

**AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY  
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS**

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Sewall, Joseph, Papers, 1762-1907

**LOCATION(S):**

Mss. boxes "S"  
Octavo vols. "S"  
Folio vols. "S"  
Oversize mss. boxes "S"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

12 manuscript boxes; 15 octavo volumes; 8 folio volumes; 1 oversize folder (3 items)

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

See Charles N. Sinnett, "The Sewall Genealogy" (typescript, n.d.), p. 35-36.

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Purchased from Helen B. (Mrs. Horace F.) Holton, 1935. Parts of this collection, as originally acquired in 1935, were sent by the AAS to the Library of Congress (see the papers of Joseph Sewall, NUCMC #72-1755). Other items may have been sent to the Bowdoin College library.

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Joseph Sewall (1795-1851) was the son of Joseph Sewall (1770-1852) and Lydia Marsh Sewall (1773-1805) of Bath, Me. The younger Sewall graduated from Bowdoin College in 1812 and practices law in Bath. He served as Collector of Customs for the port of Bath, was active in civic affairs of his hometown, and was appointed adjutant general for the state of Maine, 1833-1834. He was the uncle of Arthur Sewall (1835-1900), the famous shipbuilder, and of Frank Sewall (1837-1915), the Swedenborgian clergyman. He was also a distant relative of Joseph Sewall (1688-1769), William Bartlett Sewall (1782-1869), and Edmund Quincy Sewall (1828-1908).

This collection consists primarily of the business records of Joseph Sewall and his law partners. The business papers cover most of Sewall's professional life as a lawyer in Bath. There are estate records, correspondence, business receipts, account books, land surveys, deeds, bonds, and other legal documents.

The collection includes a small number of business papers for two of Sewall's sons: Jacob Smith Sewall (1817-1857), lawyer and businessman in Bath, and Frederic Dummer Sewall (1826-1907), colonel of the 19<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Maine Volunteers, during the Civil War and agent for the

Internal Revenue Service. There are also some of the younger Sewall's Civil War military papers.

Both Sewall and his sons were interested in Maine history and in their family genealogy. The collection includes some genealogical material and a number of historical essays dealing with the history of Bath and surrounding areas. There are also a small number of items pertaining to Bowdoin College from which both Joseph and Frederic graduated.

Interfiled in the collection are manuscripts pertaining to Caleb Marsh (1764-1831), a Bath merchant. There is also one account book (f.v. #1) of records kept by Marsh for a tailoring business. The book includes both personal and legal accounts.

See Contents List.

**American Antiquarian Society  
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT**

JOSEPH SEWALL, PAPERS, 1762-1907  
CONTENTS LIST

**MANUSCRIPT FOLDER  
BOX**

**CONTENTS**

Family Papers, 1801 – 1900

Includes correspondence, bills, receipts, business records, legal records, and land surveys. Most of the early manuscripts pertain to Caleb Marsh and his administration of the estates of Consider Turner ( - ) and Israel Cowing ( - ). Includes some business correspondence between Joseph Sewall (1770-1852) and his son Joseph Sewall (1795-1851). The materials for the period 1830 through 1836 include records of Mitchell & Sewall, Attorneys at Law; essays by Jacob Smith Sewall; and records of Joseph Sewall, as Collector of Customs.

1	1	1801 – 1816
1	2	1817 – 1818
1	3	1819
1	4	1820 – 1821
2	1	1822 – 1823
2	2	1824 – 1829
2	3	1830 – 1836
2	4	1842 – 1900

Business Papers, 1805 – 1860s

Includes bills, receipts, promissory notes, and accounts (many filed in incorrect chronological order).

3	1	1805 – 1813
3	2	1814 – 1816
3	3	1817
3	4	1818
4	1	1819
4	2	1820
4	3	1821 – 1822
4	4	1823 – 1824
5	1	1825
5	2	1826 – 1827
5	3	1828 – 1829
5	4	1830 – 1834
6	1	1835 – 1839

**MANUSCRIPT FOLDER  
BOX**

**CONTENTS**

Family Papers, 1801 – 1900 (cont.)

6	2	1840s
6	3	1850s [includes papers of Jacob Smith Sewall]
6	4	1860s

Legal Documents, 1762 – 1907

Includes deeds, assignments, agreements, and leases.

