

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Gage Family, Additional Papers (Series I), 1785-1963

LOCATION:

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

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

8 manuscript boxes; 4 octavo volumes; 1 oversize folder (6 items)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

For biographical data concerning members of the Gage family, see Thomas Hovey Gage, *Amos Gage of Bethel, Maine* (Worcester: privately printed, 1924)

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Deposited by Mr. and Mrs. William A. Wheeler III, 1980

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Anne Sargent Gage (1794-1876), nee Nancy Brown, was born out of wedlock and her birth "...was a Boston Society scandal of the last decade of the 18th century." Her parents, both from prominent Boston families, were Daniel Sargent (1764-1842), a wealthy merchant and insurance executive, and Hepzibah Atkins Brown (-1800). Hepzibah was the daughter of Henry Atkins, also a distinguished Boston merchant, and the widow of James Brown (-), whom she married in 1788, but who died shortly thereafter. She married, in 1796, James Durfee (-), with whom she had a daughter, Mary.

For the first two years of her life, "Nancy" was raised by her mother. In 1796, her father placed her in the care of the family of a Mr. John Hall of Dorchester, Mass. There she remained until 1808 when it was decided that she disappear from Boston society. She was sent to live with Rev. Lincoln Ripley (1761-1858) and Phebe Emerson Ripley (1772-), sister of Rev. William Emerson (1769-1811) and aunt of Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), in Waterford, Me. Also at that time her name was changed to Anne Brewer. She had no further contact with her father, though he provided for her financially. Around the time of her marriage she wrote her father telling him that she wanted to be married with the name Anne Sargent. He never responded, either agreeing or disagreeing with the request, and Anne went ahead and did so.

Anne Sargent Gage lived most of her life in Waterford, except for the sixteen years towards the end of her life, when she lived in Worcester, Mass., with her son Thomas. She died on 21 July 1876 and was buried in Waterford next to her husband, Dr. Leander Gage.

Dr. Leander Gage (1792-1842), the son of Amos Gage (1758-1833) and Lois Hovey Gage (1759-1842) of Bethel, Me., was a physician and active community leader in Waterford, Me. He married, on 7 October 1820, Anne Brewer Sargent. They had eight children: Phebe Hovey (1821-1890); Frances (1823-1904), who married Humphrey Cousens (1817-); Irene Bliss (1823-1873); Thomas Hovey; Ann Louisa (1828-1878), who married Calvin Foster (-1898); Mary Sargent (1830-1909); Lois Maria (1832-1888); and George Manlius (1834-1910), who married Elizabeth S. (Webber) Gage.

In addition to Leander, Amos and Lois Hovey Gage had three other children: Thomas Hovey (1789-1823), who married Frances Angier Stockbridge (-1882) and lived in Bath, Me.; William (1795-1820); and Amos (1797-1869). Thomas Hovey Gage's daughter, Lois (1817-1876), married Joel Holkins (1812-1853).

Thomas Hovey Gage (1826-1909), fourth child and eldest son of Dr. Leander and Anne Sargent Gage, was a notable physician, surgeon, and community leader in Worcester, Mass. He graduated from the Harvard Medical School in 1852, and practiced for a time in Sterling, Mass., until 1857, when he removed to Worcester. He married, on 4 June 1860, Anna Maria Lane (-1908). They had three children: Homer; Thomas Hovey; and Mabel Carleton.

Homer Gage (1861-1938) was a surgeon, industrialist, philanthropist, and civic leader in Worcester, Mass. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in 1882 with the degree of A.B., followed by the degrees of A.M. and M.D. in 1887. For several years he ran a general practice in Worcester, then dedicated himself entirely to surgery. Upon the unexpected death of his brother-in-law, Lucius J. Knowles (-1920), then-president of Crompton & Knowles Loom Works, Homer was elected president of that company. In 1923, he retired from surgery to devote himself to the running of the Loom Works.

Homer Gage married, on 15 June 1893, Mabel Reynolds Knowles (1869-1948); they had one child, Homer (1895-1925). Homer Gage died in Shrewsbury on 3 July 1938.

Thomas Hovey Gage (1865-1938) was a lawyer and civic leader in Worcester, Mass. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in 1886 with the degree of A.B., followed by the degrees of A.M. and LL.B. from the Harvard Law School in 1889. Immediately admitted to the bar, he worked as the personal secretary of Senator Hoar for one winter. Thomas Hovey set up practice in Worcester, eventually forming the firm Smith, Gage & Dresser and later Gage, Hamilton & June.

Thomas Hovey Gage married, on 8 June 1898, Alice Chase (1865-1940); they had one child: Mary Hovey (-), who married Albert White Rice (1883-1965). Thomas Hovey Gage died, shortly after his brother, in Worcester on 15 July 1938.

