

Guide to the Parrott and Toscan Family Papers, 1770-1937, bulk 1779-1835

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Parrott and Toscan Family Papers, 1770-1937, bulk 1779-1835

Repository:

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

Collection Number:

1984.064

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; reformatted and rewritten by Sandra L. Wheeler

Creator:

Parrott family
Toscan family

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English, with a few in French.

Extent:

1 box ; 0.42 linear feet

Abstract:

The Parrott and Toscan Family Papers consist of early 19th-century correspondence among members of this large extended family. They discuss family matters and business affairs, especially regarding their activities as sailors, ship owners, and merchants. There are also some business records and accounts for two of their ships. There are no letters or documents for John F. Parrott's service as U.S. Senator between 1817 and 1825.

Access and Use

Accession Information:

The Parrott and Toscan Family Papers were a gift of Edith Leonard in 1983.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unidentified person at an unknown time. The original finding aid was written by an unidentified person at an unknown date and rewritten by Sandra L. Wheeler in September 2015. 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:

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Preferred Citation:

Item title, Parrott and Toscan Family Papers, 1984.064. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

The letters in this collection are among the descendants of John Parrott (1742-1790) and his wives, Deborah Walker Parrott (1742-1779), and Martha Brackett Parrott (1745-1825). The family owned and farmed land in Greenland, NH, but many of the men were merchants, sailors, and ship owners, and the family also included some public servants and legislators, particularly John F. Parrott, U.S. Senator between 1817 and 1825. A daughter of John and Deborah Parrott, Elizabeth French Parrott (1770-1819) married a French diplomat, Jean Joseph Marie Toscan (1752-1805).

Children of John Parrott (1742-1790) and first wife Deborah Walker Parrott (1742-1779):

 John Fabyan Parrott (1767-1836), married Hannah Parker (1771-1850).

 They had:

 Sarah, ca. 1800-1886

Martha, 1801-1847
Robert, 1804-1877
John, 1806-1856
William F., 1808-1878
Edward Moore, died 1834
Peter, 1811-1896
Ellen, 1813-1866
Hannah, ca. 1816-1877

Elizabeth French Parrott (1770-1819), married Jean Joseph Marie Toscan (1752-1805).

They had:
Infant daughter, died 1790 or 1791
Francis (Frank), 1794-1814
Messidor, 1795-1818
Frederick, 1796-1832
Bonaparte, died 1833
Georgiana, 1804-1824
Eliza, died 1825
William, died 1825

Mehitable Parrott (1772-1783)

William Walker Parrott (1778-1858) married Elizabeth Pearce.

They had:
William P., 1810-1868
John, 1811-1853
Mary, 1813-1866
Thomasine, 1815-1835
George, 1819-1882
Elizabeth, 1817-1895

Children of John Parrott and second wife, Martha Brackett (1745-1825)

Twin daughters, born and died 1782

Enoch Parrott (1780-1828) married Susan Parker.

They had:
Mary, 1811-1849
Susan, 1814-1889
Enoch, 1815-1879
James, 1817-1890
Elizabeth, 1820-1841
Charles, born and died 1822

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Parrott and Toscan Family Papers are comprised of correspondence, genealogy, account books, and miscellaneous ephemera dating from 1770 to 1937. The correspondence in this

collection consists of a scattering of letters among family members between about 1800 and 1845: parents to children, siblings to each other, and cousins to each other. The men in particular often discuss business matters, especially concerning their shipping interests, market conditions in various places (Brazil, India), how the war of 1812 interfered with ship movements, what the impact of various political matters might be on the markets, etc. Family news is also exchanged. Although John F. Parrott was U.S. Senator between 1817 and 1825, there are no letters or documents relating to that service.

Also in the collection are some account books and financial records of two of the ships, the Barque *Mary* and Ship *Hannah*, in 1793 and 1800-1807; there are also other business letters from 1835. Other materials include a diary of Edward M. Parrott of Arden, NY, and genealogical information about the Toscan, Parrott, Cleeves, Brackett, and Spalding families.

For an item level index, see the end of the finding aid.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are organized into folders by subject, then by family member, as necessary.

