

Guide to the James F. Briggs Business Papers, 1841-1897

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

James F. Briggs Business Papers, 1841-1897

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

1988.035, 1991.022

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing

Creator:

Briggs, James F. (James Frankland), 1827-1905

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box ; 0.42 linear feet

Abstract:

This collection consists of the legal papers—estates, guardianships, lawsuits—of James F. Briggs of Hillsborough Bridge and Manchester, NH. In addition, there are a few papers of Cornelius Coolidge, a Hillsborough businessman, and of Brooks K. Webber, a lawyer who took over Briggs's Hillsborough law office.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The James F. Briggs Business Papers are composed of two accessions. Accession 1988.035 was purchased by the New Hampshire Historical Society on June 24, 1988 from Remember When Antiques. Accession 1991.022 was purchased by the New Hampshire Historical Society on March 5, 1991.

They were both processed in 1991 and it was decided to keep them together in the same box, shelved in the 1988.035 accession. They are filed in separate series to retain their provenance. This decision was based on their both consisting of papers from the legal practice of the J. F. Briggs law firm.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date and reformatted by Korrena Cowing in April 2020. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, James F. Briggs Business Papers, [1988.035 or 1991.022]. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

James F. Briggs (1827-1905) was born in Lancaster County, England on October 23, 1827 to John Briggs, a spinner by trade, and Nancy Franklands. John was born in Wales and he married Nancy on July 19, 1824 at Haslingden, Lancashire, England. John, Nancy, and two-year-old son James left Liverpool, England, on the Ship *Dover* and docked at Boston. (The ship left Liverpool or arrived at Boston on March 1, 1829.) In 1835, a James Briggs purchased a wool mill in

Holderness, NH, for \$2000. An 1846 deed shows James, John, and Joshua Briggs with John Andrews were part of James Briggs & Brothers (this James was not John's son). John died on February 13, 1848 at Holderness. Nancy died at Manchester on December 19, 1883.

James Briggs worked in the mill until he was fourteen, but during the same time was able to attend the academy at Newbury, VT, and following that, at a school in Tilton, NH. In 1848, he began to study law in the office of William O. Thompson of Plymouth. He pursued his studies with Joseph Burrows of Holderness and completed his course with Judge Butler of Fisherville. In 1851, he was admitted to the bar and a few months later opened his office in Hillsborough Bridge starting his practice where Franklin Pierce had practiced in the preceding years.

Prior to the Civil War, Briggs represented the town of Hillsborough Bridge in the New Hampshire legislature from 1856 to 1858. He served in the Civil War with the 11th New Hampshire, from August 1862 to August 1863, as quartermaster on the staff of Colonel Walter Harriman. During James's service the 11th New Hampshire was at Fredericksburg, VA, and Vicksburg, MS.

In about 1870, he moved to Manchester and his Hillsborough practice was taken over by Brooks K. Webber. Briggs was appointed Manchester City Solicitor in 1871. In 1874, he again served in the legislature and two years later in the senate. In 1876, he was chosen to the Constitutional Convention. In 1877, he was elected as a Representative to Congress and was re-elected twice. In 1883, 1891, and 1897 he again served in the state legislature and was Speaker of the House during the latter term. In 1889 and 1902, he attended the Constitutional Convention again.

Briggs married Roxanna, daughter of Obadiah and Eliza (Moody) Smith of New Hampton, born November 20, 1825. Obadiah was the administrator for John Briggs's estate.

James and Roxana had a son, Frank O. Briggs, born in 1851; daughter Sarah F. born October 23, 1855 at Hillsborough; and Mary Fredrika born August 19, 1866 at Hillsborough. Roxana died at Manchester of apoplexy (stroke) on January 27, 1888. James died at Manchester on January 21, 1905.

Brooks K. Webber (1837–1903) was a lawyer who came to Lower Village in Hillsborough after the Civil War. He reopened the practice made vacant by the death of Frances N. Blood. In 1872, he moved to Hillsborough Bridge and took over the practice of James F. Briggs.