7	1	1762 – 1820
7	2	1821 – 1823
7	3	1824 – 1831
7	4	1832 – 1868 [includes papers of Jacob Smith Sewall]

Legal Documents, 1779 – 1907

Includes papers pertaining to estates and wills, and to Sewall's legal practice; papers of Caleb Marsh, Sewall family legal documents, and correspondence.

8	1	1779 – 1817
8	2	1818
8	3	1819 – 1820
9	1	1821 – 1822
9	2	1823
9	3	1824
9	4	1825
10	1	1826 – 1831
10	2	1832 – 1850s
10	3	1850s – 1907 [includes letters supporting Washington Gilbert (1816-1890) for Attorney General of Maine, as well as business papers of Jacob Smith Sewall and insurance policies for Frederic Dummer Sewall]

Shipping Records and Copies of Legal Testimony,  
1790 – 1860s

10	4	1790 – 1824
10	5	1825 – 1860s

**MANUSCRIPT FOLDER  
BOX****CONTENTS**

## Military Papers, 1781 – 1896

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 11 | 1 | 1781 – 1857 [includes correspondence, legal and shipping records, and papers of (Major) Joseph Sewall, Division Advocate, 4 <sup>th</sup> Division, Maine Militia] |
| 11 | 2 | 1860s – 1896 [includes correspondence and military papers of (Colonel) Frederic Dummer Sewall, 19 <sup>th</sup> Regiment, Maine Volunteers]                        |

## Commissions, Memberships, Diplomas, etc., 1810 - 1896

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 11 | 3 | 1810 – 1850   |
| 11 | 4 | 1852 – 1896   |
| 12 | 1 | Papers pertaining to Bowdoin College, 1812 – 1906 [includes Frederic Dummer Sewall's Bowdoin College Class Book for 1846]                         |
| 12 | 2 | Papers pertaining to the local history of Bath and Kennebeck, Me.; Sewall family genealogy  |
| 12 | 3 | Papers pertaining to Bath, Me., mostly land surveys (some undated), 1808 – 1846   |
| 12 | 4 | Miscellaneous papers of Dummer Sewall (1737-1832) and other early Sewall family papers, including some information on Georgetown, Mass. (now Me.) |

**OCTAVO  
VOLUME**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | J. Sewall, Library Catalog, n.d.<br>--very brief  |
| 2  | Joseph Sewall, Day Book, 1814 – 1824<br>--legal accounts and notes on jurisdictions of courts   |
| 3  | Account Book, 1816 – 1833<br>--includes dockage and wharfage accounts   |
| 4  | Jospeh Sewall, Receipt Book, 1817 – 1821  |
| 5  | "Justice Trials," 1818 – 1828<br>--notes on lawsuits, very brief  |
| 6  | Joseph Sewall, Account Book, 1823 – 1824<br>--very brief  |
| 7  | Joseph Sewall, Day Book, 1824 – 1831<br>--legal accounts  |
| 8  | Surveyor's Note Book, c. 1832 – c. 1842   |
| 9  | General Store Account Book?, 1832 – 1833  |
| 10 | General Store Account Book?, 1833<br>--includes wharfage and dockage accounts, 1832   |
| 11 | Copy of a lecture on Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) delivered before the [Erasophian?] Society in Bath, Me., 1836, by Jacob Smith Sewall |

**OCTAVO  
VOLUME**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 12 | Jacob Smith Sewall, Receipt Book, 1838 October 2 – 1839           |
| 13 | Military Account Book? or Custom House Account Book?, 1839 – 1842 |
| 14 | "Matters in Bankruptcy," 1842                                     |
| 15 | Memo Book of Business Notes?, c. 1879 – c. 1896                   |

**FOLIO  
VOLUME**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Caleb Marsh, Account Book, 1795 – 1824<br>--includes tailor's accounts plus personal and legal accounts     |
| 2 | General Store Day Book, 1804 – 1810   |
| 3 | General Store Account Book, 1820s – 1830s   |
| 4 | Joseph Sewall, Accounts as Inspector, 1845 – 1849   |
| 5 | Jacob Smith Sewall, Day Book, 1849 - 1850<br><br>Bronson & Sewall, Account Books of Legal Fees, 1851 - 1860 |
| 6 | 1851 – 1856   |
| 7 | 1851 – 1856   |
| 8 | 1856 - 1860   |

**OVERSIZE  
FOLDER**

Includes two documents appointing Dummer Sewall a Justice of the Peace, 1777 & 1781, and one document appointing Joseph Sewall, Collector of Customs and Inspector of Revenues, 1838, signed by Martin Van Buren, President of the United States.