Contents List

Box 1

- Folder 1 Toscan papers, 1779-1802
- Folder 2 Toscan du Plantier (copy) and August de Plantier correspondence, 1857, 1935-1937
- Folder 3 John F. Parrott correspondence, 1819-1820, 1834
- Folder 4 Toscan-Parrott family correspondence, 1801-1825
- Folder 5 Toscan-Parrott family correspondence, 1827-1839
- Folder 6 Toscan-Parrott family correspondence, 1840-1869
- Folder 7 Toscan-Parrott family correspondence, undated
- Folder 8 Shipping account books: 1793-1794 Ship *Hannah* and 1800-1801 Barque *Mary*
- Folder 9 John Fabyan Parrott shipping letter book, 1802-1807
- Folder 10 John Fabyan Parrott shipping business letters, 1801-1835
- Folder 11 Edward M. Parrott diary, 1880-1885
- Folders 12-14 Parrott/Toscan genealogy, 1770-1928, undated
- Folder 15 Cleeves/Brackett genealogy, undated
- Folder 16 Genealogy of other related families, 1900, undated
- Folder 17 James A. Spaulding correspondence, 1906-1931
- Folder 18 Printed material, 1832-1931
- Folder 18 Miscellaneous papers, 1798-1936

Separated Materials:

The photographs in this collection have been removed to the Photograph Collection and photocopies placed in their original folders.

Subject Terms

People:

Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848
Berry, William
Cutts, Edward
du Plantier, August Toscan
du Plantier, Toscan
Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845
Parker, Robert, 1735-1819
Parrott, Edward M., 1850-1902
Parrott, Hannah Parker, 1771-1850
Parrott, John Fabyan, 1767-1836
Parrott, Robert P., 1804-1877
Parrott, William W., 1778-1858
Spaulding, James A., 1846-1938
Toscan, Bonaparte, -1833
Toscan, Eliza, circa 1806-1825
Toscan, Frederick, 1796-1832
Toscan, Georgiana, 1804-1824
Toscan, Jean Joseph Marie, 1752-1805

Families:

Arden family
Brackett family
Cleeves family
Deane family
de Peyster family
de Kay family
Dickinson family
Moore family
Palfrey family
Parker family
Parrott family
Sherburne family
Toscan family
Willett family

Organizations:

Portsmouth Marine Society
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (U.S.)

Subjects:

Account books
Accounts
Diaries
Families
Genealogy
Shipping

United States--History--War of 1812

Women

Locations:

Arden, NY

Brazil

Calcutta, India

Greenland, NH

Lee, NH

Portsmouth, NH

West Point, NY

Occupations:

Merchants

Sailors

Related Materials

Archives

John Fabyan Parrott Papers, 1925.002

Jean Joseph Marie Toscan Papers, 1925.002

Spalding, Parrott and Toscan Family Papers, 1981.027

Library

Hall, Margery Arden. *The Descendants of John Parrott, 1742-1790, of Broadhempston, Devonshire, England, and Portsmouth, NH ...* Alexandria, VA, 1930. Call number: 929.2 P2634h

Hough, Benjamin K. *Chart of Parrott Family*. Brookline, MA, 1934. Call number: 929.2 P263ch

Spalding, James Alfred. *What I Know about the Parrotts and Toscan of Portsmouth, Greenland, Brookfield, Middleton, and Lancaster, All in New Hampshire*. Call number: 929.2 P263

Index

- Folder 1 1779, Brevet of Toscan's appointments as vice-consul, in French, signatures of the King and of de Sartine, Minister of the Marine.
- 1793, Portsmouth. Brief note from Nathaniel Adams to Citizen Toscan thanking him for a donation to the poor of the town.
- 1794, letter from to Toscan from John. F. Parrott, Kingston, Jamaica.
- 1796, John Toscan to Capt John Parrott, includes typed transcript.
- 1797, Eliza Toscan to her husband, John Toscan, in Boston.
- ca 1798-1800, John Parrott to Eliza Toscan in Lancaster, NH.
- 1801, John Toscan and wife in Greenland, NH.
- 1802, William Parrott to his sister, Eliza Toscan.
- Folder 2 Three 1930s letters in French between August Toscan du Plantier and Marjorie Hall; one includes a copy of an 1857 letter from Mr du Plantier's grandfather, Toscan du Plantier, to the French counsel in Philadelphia telling of meeting Captain Frederick Toscan in 1825 or 1827 and giving genealogical information.
- Folder 3 John F. Parrott letters to his children in New Hampshire, most written from Washington, DC:
- December 24, 1819, to Martha B in Portsmouth.
- December 28, 1819, to John T. in Portsmouth.
- December 27, 1819, to William F. in Portsmouth.
- December 29, 1819, to Edward M. in Portsmouth.
- December 30, 1819, to Peter P. in Portsmouth.
- December 31, 1819, to Ellen O. in Portsmouth.
- January 1, 1820, to Hannah P., unknown location.
- February 3, 1820, to Martha B., unknown location.
- February 24, 1820, to John T., Portsmouth.

February 26, 1820, to William F., Portsmouth.

June 20, 1834, to William W., Ship *Mary & Susan*. From Greenland, NH.

Folder 4

Undated. William Walker Parrott to sister Eliz. Toscan. arrived in Tobago, heading for London, expect to arrive April 1.

January 27, 1804. Samuel Garrett to J.F. Parrott. JFP's account with Thomas Wilson; Garrett comments that they are likely to yield a handsome profit.

