Guide to the Ames Family Papers, 1872-1927M0003

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SCOPE AND CONTENT
These 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.

BIOGRAPHY
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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Provenance:
Donated by Judge Alden Ames in September, 1959.

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Access Restrictions:
None.

CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANY RELATING TO FISHER AMES

Folder 1
Letter from Timothy Pickering, former Sec'y. of State, dated on the Gallatin report and Black Sea trade.(3) 1806,

Folder 2
Note from Spencer Watkins, thanking Ames for money to buy wood. (2) December 16, 1784,

Folder 3
Seven letters to Josiah Quincy on rights of neutrals and politics of the period: (1805-06)
  b. Dedham. Angry measures of commercial restriction would destroy objects of peace and commerce.(4) 1805 Dec. 16.
  e. Dedham. Condemnation of Randolph's anti-Federalist speech. Randolph, Burr and others have crawled "at the foot of Jefferson's throne."(2) 1806 Dec. 5.
f. Dedham. "Jefferson only takes care of his popularity, which forbids him to
govern at all." General attack on Jefferson. (2) 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) 1806
Dec. 22.

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

Folder 5
Fragment of letter, to Mr. Dwight on transfer of Congress from New York. (2)
7-18-1790,

Folder 6
Notes on a report of the Sec'y. of State on the codfishery question. (8)

Folder 7
16 bills and receipts, (32) 1794-1817.

Folder 8
Four bills of John and Nathaniel Ames, sons of Fisher. (7)

Folder 9
Letter from the Library of Congress to Mrs. R. Y. Fitz concerning portraits of Fisher
Ames, (2) 1907.

Folder 10
A.D. on the "Political Quack". (2)

CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANY OF PELHAM WARREN AMES

Folder 11
Papers re Civil War naval career (26) dated Includes letter from Josephus Daniels,
Sec'y of the Navy, dated (33) 1861-1913. 1913 Nov.15.

Folder 12
Five items re admission to Massachusetts Bar: (13)
a. Petition to be admitted as an atty. at law
b. Certificate of applicant
c. Letter from Judge James M. Seawell, SF, 1907 Nov. 18
d. Letter from Ezra R. Thayer transferring move for Ames admission to Hollis R.
Bailey, 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
(12-20-1907)

Folder 13
Five items re Spring Valley Water Works (SF water supply) and one re purchase of
Sutro Tunnel Co. (16)

Folder 14
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 honorees 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)

Folder 15
19 copies of "In Memoriam", series printed in at death of Ames. (2 ea.) 1916

Folder 16
Howard A. Clark L.S. to Pelham Ames, and address to Natl. Soc. of the SAR on J. P.
Jones.(6) 1908 May 8,

CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANY OF MARGARET S. BRADFORD-AMES

Folder 17
Six letters from her brother, George P. Bradford and one from her sister (Martha)?
(25)

Folder 18
Two letters to her sister, Sarah Ripley and one to Mrs. David Dana (10)

FAMILY RECORDS

Folder 19
Genealogical information on the Ames family and the related families of Bradford,
Worthington, Alden, Edwards, Bates, Hodson, Townsend, Foster, Lee, Sale, and
Hickling. (13 items) (117)

Folder 20
Abstract of Seth Ames' will and of Frances W. Howland's (sister of Fisher Ames). (4)

MISCELLANY

Folder 21
Typescript copy of a letter written by Abraham Lincoln to Mrs. Bixby on and clipping
re Boston lecture by Pelham Ames. (4) 11-21-1864,

Folder 22
Clipping from London Times literary supplement entitled "The Way of Peace". (4)
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) March 1782.