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Paging Instructions

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Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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Phone: (203) 432-1735
Fax: (203) 432-7441

CALL NUMBER: MS 28

CREATOR: Abbot, George Jacob, 1812-1879.

TITLE: George Jacob Abbot papers

DATES: 1811-1901

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (4 boxes, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE(S): The materials are in English.

SUMMARY: Minister and diplomat. Correspondence largely relating to Abbot's service as secretary to Daniel Webster and as an agent of the State Department in England and Canada. Included are 104 letters by Daniel Webster as well as copies of several of his speeches. State Department papers concerning controversies with England (1837-1852), newspaper clippings about Daniel Webster and miscellaneous receipts, inventories and photographs make up the remainder of the papers.

FINDING AID LINK: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, use the following address: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0028.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Gift of Wilkie Bushby in 1955.
Information about Access

The collection is open for research.

Cite As

George Jacob Abbot Papers (MS 28). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical Sketch

George Jacob Abbot, son of the Rev. Jacob Abbot, a Unitarian minister, was born in Windham, N.H. He graduated from Harvard College in 1835, after which he opened a boys' school in Washington, D.C. After a clerkship in the State Department, he became private secretary to Daniel Webster, this during Webster's second term as Secretary of State (1850-1852).

Abbot served as United States consul at Bradford and Sheffield, England, from 1864 to 1870 and, returning to the U.S., was for several years a professor at the Theological School at Meadville, P.A. In 1877 he took another diplomatic position at Goderich and Windsor, Canada, which he maintained until his death.

More information as to Abbot and family may be found in Leonard A. Morrison's History of Windham in New Hampshire, 1719-1883 (Boston: Cupples, Upham and Co., 1883).

Description of the Papers

The George Jacob Abbot Papers consist mainly of correspondence, drafts of speeches, unfinished drafts of U.S. State Department papers, newspaper clippings and other materials related to Abbot's employment as secretary to Daniel Webster and to his diplomatic service. There are some Abbot family materials among the papers as well.

The correspondence consists of approximately 700 letters, of which 104 (1811-1852) are by Webster and 74 are to him, and 247 (1842-1878) are by Abbot and 175 to him. Nearly half of Abbot's letters were written during his diplomatic service in England and Canada. Among the important correspondents are Thomas Stephenson, U.S. Consular Agent; Emory McClintock, Vice-consul at Sheffield; Prentiss Mellen, first Chief Justice of Maine; and judges Charles Jackson, James Kent, and Joseph Story. The correspondence is arranged chronologically, but the letters are individually catalogued in the Department's manuscript catalogue, and a list of correspondents follow the folder listing.

The speeches include copies of Webster's Fourth of July speech of 1851 and a speech delivered before the New York Historical Society in 1852. There are several copies of other speeches as well as notes and fragments pertaining to them. These are untitled and undated.

The State Department drafts relate to the British attack on the American steamer Caroline in 1837, to the fisheries dispute with England in 1851, and to the case of John S. Thrasher, and American being held in Cuba, 1851-1852.

The newspaper clippings are mainly reviews of Webster's speeches and reports of his political activities.

Other materials, presumably related to Abbot's secretarial duties, include receipts, inventories, lists of names and photographs. A folio contains a certificate of appointment, signed by Millard Fillmore and Daniel Webster, of George King Rogers to the U.S. Consulate in France and a chart of the square mileage of each state and territory of the United States.

Not directly related to Abbot's employment is a draft deposition (ca. 1776) by Peter Green concerning loyalist activities in the colonies.

Abbot's family is represented by a manuscript sermon of his father, Rev. Jacob Abbot (1768-1834); "A Record of the Last Days of Daniel Webster," an unpublished manuscript by Mary J. C. Throop, Abbot's daughter (b. 1842); and by school examination papers of Anna Abbot Throop, Abbot's granddaughter (b. 1869). A printed sermon, Discourse Delivered in
Windham, N.H., November 5, 1834, at the Internment of Rev. Jacob Abbotæ (Nashua, N.H.: Alfred Beard, 1835), has been transferred to the Yale Divinity Library.

The Daniel Webster materials were presumably gathered by Abbot for use in preparing the six volumes of the *Works of Daniel Webster* (Boston, 1851). Most of Edward Everett’s letters to Abbot refer to the editing and production of the *Works*. Apparently the Webster papers were also used by Mrs. Throop in preparing her manuscript.