February 1, 1804. William W. Parrott to Eliza Toscan. Details of his and Enoch's sailing dates, comment on death of Old Deacon Brackett.

October 25, 1809. Susan Parrott (Enoch's wife) to William W. Parrott. Enoch sailing, Susan thinks of moving to boarding house over winter.

October 25, 1811. William W. Parrott to John F. Parrott. Wants advice on movement of vessels, difficulty with port restriction. Includes letter from William Pearce in London, re: Ship *Falcon*, which met with misfortune.

December 12, 1811. William W. Parrott to John F. Parrott. Shipping difficulties, possible war with England, the Falcon, birth of a child, concern for wife, Susan.

January 10, 1812. Enoch Toscan to Mrs. Martha Parrott, his daughter. Preparing boys for voyages, sailing of other family members, local news.

May 12, 1812. William W. Parrott to John F. Parrott. Necessity of war with England, Federalist opposition to it, family matters.

February 22, 1813. William W. Parrott to John F. Parrott. Recovering money, talk of Gideon Scott, victory of the Ship *Constitution* should give energy to the Navy, new 74-gun ship being built in Portsmouth.

May 4, 1813. William W. Parrott to John F. Parrott. G. Scott and tricks played with money, Massachusetts politics, Wm sees war giving country character and in 30 years moving ahead of England.

October 24, 1821. Power of attorney, to John Forbes of Buenos Aires to collect money.

February 1, 1822. Sarah P. Parrott to John F. Parrott in Washington, DC. Family matters, advantages and disadvantages of matrimony.

March 18, 1823. Bonaparte Toscan to John F. Parrott (his uncle). Visit to Robert Parrott at West Point.

February 3, 1825. Hannah Parker Parrott to Eliza D.T. Toscan in New Orleans. Eliza is on her brother Frederick's ship. Family news, William Toscan on Ship *Neptune* with Captain Leach in a snow storm.

February 25, 1825. Samuel W. Dana to John F. Parrott in Washington, DC. Congratulations on son's being named Assistant Professor at the Military Academy, thinks newly elected President Adams will lessen party strife.

April 18, 1825. Sarah P. Toscan to Eliza D.T. Toscan. Family matters, 'Bonaparte is farming for lack of anything else to do.'

Folder 5 January 10, 1827. Portsmouth Marine Society membership for Frederick Toscan.

December 24, 1828. Frederick Toscan in Rio de Janeiro to his wife Martha in Portsmouth. Voyage, looking for better markets, misses family.

March 14, 1829. Frederick Toscan in Rio de Janeiro to Edward M. Parrott. Trade and commerce are wretched since the peace, markets overstocked, currency depreciated, too much competition, etc.

May 14, 1829. John F. Parrott (but actually from Edward M. Parrott) to Frederick Toscan. Signs as brother but is actually cousin. Writes that 'Papa has become victim to the relentless persecution, traversing the whole country under the auspices of Jackson and his cabinet.' William had gone to Trieste with George Langdon in a brig. Town in deplorable state from business failures.

March 28, 1831. Sarah P. Parrott to Capt. Frederick Parrott. Concern for his long absences, news of his children, efforts to elect papa to Congress but 'jacksonites were again successful,' news of Bonaparte in Florida.

March 20, 1832. Captain Frederick Toscan, Greenland, NH, typed copy of newspaper eulogy.

April 29, 1832. Bonaparte Toscan to Mrs. Martha B. Toscan. Sympathy at Frederick's death.

July 14, 1832. Hannah P. Parrott to Peter P. Parrott. Partial letter. Family news, compliments on Peter's success in Philadelphia.

February 10, 1834. Robert P. Parrott in Washington, DC, to John F. Parrott. Duties began today, still haven't found room, info re: Falcon and French claim, hopes Uncle William's firm will survive failures.

May 26, 1836. Hannah P. Parrott to Capt. Robert P. Parrott. Family news, William got record amount of ice to Calcutta and received a silver cup as reward.

August 4, 1836. Elizabeth Parrott to 'Dear Greenleaf.' Social gossip.

June 23, 1837. Georgiana Toscan to Peter P. Parrott. Short note, says little.

October 1, 1838. Peter P. Parrott to John T. Parrott (his brother). Wishes to get married, left Robert in Goshen as witness in law case.

July 10, 1839. Peter P. Parrott (Woodbury, CT) to Mrs. Hannah Parrott. Account of trip to Boston, Providence, and New York. 'Saw the President come out of the Washington Hotel in NY;' 'Van Buren is to be at the Foundry today.' Difficult to read.

Folder 6 October 21, 1840. Hannah P. Parrott to John T. Parrott. Ellen and Hannah visit brother Peter, no particular news.

January 13, 1841. Mary Arden Parrott to John T. Parrott. Difficulties traveling in winter crossing the river on ice to get from Greenwood to the foundry at West Point.