Mabel Carleton Gage (1868-1952) was educated in private schools in Worcester and Geneva, Switzerland, and the School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. She traveled extensively in China and Japan, as well as in the United States. She was known as being a friend to the handicapped and worked with many organizations on their behalf.

This collection spans four generations of the Gage family of Bethel and Waterford, Me., and Worcester, Mass. The boxes contain family correspondence, speeches, essays, poetry, legal and miscellaneous data, printed material, and genealogical and biographical data.

Among the family correspondence are several extraordinary groups of letters of Anne Sargent Gage, her uncle, Lucius Manlius Sargent (1786-1867), her adoptive aunt, Mary Moody Emerson (1774-1863), and her friend, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody (1804-1894), the Transcendentalist teacher, author, and educational reformer. The letters of Lucius Manlius Sargent illuminate the relationship of Anne Sargent Gage with her natural father, Daniel Sargent. In 1854, Mrs. Gage sought to learn more about her past and initiated a correspondence with her uncle, who encouraged her to seek financial assistance from Daniel Sargent's legatees. The folders containing Anne Sargent Gage's correspondence concern mainly her close relationship with her children and adoptive parents, but there are a few letters written by her to Lucius Manlius Sargent concerning Daniel Sargent.

The letters of Mary Moody Emerson, a noted New England intellectual, refer to her religious convictions, her infirmities, family matters (e.g., her nephew, Ralph Waldo Emerson), books that she read, and her attitude towards the War of 1812 and abolitionism. There are also references to Anne Sargent Gage's ancestry.

The letters of Elizabeth Palmer Peabody provide a fascinating look at contemporary attitudes towards slavery, abolitionism, and social scandals in Boston. She makes references to the views of her two brothers-in-law, Horace Mann (1796-1859) and Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864), as well as Wendell Phillips (1811-1884).

The boxes of family correspondence also include letters of Anne Sargent Gage's cousin, Daniel Farnham (-), concerning family matters and his religious views; professional and family correspondence of Dr. Leander Gage, including letters from his patients and friends; and the correspondence of his children: Thomas Hovey Gage, who wrote to his children and to his wife, Anna Maria Lane Gage, during his Civil War service as a surgeon; Anna Maria Lane Gage, who wrote to her children while they were in school, especially at Harvard College; Frances Gage Cousens; and Phebe Hovey Gage. There are also diaries of Frances Gage Cousens and Phebe Hovey Gage.

There is correspondence of Dr. Homer Gage, Thomas Hovey Gage, Jr., and Mabel Carleton Gage. The brothers corresponded with each other, their parents, and with friends. Thomas Hovey Gage, Jr., also maintained an extensive correspondence concerning the family's genealogy, while Homer Gage wrote of his studies at Harvard. Mabel Carleton Gage also wrote to her brothers and corresponded, during the period 1936 to 1941, with Grace Morrison Boynton (1890-) of Yenching University in China, who wrote of Chinese gardens in Peking and the political situation in that country.

There is general family correspondence, including letters of Amos Gage, his wife, Lois Hovey Gage, and his brother, Abel Gage (1755-), as well as a letter of Frances Cousens Gage (1863-1917). She was the oldest child of George Manlius and Elizabeth S. (Webber) Gage and a missionary who wrote of political and social conditions in Marsovan, Turkey in 1914. Also of interest are typescript copies of many letters, dated 1849 to 1851, written by Joel Holkins to his wife, Lois Gage Holkins, a niece of Dr. Leander Gage. Holkins wrote in detail of his many fascinating experiences after he sailed to California to join the other Forty-Niners in their search for wealth.

The remainder of the collection includes family legal documents, speeches and addresses, poetry of Anne Sargent Gage and others, miscellaneous documents, graphic and printed materials, and extensive genealogical and biographical data, including a genealogical account of Anne Sargent Gage, written by her son, Thomas Hovey.

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American Antiquarian Society

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Gage Family, Additional Papers (Series I), 1785-1963

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1	5	n.d.
1	6	n.d.
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1	8	1819 - 1823
1	9	1824 - 1834
1	10	1835 - 1837
1	11	1838 - 1840
1	12	1842 - 1848 May
1	13	1848 July - 1850 May
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1	27	1847 September - October
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5	15	"15 th Letter"
5	16	"16 th Letter"
5	17	["17 th Letter"]
5	18	["18 th Letter"]
5	19	"19 th Letter"
5	20	"20 th Letter"
5	21	"21 st Letter"
5	22	"22 nd Letter"
5	23	"23 rd Letter"
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		Speeches, Addresses
6	1	"A Valedictory Address"
6	2	Three Addresses (education; Thomas Jefferson; Harvard clubs)
6	3	Dr. Leander Gage, Address delivered before the Oxford Medical Association, [1830?] (original, handwritten copy, typescript)

