

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Baldwin Christopher Columbus, Papers, 1816-1835

LOCATION(S):

Mss. boxes "B"
Octavo volumes "B"
Folio volumes "B"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

3 mss. boxes (approx. 1700 loose manuscripts); 17 octave volumes; 6 folio volumes

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

For a biographical sketch of Baldwin, see the introduction by Nathaniel Paine to *Diary of Christopher Columbus Baldwin, Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society, 1829-1835*, 2 vols., printed in *Transactions and Collections of the American Antiquarian Society*, vol. 8 (1901).

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Gift from the estate of Christopher Columbus Baldwin? One volume of the *Diary and letter* purchased from RJM Autographs, 2022.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Christopher Columbus Baldwin (1800-1835), son of Eden and Abigail (Force) Baldwin, studied at Leicester Academy and Harvard College, from which he was expelled after a disturbance and just before graduation in May 1823. He studied law with John Davis (1787-1854) and Charles Allen (1797-1869) and was admitted to the bar in October 1826. He began his practice in Worcester, but moved to Barre and then Sutton in 1830, before returning to Worcester in 1832.

Baldwin was especially interested in history and genealogy. He became a close friend of William Lincoln (1801-1843), and they jointly edited and published in 1825-1826 the *Worcester Magazine and Historical Journal*. In October 1827, Baldwin was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society and also succeeded Lincoln as temporary librarian and cabinet keeper. In 1829, Baldwin also succeeded Lincoln as editor of the *National Aegis*. In May 1830 when Baldwin moved his law practice to Barre, he resigned as editor of the *Aegis* and as temporary librarian of the Society. He was succeeded as librarian by Samuel MacGregor Burnside (1783-1850).

Upon his return to Worcester in 1832, Baldwin was elected permanent librarian of the American Antiquarian Society, a post which he held until his death. He was an indefatigable collector and antiquary, soliciting books, newspapers, and relics for the society cabinet. Baldwin was also an enthusiastic antiquary, frequently visiting graveyards and copying epitaphs as well as collecting materials for a history of Sutton, Mass. Baldwin never wrote the history of Sutton and his tenure as librarian was cut short due to a fatal carriage accident in Ohio during a trip West in 1835.

Baldwin's papers include correspondence, legal documents, accounts, diaries, historical notes and transcripts, genealogical material, and three volumes of epitaphs copied from graveyards throughout New England. The materials include four volumes of correspondence as librarian at the American Antiquarian Society (1 February 1832-12 August 1835), five diaries for the period 1829 to 1835 (except September 1832 to September 1833), a legal account book and docket books, genealogical material on the Baldwin family, notes for his projected history of Sutton, Mass., and index to Cotton Mather's *Magnalia Christi Americana*, 1826, and three boxes of loose material which consist of general correspondence, legal documents, and accounts. There is also an index, 1827, to Thomas Hutchinson's *History of Massachusetts*.

**American Antiquarian Society
Manuscript Collections
Christopher Columbus Baldwin, Papers, 1816-1835**

Contents List

Manuscript Boxes

- 1 Correspondence, 1820-1829
 - Folder 1: 1820 - 1826
 - Folder 2: 1827, January - August
 - Folder 3: 1827, September - December
 - Folder 4: 1828, January - May
 - Folder 5: 1828, June - December
 - Folder 6: 1829, January - June
 - Folder 7: 1829, July - December
- 2 Correspondence, 1830-1835
 - Folder 1: 1830, January - March
 - Folder 2: 1830, April - December
 - Folder 3: 1831 - 1832
 - Folder 4: 1833 - 1835
- 3 Legal Documents and Receipts
 - Folder 1: Legal documents, 1826 - 1828
 - Folder 2: Legal documents, 1829 - 1832
 - Folder 3: Receipts, 1826 - 1827
 - Folder 4: Receipts, 1828 - 1829
 - Folder 5: Receipts, 1830 - 1835

Octavo Volumes

- 1 Diary, 1829 [53 p.] interleaved in Thomas G. Fessenden, *The New England Farmer's Almanack*
- 2 Diary, 1829 [10 p.] interleaved in *The Massachusetts Register and U.S. Calendar, 1829*
- 3 Diary, 1830-1831 [225 p.] interleaved in Robert B. Thomas, *The Farmer's Almanack*
- 4 Diary, 15 March - 10 September 1832 [43 p.]
- 5 Letters from the Librarian, Volume I (1 April 1831 - 8 November 1833) [327 p.]
- 6 Letters from the Librarian, Volume II (25 November 1833 - 27 June 1835) [152 p.]
- 7 Letters to the Librarian, Volume III (1 February 1832 - 28 October 1833) [187 items]
- 8 Letters to the Librarian, Volume IV (17 June 1833 - 12 August 1835) [c. 177 items]
- 9 Cash Book, 1826 - 1831 [44 p.]
- 10 Vital Records and Historical Notes [32 p.]

- 11 Transcripts of Town and Court Records [65 p.]
- 12 Epitaphs (for Winchendon, Douglas, and Templeton, Mass.) [190 p.]
- 13 Epitaphs (for Cornish, N.Y., Windsor and Woodstock, Vt., Keene, Charlestown, and Claremont, N.H., and Grafton, Templeton, and Winchendon, Mass.)
- 14 Epitaphs (for Sutton, Millbury, Armsby, Dudley, and Greenfield, Mass.)
- 15 Baldwin's index to the first part of Cotton Mather's *Magnalia Christi Americana*, an ecclesiastical history of New England. The index, 1826, is only partially complete [172 p., many blank]
- 16 Baldwin's index to Thomas Hutchinson's *History of Massachusetts*, 1827 [164 p.]
- 17 Diary, printed by Charles Hamilton, 1901. Contains one letter, tipped in, from Baldwin to G.T. Davis, editor of the *Franklin Mercury* in Greenfield, Massachusetts, related to the skulls of Indigenous people.

Folio Volumes

- 1 Docket Book, #1, 14 September 1826 - 30 May 1829, with index [194 p.]
- 2 Docket Book, #2, 30 May 1829 - 6 September 1830, with index [91 p.]
- 3 Account Book, October 1825 - June 1828, with entries by William Lincoln and Baldwin. Probably accounts and subscriptions for the *Worcester Magazine and Historical Journal* [80 p., many blank]
- 4 Diary, 15 September 1833 - 15 July 1835 [81 p.] lists visitors, travels, and events, with a small journal to 20 August 1835
- 5 Ledger of Legal Accounts, 1824 - March 1831, with index [117 p.]
- 6 Genealogy of the Baldwin Family, 1725-1832 sixty-one letters, documents, extracts, and notes