The George Jacob Abbot Papers were given to Yale University Library by Wilkie Bushby in September 1955.

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Arrangement

Arranged in five sections: Correspondence, Writings, Photographs, Printed Matter, and Newspaper Clippings.
### Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-16</td>
<td>1811-1865 May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>17-26</td>
<td>1865 Jun-1900, no date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Drafts of Daniel Webster's Fourth of July speech</td>
<td>1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Drafts of Daniel Webster's Fourth of July speech</td>
<td>1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Drafts of Daniel Webster's Fourth of July speech</td>
<td>1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Drafts of Daniel Webster's address to the New York Historical Society</td>
<td>1852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Speeches by Daniel Webster</td>
<td>no date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Notes and drafts re: the Works of Daniel Webster</td>
<td>no date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>&quot;A Record of the Last Days of Daniel Webster&quot; by Mary J. C. Throop</td>
<td>[1899?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Drafts of U.S. Department of State papers re: the Caroline affair</td>
<td>1837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Drafts of U.S. Department of State papers re: the John S. Thrasher case</td>
<td>1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Drafts of U.S. Department of State papers re: the fisheries dispute with England</td>
<td>1852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Notes, fragments of speeches and other materials by Webster and others</td>
<td>[1850s?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Memoranda re: government, law and other matters</td>
<td>[1850s?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Lists, receipts and inventories re: Webster and Abbot</td>
<td>[1850s?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>List of names and addresses, calling cards, and envelopes</td>
<td>no date</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Photographs of Webster's birthplace and unidentified landscape</td>
<td>no date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Miscellaneous pamphlets by Daniel Webster and others</td>
<td>1834-1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Miscellaneous printed matter re: Daniel Webster</td>
<td>1850-1852</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>&quot;Sermon of my Grandfather, Rev. Jacob Abbot&quot;</td>
<td>no date</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>School examination papers and printed matter of Anna A. Throop and Mary J. C. Throop</td>
<td>1883-1900</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Peter Green's deposition re: loyalty to Great Britain</td>
<td>no date</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>47-51</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings</td>
<td>1851, 1850s, 1884, 1898, 1901</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box</td>
<td>Folder</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Date(s)</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Annotated clippings</td>
<td>no date</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Certificate of appointment, signed by Millard Fillmore and Daniel Webster,</td>
<td>1852 Feb 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>of George King Rogers to the U.S. Consulate in France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chart of the square mileage of each state and territory of the United</td>
<td>1851 Jun 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>States in 1793 and 1851</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**List of Correspondents**

Abbot, Ann T.G. (Emery) [2], 1851

Abbot George Jacob (including 10 to his wife, 4 to Edward Everitt, 102 to Emory McClintock, 3 to Mary J.C. (Abbot) Throop, 108 to U.S. Dept. of State, 4 to Daniel Webster) [247], 1842-1878

Adams, Charles Francis [1], 1893-1895, 1899, 1905

Allen, J.H. [3], 1851

Ames, C. [1], 1852

Andrews, J. DeWolf [9], 1851-1852

Appleton, William [3], 1861, n.d.

Archer, William Segar [1], 1852

Barnard, Daniel Dewey [1], 1852

Barnard, James S. [1], 1852

Barnett, John [1], 1852

Barney, John (5 tel., 1) [6], 1852

Bates, Issac C. [1], 1851

Bible Society of Washington [1], 1852

Bayly, B.S. [3], 1852

Bird, Josiah N. [1], 1852

Brooks, E. [1], 1851

Brosseau, A & Co. [1], 1865

Brown, John P. [1], 1851

Brunner, William & Co. [1], 1865

Buel, C.C. [1], 1900

Burritt, Elihu [1], 1870

Burwell, William M. [2], 1851

Cable, Joseph, 1852

Carazza, Lizzie [1], n.d.

Chandler, Joseph Ripley [1], 1850

Choate, Rufus [1], n.d.

Conrad, Charles M. [2], 1852

Cooper, James [1], 1851

Crampton, Sir John Fiens Twisleton [1], 1852

Cupid, Josephine [1], 1851

Curtis, Edward [2], 1852

Curtis, George Ticknor [3], 1852-1859

Cushing, Caleb [1], 1858

Cutts, J. Madison [2], 1851-1852

Darby, William [1], 1851

Davis, George Thomas [2], 1852, n.d.

