Overview of the Collection
Title: Appleton-Foster Family Papers
Dates (inclusive): 1717-1897
Bulk dates: 1797-1849
Collection Number: mssHM 27635-27708
Extent: Approximately 100 items in 1 box
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens Manuscripts Department
The Huntington Library
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2203
Fax: (626) 449-5720
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org
Abstract: This collection contains 79 items related to the Appleton family of Massachusetts and the Foster family of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, chiefly dating from 1797-1849. Letters reflect the family affairs; social life and customs of New England society and family life. Some letters contain references to the War of 1812 and to the activities of the Unitarian Church in New England and Baltimore.
Language: English.
Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. Appleton-Foster Family Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Provenance
Purchased from Patricia Dykstra in 1957.
Biographical Note
The Appleton family of Massachusetts and the Foster family of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, were related through the marriage of Mary Appleton to John Welch Foster in 1824. Mary Foster's mother, Sarah (Greenleaf) Appleton Haven (died 1838) married, first in 1780, Dr. Nathaniel Walker Appleton (d. 1795), a Boston physician. The names of five of their seven children appear in the baptismal records of the First Church of Boston as Charles, George, Mary, William Greenleaf, and Sally. Following Dr. Appleton's death, Mary Foster married a first cousin of her first husband, Joseph Have of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, around 1815. He was the son of the Rev. Samuel Haven and Mehitabel (Appleton) Haven, aunt of Dr. Appleton.
Mary (Appleton) Foster, daughter of Sarah Haven, married John Welch Foster of Portsmouth (Aug. 31, 1824).
Scope and Content
This collection contains 79 items related to the Appleton family of Massachusetts and the Foster family of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Letters reflect the family affairs; social life and customs of New England society and family life. Some letters contain references to the War of 1812 and to the activities of the Unitarian Church in New England and Baltimore. Some notable items include:
- Letter from James Robertson to Charles Fenton Mercer re Presidential election of 1812. 1813, Feb. 14
- Letter from Mary to Mary (Appleton) Foster, describing social life at Cheltenham, England, and the attendance of the Duke and Duchess of Wellington at an evening party there. 1816, Aug. 6
- List of the members of South Church, Portsmouth, N. H., compiled by Elizabeth Haven (Wardrobe) Thacher and others. c. 1819-1847

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

**Subjects**
- Foster, John Welch -- Correspondence.
- Foster, Mary Appleton -- Correspondence.
- Haven, Sarah Appleton -- Correspondence.
- Unitarian churches -- New England.
- Unitarian churches -- Maryland.
- United States -- History -- War of 1812 -- Personal narratives.

**Forms/Genres**
- Letters (correspondence) -- United States.
- Family papers -- United States.

**Added Entries**
- Foster (Family)
- Appleton (Family)

**Box 1**

**mssHM 27635-27708**

- **Knowltown, Nathaniel.** To James Foster: deed for a tract of land in Ipswich, Mass. **1717 October 25** HM 27689
  - D.S. 2p.

- **Minot, Stephen, et al.** To Joseph Foster: deed for 1 acre of Upland in the North Common field in Ipswich, Mass. **1732 December 8** HM 27693
  - D. S. 2 p.

- **Cornwallis, Edward.** To Paul Mascarene: Affidavit re appointment to represent Nova Scotia in negotiations with "Indians of the Several Tribes." **1751 August 13** HM 27646
  - D. 1 p. Countersigned by William Cotterill.

- **Boyd George.** Letter to John Foster. **1775 February 22.** HM 27642

- **Hiller, Dorcas C.** Letter to Elizabeth Foster. **1792 October.** HM 27688

- **Stratton, Caleb.** To David Barber: Deed for tract of land in great meadow in Northfield, New Hampshire. **1797 July 11.** HM 27697
  - D.S. 2 p.

- **Haven, Sarah (Greenleaf) Appleton.** 2 letters to Mary (Appleton) Foster. Between **1799 and 1811** HM 27658-HM 27659