Cornelius Coolidge (1828–1894) was a Hillsborough business man who was active in the settlement of estates and in town politics. From the 1860s to the 1880s, he held many town offices including selectman, auditor, moderator, and supervisor. He was a state representative from 1864-1865 and was elected for two terms in the state senate starting in 1878.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The bulk of the papers are from James F. Briggs' law practice in Hillsborough from 1841 to 1870 and the remainder from his time in Manchester from 1870 to 1892. There are various types of materials including guardianship papers, writs, briefs, bills, deposition notices, and estate

papers. Accession 1988.035 also includes correspondence to Brooks K. Webber and legal papers of Cornelius Coolidge.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are arranged into series by accession number.

Series 1. James F. Briggs business papers, 1841-1897 (accession 1988.035)

Series 2. James F. Briggs business papers, 1849-1873 (accession 1991.022)

Contents List

Series 1. James F. Briggs business papers, 1841-1897

Accession Number: 1988.035

Extent: 17 folders

Scope and Content: Papers from James F. Briggs' law practice in Hillsborough and Manchester, NH, from 1841 to 1897. The papers consist of a number of court cases and include guardianship papers, writs, depositions, bills, and estate papers. Also included is correspondence with Brooks K. Webber and the legal papers of Cornelius Coolidge.

Box 1

- Folder 1 Alcott v. Alcott, assault and battery, 1870
- Folder 2 Daniel Dodge v. Hiel McClintock, damages suit, 1866-1870
- Folder 3 Fuller estate, 1841-1860
- Folder 4 Wakeman & Powers v. Craig, 1871 and Timothy Moors estate, Jos. Davis exec., 1863-1871
- Folder 5 Wakeman & Joseph Powers v. Isaac & Israel Proctor, land suit, 1866-1871
- Folder 6 Eliz. Abbot, guardian of Mary E. Preston, 1861-1868
- Folder 7 Lavinia Smith v. Warren Clark, settlement, 1871 and Edward Towne v. Eben Towne, guardianship, 1870
- Folder 8 Ebenezer Wyman estate, 1861-1870 and Martin Wyman v. Asa Beard, 1871
- Folder 9 Various individual legal notices and documents pertaining to estates, land suits, etc., 1856-1873, undated
- Folder 10 Accounts, 1858-1876
- Folder 11 Correspondence and papers with Brooks K. Webber and others, 1873-1897
- Folder 12 David Bass v. Franklin Smith of Antrim, 1869-1873, 1888 and Ephraim Hoyt v. George Merrill, 1872, 1897
- Folder 13 James Butler and miscellaneous papers, 1861-1875
- Folder 14 D.W.C. Newman, 1866-1882
- Folder 15 Ida Atwood, letters to B.K. Webber, 1862-1897
- Folder 16 Cornelius Coolidge, guardian of Charles Clark, and administrator of estate of Ezra Clement, 1873-1880
- Folder 17 Cornelius Coolidge, 1856-1892

Series 2. James F. Briggs business papers, 1849-1873

Accession Number: 1991.022

Extent: 5 folders

Scope and Content: Papers from James F. Briggs' law practice in Hillsborough and Manchester, NH, from 1849 to 1873. The papers consist of a number of court cases and include writs, depositions, bills, and estate papers.

Box 1

Folder 18 Montgomery Craig v. Welcome & Gunnison, timber dispute, 1871-1872
Folder 19 White v. Summers Morse, civil suit, 1869
Folder 20 Fuller estate, 1849-1853 and John Page v. Susan Blodgett, 1871
Folder 21 Gould v. Henniker, 1872 and George Brown v. Smith and wife, 1869
Folder 22 Notes, receipts, and memoranda, 1862-1873

Subject Terms

People:

Briggs, James F. (James Frankland), 1827-1905
Coolidge, Cornelius, 1828-1894
Webber, Brooks K., 1837-1903

Subjects:

Actions and defenses
Estates (Law)
Guardian and ward

Locations:

Hillsborough, NH
Manchester, NH

Occupations:

Justices of the peace
Lawyers

Related Materials

Archives

James F. Briggs Papers, 1970.039