January 20, 1842. Robert P. Parrott, West Point Foundry, to John T. Parrott. Family news.

December 8, 1842. Mary A. Parrott to Hannah P. Parrott. Family news.

June 20, 1844. To Miss Augusta H. Toscan in Greenland, NH. Difficult to read.

August 29, 1847. R. P. Parrott to Sarah Parrott. Martha is very ill and William asks for one or two of the family to go with him.

November 1, 1869. William Parrott to Mary. Family news.

Folder 7 Undated fragment. Adjournment of town meeting signed by Jn. F. Parrott, Moderator.

Undated Captain Robert Parker, Lee, NH, pages 53 & 54 of letter book concerning proposed marriage between Robert Parker and Hannah Chesly, opposed by Robert's grown children. Memo of agreement between Hannah and Robert August 12, 1805.

December 25, no year. Frederick Toscan to brother William in Greenland. Family news.

April 19, no year. William W. Parrott to sister Elizabeth. William is interested in farming, is tired of roving about on the sea.

Undated Hannah [Parker] to sister Susannah Parker in Portsmouth. Family news.

Undated draft memorandum re: possible closing of Portsmouth Navy Yard by Congress because of snow storms and fog. Reference to late war may date memo to ca 1814. Probably written by John F. Parrott.

Folder 8 June 15, 1793. Account book, Bordeaux. Invoice of sundries shipped on board the *Hannah*, John F. Parrott, Master, Edward Church, merchant, and Consul of the U.S. Items include white wine, claret, brandy, sweet oil, hams, candles, lamp black, hair powder, old linen, silk stockings, cordage, anchors, etc. Four pages of accounts of the ship *Hannah*, carried passengers leaving Bordeaux June 15, 1793 for Lisbon. Provisions purchased in St. Thomas in November and December. Other expenses 1793, 1794. May 9, 1794, the *Hannah* taking on sundries at Aux Cayes, Haiti. October, 1794, expenses attending trial of ship, cargoes in Jamaica. In the back are two pages of verse composed by passengers on the *Jupiter* from London to New York, undated.

1800-1802, Copy book and Account book. Barque *Mary*, disbursements for voyages November 2, 1800, John F. Parrott, Portsmouth, New York, Europe and return. February, 1801, Liverpool, list of crew, wages, etc. Lisbon London. Edward Cutts, owner of Barque, upbraids E. Cutts (pg. 50), John F. Parrott defends his own conduct (pgs. 53-54). Schooner *Washington*, portage bill, voyage to Rouen and Paris, February 24, 1802. Copies of letters 1801-1802 written from London & Harve, Rouen & Paris.

Folder 9 1802-1807, John F. Parrott, shipping letter book. Business letters written largely from Portsmouth. Statement of the sales and returns of Ship *Hannah*'s cargo. Ship apparently was captured by the British after leaving Haiti and forced to put into Jamaica. Long process in court to have ship freed.

Folder 10 February, 1800 – January, 1809. John F. Parrott from Bailey & Bogart.

April, 1801 – May, 1809. Thomas Wilson in London to John F. Parrott.

November, 1831 – April, 1835. William Berry, accounts owed by John F. Parrott. Includes house rent and repairs, wages, horse and wagon, hay, etc.

Folder 11 Edward M. Parrott diary, 1880-1885.

Folders 12-14 Parrott/Toscan genealogy papers.

Folder 15 Cleeves/Brackett genealogy papers.

Folder 16 Genealogy, related families - description of Nahum Parker, Parrott and Arden chart.

- Folder 17 1906-1931. James A. Spalding correspondence with W.R. Upton about Parrott genealogy.
- 11 letters to cousin Margery about genealogy.
- James A. Spalding autobiography.
- Folder 18 News clippings about family members.
- French Claims*, 1832. Relating to Admiralty claims.
- November 25, 1899. Letter from E.F.P. about a claim.
- The War of 1812* article.
- The Story of the American Clipper Ship Greyhounds of the Sea* by Carl C. Cutter.
- May 1931. Dartmouth Alumni Magazine.
- Folder 19 1798, 1892, undated. 4 autographs.
- 1836 August 25. D. A. Hall Justice of the Peace certification.
- July 29, 1878. Rockingham National Bank meeting minutes.
- February 20, 1905. Captain A. Mahan letter.
- July 11, 1914. Letter from Arden, NY, to Professor.
- August 19, 1930. New Hampshire Historical Society to Margery Hall regarding a donation.
- September 3, 1930. New Hampshire Historical Society thank you for gift.
1931. Letter regarding Deborah Walker Parrott's tombstone.
- Charles Frederick Parrott note.
- 2 postcards.
- Family silhouettes.
- Family photographs.
- Picture of a shipwreck.