- **Foster, John W. H.** Letter to Elizabeth Foster. **1799 April 22** HM 27649

- **Massachusetts.** Certificate re character and United States citizenship of John Welch Foster. **1805 December 13** HM 27690
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haven, Sarah (Greenleaf) Appleton. 2 letters to Mary (Appleton) Foster. Between approximately 1805 and 1815</td>
<td>HM 27660-HM 27661</td>
<td>Roxbury, Mass., and Baltimore, Maryland. 2 A.L.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts. Passport issued to John Welch Foster. 1811 June 15</td>
<td>HM 27691</td>
<td>Boston, Mass. D.S. 1p. Signed by Elbridge Gerry; countersigned by John Welch Foster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haven, Sarah (Greenleaf) Appleton. 5 letters to Mary (Appleton) Foster. 1810 June 6-October 30</td>
<td>HM 27663-HM 27667</td>
<td>Baltimore, Maryland. 5 A.L.S. Includes a description of the rooms of the White House (1810 July 16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haven, Sarah (Greenleaf) Appleton. 3 letters to Mary (Appleton) Foster. 1813 May 10-December 31</td>
<td>HM 27668-HM 27670</td>
<td>Boston and Dorchester, Mass. 3 A.L.S. references the War of 1812 (May 10), drafting of soldiers, and Havre de Grace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haven, Sarah (Greenleaf) Appleton. 8 letters to Mary (Appleton) Foster. 1815 June 28-December 30</td>
<td>HM 27672-HM 27679</td>
<td>Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 8 A.L.S.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appleton, Horatio D. Letter to Mary (Appleton) Foster. 1816 March 16  HM 27638
   Middlesex (Maryland?). A.L.S. 1 p.

[?], Mary. Letter to Mary (Appleton) Foster. 1816 August 6  HM 27708

Haven, Sarah (Greenleaf) Appleton. 6 letters to Mary (Appleton) Foster. 1816-1822
   HM 27680-HM 27685
      Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 6 A.L.S.

Thacher, Elizabeth Haven (Wardrobe) et al. List of members of South Church, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Approximately 1819-1847  HM 27700
      Notebook, 28 p.

Foster, Mary (Appleton). Letter to Eliza A. Haven. 1822 May 25  HM 27653
   Garrison Forest, Maryland. A.L.S. 4 p. Includes reference to Jared Sparks and Unitarianism.

Foster, John Welch. Letter to Mary (Appleton) Foster. 1824 April 23  HM 27651
   A.L.S. 4 p.

Appleton, Charles. Letter to Mary (Appleton) Foster. 1824 August 27  HM 27636

Foster, John Welch. Letter to William H. Foster. 1824 September 4  HM 27652

Appleton, Charles. Letter to Mary (Appleton) Foster. 1827 March 29  HM 27637

Foster, Mary (Appleton). Letter to John Welch Foster. Between 1832 and 1859 (June)
   HM 27654

Adams, John Quincy. Letter to John Welch Foster. 1834 June 8  HM 27635

Thacher, Elizabeth Haven (Wardrobe). Letter to Mary (Appleton) Foster. 1836 June 26
   HM 27701

Foster, Mary (Appleton). Letter to John Welch Foster. 1836 July 6  HM 27655

Haven, Sarah (Greenleaf) Appleton. Letter to Mary (Appleton) Foster. 1837 August
   HM 27686

Perkins, James Hanasyd. Letter to Charles Fenton Mercer. 1838 March 10  HM 27695

Higginson, Thomas Wentworth. Note to Foster. Between 1847 and 1911  HM 27687
   A.N.S. 1 p.
Thacher, Elizabeth Haven (Wardrobe). 4 letters to Mary (Appleton) Foster. 1843-1845
HM 27702-HM 27705
Concord, New Hampshire, and Saco, Maine. 4 A.L.S.

Thacher, Elizabeth Haven (Wardrobe). 2 letters to Mary (Appleton) Foster. 1848-1849
HM 27706-HM 27707
Havenwood. 2 A.L.S. Includes references to Andrew Preston Peabody, Augustus Woodbury, and the Unitarian religion.

Cheever, Charles A. Letter to Joseph H. Foster. 1852 September 8 HM 27644
A.L.S. 4 p.

Cleveland, Richard Jeffry. Letter to Joseph Have Foster. 1853 July 27 HM 27645

Bancroft, George. Note. 1863 October 5 HM 27640
New York, N.Y. A.N.S. 1 p.

Taylor, Bayard Letter regarding mailing of chapters. 1866 January 5 HM 27699

May, Samuel Joseph. Letter to Mrs. Foster. 1867 July 8 HM 27692

Dix, Dorothea Lynde. Letter to Miss Foster. 1867 October 2 HM 27647

Hale, Edward Everett Letter to Miss Foster. 1874 January 22 HM 27656

Blaine, James Gillespie. Letter to Miss Morgan. 1877 March 27 HM 27641

Cable, George Washington. Letter to Mary Appleton Foster. 1897 June 8 HM 27643

Ephemera. Approximately 1760-1899
29 items including 21 miscellaneous fragments chiefly with autographs; small notebook containing a handwritten ca. 1760 sermon in shorthand; a 1775 treasury note (reproduction?); 1817 stock certificate; 1 page manuscript chart: "Chronological Epitome of the History of England, from the Norman Conquest to the present time [1820]"; 1862 Army of the Potomac pass for Joseph Foster and family; 1862 telegraph note from D.E.D. Cranch to J.H. Foster, with envelope; and an 1899 Italian art export license.