Guide to the Ames Family Papers M0003

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The papers of the Ames family include correspondence, notes, and financial records of Fisher Ames; correspondence of Margaret Bradford-Ames; military papers, letters, business papers, and notes of Pelham Warren Ames (San Francisco and Boston); and genealogical records.

Biographical / Historical
Fisher Ames (1758-1808) was a statesman, Federalist publicist, orator and Congressman. He was elected to Congress in 1789 and served until 1796. In 1805 he was offered the presidency of Harvard, but declined due to poor health and "advancing age" (47). His son Seth Ames married Margaret S. Bradford; their son Pelham Warren Ames served in the navy during the Civil War and was a lawyer.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition
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Paging
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**SERIES 1. CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANY RELATING TO FISHER AMES 110873**

- **folder 1**
  - Letter from Timothy Pickering, former Sec’y. of State, dated on the Gallatin report and Black Sea trade. (3) 110907 1806,

- **folder 2**
  - Note from Spencer Watkins, thanking Ames for money to buy wood. (2) 110905 December 16, 1784,

- **folder 3**
  - Seven letters to Josiah Quincy on rights of neutrals and politics of the period: 110889 (1805-06)
    - b. Dedham. Angry measures of commercial restriction would destroy objects of peace and commerce. (4) 110901 1805 Dec 16
    - c. Dedham. Miscellaneous comments. Federalists cannot attend the legislative caucus. Jefferson will say anything Congress wants him to. (4) 110899 1806 Jan 20

e. Dedham. Condemnation of Randolph's anti-Federalist speech. Randolph, Burr and others have crawled "at the foot of Jefferson's throne." (2) 110895 1806 Dec 5

f. Dedham. "Jefferson only takes care of his popularity, which forbids him to govern at all." General attack on Jefferson. (2) 110893 1806 Dec 11

g. Dedham. The "Message" is criticized. It leaves the country without protection. Also, Ames is against repeal of salt tax. Non-importation act mentioned. (2) 110891 1806 Dec 22


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Draft of letter to Professor Pearson refusing presidency of Harvard (4) 110887 1805

Fragment of letter to Mr. Dwight on transfer of Congress from New York. (2) 110885 7-18-1790,

Notes on a report of the Sec'y. of State on the codfishery question . (8) 110883

16 bills and receipts, (32) 110881 1794-1817

Four bills of John and Nathaniel Ames, sons of Fisher. (7) 110879

Letter from the Library of Congress to Mrs. R. Y. Fitz concerning portraits of Fisher Ames, (2) 110877 1907

A.D. on the "Political Quack". (2) 110875

Papers re Civil War naval career (26) dated Includes letter from Josephus Daniels, Sec'y of the Navy, dated (33) 110871 1861-1913 1913 Nov 15

Five items re admission to Massachusetts Bar: (13) 110859

a. Petition to be admitted as an atty. at law 110869

b. Certificate of applicant 110867

c. Letter from Judge James M. Seawell, SF, 110865 1907 Nov 18

d. Letter from Ezra R. Thayer transferring move for Ames admission to Hollis R. Bailey, 110863 1907 Nov 2

e. Letter from the Justices Chambers, Supreme Court of Calif. stating that records upon which the license of Mr. Ames might be renewed have been lost in fire 110861 (12-20-1907)

Five items re Spring Valley Water Works (SF water supply) and one re purchase of Sutro Tunnel Co. (16) 110857

Biographical notes on Rear Admiral John G. Walker and architect Henry H. Richardson, written by Ames. Paper on Adm. Nelson (by Ames) and 3 copies of a Spanish translation of Gray's Elegy. Speech by Ames before Commandery (SAR?) on Adm. Lord Nelson. Nelson was not responsible for English victory at Aboukir (sic) Bay. Entanglement with Lady Hamilton left stain on his character. Had propensity for fault-finding and boasting. Jealous of honores conferred upon companions. "All this is sickening." Mention of Caraciola incident. "His nature was hard and his heart was hard." Also violated a flag of truce. (51) 110855

19 copies of "In Memoriam", series printed in at death of Ames. (2 ea.) 110853 1916

Howard A. Clark L.S. to Pelham Ames, and address to Natl. Soc. of the SAR on J. P. Jones.(6) 110851 1908 May 8,

Six letters from her brother, George P. Bradford and one from her sister (Martha)? (25) 110847

Two letters to her sister, Sarah Ripley and one to Mrs. David Dana (10) 110845


Abstract of Seth Ames' will and of Frances W. Howland's (sister of Fisher Ames). (4) 110839

Guide to the Ames Family Papers M0003139

M0003
folder 21  Typescript copy of a letter written by Abraham Lincoln to Mrs. Bixby on and clipping re Boston lecture by Pelham Ames. (4) 110835 11-21-1864,
folder 22  Clipping from London Times literary supplement entitled "The Way of Peace". (4) 110833 9-8-1927
folder 23  Printed muster roll of Capt. Lincoln's company, 7th Mass. Regiment, of the US Army, dated Gamaliel Bradford was commissioned officer writing the report. (2) 110831 Mar 1782