of George A. Trumbull until his death in 1868, followed by accounts entered for Louisa Clap Trumbull, probably by her son, John, until her death in 1885.

The collection contains miscellaneous papers, including a genealogical chart of the Trumbull family; deeds, bills, indentures, promissory notes, petitions, and

correspondence; a photocopy of a typescript list of pictures owned by Dorothy McMahon of Plainville, Mass.; two copies of a photograph of James Henry Lea (1846-1914) made in Germany; a typescript of materials in the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library; two autographs of G. A. Trumbull, cashier; and a drawing of land taken from the Trumbull Estate by the Providence & Worcester Rail Road. Most of the legal documents concern family landholdings in Worcester.

The collection also contains school copybooks of George A. Trumbull for the years 1801 to 1805 and an inventory of books and stationary bought from Isaiah Thomas, Jr. by George A. Trumbull, dated 1 March 1813. There is a collection of newspapers clippings (e.g., poetry, anecdotes, narrations) and receipts that had been found in George A. Trumbull's account book for the period 1819 to 1823.

There are notes on the Trumbull family possessions, including estate inventories of Louisa Clap Trumbull, John Trumbull, Susan Trumbull Price, and Mary Louisa Trumbull Cogswell, along with an inventory of wedding gifts received by Susan Trumbull Price.

See Contents List.

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Contents List

Octavo
Volume

Joseph Trumbull

- 1 Account Book, 1808
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas, Junr's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhodeisland, New-Hampshire and Vermont Almanack ... 1808: ...* (Worcester, Mass.: Isaiah Thomas, Jr., [1807?])
- 2 Account Book, 1809
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas, Junr's Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhodeisland, New-Hampshire and Vermont Almanack ... 1809: ...* (Worcester, Mass.: Isaiah Thomas, Jr., [1808?])
- 3 Account Book, 1813
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas, Junior's Town & Country Almanack ... 1813: ...* (Worcester, Mass.: Isaac Sturtevant, [1812?])
- 4 Account Book, 1814
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas, Junior's Town & Country Almanack ... 1814: ...* (Worcester, Mass.: Isaac Sturtevant, [1813?])
- 5 Account Book, 1815
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas, Junior's Town & Country Almanack ... 1815: ...* (Worcester, Mass.: William Manning, [1814?])
- 6 Account Book, 1816
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas, Junior's Town & Country Almanack ... 1816: ...* (Worcester, Mass.: William Manning, [1815?])
- 7 Account Book, 1817
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas, Junior's Town & Country Almanack ... 1817: ...* (Worcester, Mass.: William Manning, [1816?])
- 8 Account Book, 1818
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas, Junior's Town & Country Almanack ... 1818: ...* (Worcester, Mass.: William Manning, [1817?])
- 9 Account Book, 1819
--kept in *Isaiah Thomas, Junior's Town & Country Almanack ... 1818: ...* (Worcester, Mass.: William Manning, [1818?])
- 10 Account Book, 1822
--kept in *Town & Country Almanack ... 1822: ...* (Worcester, Mass.: Manning & Trumbull, [1821?])

George Augustus Trumbull

- 11 School Copybook, c. 1801 (32 p.)
--bound in tan wrapper; includes many contemporary inscriptions and poems
- 12 School Copybook, 1804 (43 p.)
- 13 School Copybook, 1805 (24 p.)
--bound in yellow wrapper

Octavo
Volume

Louisa Clap Trumbull

- 14 Diary, 1829 March to 1833 May
15 Diary, 1833 June to 1879 December

Louisa Jane Trumbull

- 16 Diary, 1829 November -1834 March
17 Diary, 1834 June - 1835 April
18 Diary, 1835 May - 1836 June
19 Diary, 1836 June - 1837 June
--kept in *An Economical Writing Book ...* (Worcester, Mass.: Clarendon Harris, [n.d.])
20 Record of Correspondence, 1841
--kept in *The Boston Almanac for the Year 1841*. By S. N. Dickinson. (Boston: Thomas Groom, 1840)

Susan Trumbull Price

- 21 Estate Inventory, 1902? [typewritten]
--"Lists of household effects, silver, etc. belonging to the estate of Susan Trumbull Price including property in which she had only a life interest and also property claimed to be owned by other people and not assets of Mrs. Prices' estate. Furnished by George S. Taft, Administrator."

Folio
Volume

George Augustus Trumbull

- 1 Invoice of Books and Stationary bought of I. Thomas Jr.,
1813 March 1
2 Account Book, 1819-1823
3 Family Account Book and Ledger, 1865-1885

Mary Louisa Trumbull Cogswell

- 4 Trumbull Family Property Inventories, 1903 February 8

Manuscript Folder
Box

Miscellaneous Papers, n.d.; 1773 - 1896

- 1 n.d. [9 items]
2 1773-1829 [14 items]
3 1832 - 1852 [7 items]

Manuscript Folder
Box

Miscellaneous Papers, n.d.; 1773 - 1896 (cont.)

- 4 1870 [2 items]
- 5 1874-1896 [4 items]

Newsclippings Removed From G. A. Trumbull's 1819-1823
Account Book [folio volume #2]

- 6 Receipts [5 items]
- 7 Poems (A-C)
- 8 Poems (D-F)
- 9 Poems (G-K)
- 10 Poems (L-M)
- 11 Poems (N-Q)
- 12 Poems (R-S)
- 13 Poems (So-U)
- 14 Poems (V-Y)
- 15 Poems (miscellaneous, untitled, fragments)
- 16 Conundrums, riddles, funny stories, etc.
- 17 Anecdotes
- 18 Advertisements
- 19 Articles (A-D)
- 20 Articles (F-L)
- 21 Articles (M-P)
- 22 Articles (R-W)
- 23 Newsclippings (A-D)
- 24 Newsclippings (E-J)
- 25 Newsclippings (L-R)
- 26 Newsclippings (S-Y)
- 27 Newsclippings (miscellaneous)
- 28 Newsclippings (untitled)
- 29 Newsclippings (fragments)