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6	4	Address by Thomas H. Gage, re: Waterford, Me.
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		General Correspondence, n.d.; 1821-1899; 1963
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		Miscellaneous Documents
6	12	"Old Waterford Bible material"
6	13	Waterford Association for the Improvement of Morals, Records, 1825
6	14	Waterford Sacred Music Society, Records, 1850-1853
6	15	Miscellaneous documents, n.d.; 1823 - 1941
		Graphic Materials
6	16	Graphic materials (greeting cards; bookplates; advertisements; drawings; photographs, etc.)
6	17	Photograph, c. 1870 [Ann S. Gage and her grandson Homer (?)]
		Legal Documents
6	18	Records of Assessors, 1798 - 1845
6	19	Family legal documents, n.d.; 1799; 1816 - 1923
6	20	Dr. Leander Gage, Inventory of Estate, 1842
6	21	Dr. Leander Gage, Commissioners' Return of Dower, 1843
6	22	Abstract of Deeds, 1854 - 1875
6	23	Amos Gage, Pension Request, 1832 (three typescript copies)
		Land Deeds, Surveys, 1785-1883
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7	32	Correspondence, 1924 September - 1966
7	33	"The Story of Anne Sargent Gage as written by Mabel C. Gage, August 1939"
7	34	Biography of Ann Sargent Gage
7	35	Obituaries of Dr. Leander Gage
7	36	Biographies of Thomas Hovey Gage
7	37	Genealogical notes on various Gage family members (Amos, Daniel, Leander, Pierce, and William Leander)
7	38	Genealogical notes on John Gage
7	39	Arthur E. Gage, Notes on John Gage, n.d.
8	1	Hovey family, genealogical notes
8	2	Miscellaneous genealogical notes
8	3	Printed material
8	4	Hovey, Horace Carter, <u>A Memoir of Daniel Hovey ...</u> ([N.p., s.n., 1900])
8	5	Gage, Arthur E., <u>Some Descendants of John Gage of Ipswich, Mass.</u> , (Boston: NEHGS, 1908)
8	6	"The Granite Monthly," November, 1882 (includes a Gage genealogy, p. 62-64)
8	7	Gage, George N., comp., <u>A Record of Pierce Gage and His Descendants.</u> ... ([N.p., s.n.], 1894)
8	8	"The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. XCII. July 1938"
		Miscellaneous Printed Material
8	9	Link, Henry C., "The Vicar of Education," n.d.
8	10	Frothingham, N.L., <u>A Sermon Preached to the First Church on ... 10th April, after the Funerals of The Rev. Dr. Harris, and the Hon. Daniel Sargent.</u> , (Boston, J.T. Buckingham, 1842)
8	11	Gage, Thomas Hovey, Jr., <u>Notes on the History of Waterford Maine</u> , (Worcester, Mass.: s.n., 1913)
8	12	NEHGS, "Report of the Committee on Heraldry Submitted 6 May 1914"
8	13	Wilson, Woodrow, et al., <u>Problem of National Defense</u> , (Washington, D.C.: Army League of the United States, [1915?])
8	14	The Delegates of the Protestant Churches of Ireland, <u>Facts About Ireland for Consideration of American Citizens</u> , (New York: The Delegation, [1920])
8	15	"The Young Women's Christian Association in the Turkish Empire," (New York: Nat'l Board of YWCA, 1914)
8	16	Dr. Homer Gage, Friendship Dinner materials, 1931 December 19
8	17	Boynton, Grace M., <u>Notes on the Origin of Chinese Private Gardens</u> , 1935
8	18	Dunham, Theodore, Jr., "Knowledge of the Planets in 1938,"
		Newsclippings
8	19	Death and funeral of Dr. Homer Gage (originals)
8	20	Death and funeral of Dr. Homer Gage (photocopies)
8	21	Death of Thomas Hovey Gage (originals)
8	22	Death of Thomas Hovey Gage (photocopies)
8	23	Poems (originals and photocopies)
8	24	Miscellaneous (originals)
8	25	Miscellaneous (photocopies)
8	26	Miscellaneous (originals - too large to photocopy)

Octavo Volume

- 1 unknown, Essay on Temperance, n.d. [21 leaves]
- 2 unknown, Album, ca. 1819 [12 leaves]
- 3 Leander Gage, Notebook, 1813 [20 leaves]
- 4 Frances Gage Cousens, Notebook, 1900-1903 [53 leaves]

Oversize Folder

Saturday morning issue of the *Boston Weekly Courier*, 26 May 1860; three copies of the January 1891 issue of *The Vestal* (vol. 2, no. 1), re: Col. Amos L. Gage, M.D.; one sheet from the *Lewiston Weekly Journal*, 9 September 1897, re: Waterford's Day of Celebration; one sheet from the *Boston Evening Transcript*, 16 February 1924, re: the Sargent family