Dayton, William L. [2], n.d.

Dexter, Franklin [1], 1850

Dix, Dorothea Lynde [1], 1887

Dorr, E. Richie [1], 1851

Dutton, Warren [1], 1830
Dudley, Thomas H. [1], 1868
Easby, William [1], 1851
Eckert, G.N. (as director of U.S. Mint) [1], 1851
Edgerton, Alfred Peck [1], 1852
Eliot, William G. [1], 1851
Ethridge, John [1], 1851
Evans, Henry G. [1], 1851,
Everett, Alexander Hill [1], 1851
Everett, Edward [20], 1851-1859
Farnham, R. [1], 1851
Felton, Cornelius Conway [3], 1852-1860
Fillmore, Millard (to Daniel Webster) [2], 1852
Foreman, E. [1], 1852
Fosdick, David [2], 1851
"Friends of Daniel Webster" [7], 1850-1851
Fuller, Hiram [6], 1814-1880
Fulton, Charles C. [1], 1851
Gaitley, Kate [1], 1886
Gales, Joseph [1], 1851
Gaston, William [1], 1820
Gilman, Arthur [1], 1889
Gooch, William B. [1], 1851
Goodrich, Samuel Griswold [1], [1852?],
Goodrich, Charles J. [1], 1852
Goodrich, Zacheus [1], 1852
Gay (or Guy), William [1], 185-?
George Washington University [1], 1851
Hale, Nathan [1], 1851
Harrington, George [2], 1851
Haskins, Nat [1], 1851
Hawley, E. [1], 1850
Hayes, Caroline L. [1], 1851
Heyer, W. Grant [1], 1852
Hunter, Louisa [1], n.d.
Hunter, William [2], 1852
Jackson, Charles [4], 1830-1839
Jewett, Charles Coffin [4], 1851
Johnson, R. [1], 1851? (or 1861?)
Kebler, John [2], 1851
Kebler, Lucy (Abbot) [1], 1851
Kelly, Samuel [1], 1851
Kenney, B.G. [4], 1851
Kent, James [1], 1830
Ketchum, Hiram [5], 1852
Kiderlin, William L.J. [1], 1852
Kimball, Richard Burleigh [1], 1852
King, Horatio [3], 1865
Kingmen, E. [1], 1852
Lander, Edward [1], 1853
Lanman, Charles [3], 1852
Laurence, A.H. [1], 1852
Lawson, C. [1], 1852
Lawson, Thomas [1], 1852
Letcher, Robert P. [1], 1851
Lester, Charles Edwards [1], 1852
Levin, Lewis C. [1], 1852
Little, Brown & Co. [1], 1852
Lord, Henry W. [2], 1865
McKean, W.V. [1], 1853
Mackie, James S. [1], 1851
Marcy, William Learned [1], n.d.
Manchester, N.Y. (Citizens of) [1], 1851
Marston, John M. [3], 1851
Mechanics' Institute, Bradford, England [1], 1865
Mitchell, Mr. & Mrs. Henry [1], 1899
Moore, George Henry [2], 1852, n.d.
Moore, Helen [1], 1850
Morgan, Lewis Henry [1], 1851
Morris, Charles [1], 1852
Morrison, Ann Theresa (Abbot) [2], 1852-1857
Morse, John M. [1], 1851
Mountfort, George [1], 1851
Mundella, Anthony John [1], 1870
Munroe, J. & Co. [1], 1851
Murray, Patrick [1], 1852
Nichols, Julia Webster (Abbot) [3], 1871-1891
Norton, Charles B. [1], 1851
Nourse, Joseph Everett [1], 1851
Noyes, Parker [1], 1852
Osgood, George [2], 1851
Peck, Cassius P. [1], 1852
Porter, E. [1], 1852
Porter, John K. [1], 1851
Powell, C.H. [1], 1851
Randall, H.K. [2], 1852
Rankin, M.M. [4], 1865
Rawson, Francis George [1], 1865
Rodice, M.E. [1], 1851
Sanborn, C.P. [1], 1851
Seward, William Henry [1], n.d.
Shattuck, W.G. [1], 1851
Skinner, Aaron Nichols [1], 1852
Smith, Samuel Abbot [1], 1851
Smith, W. Ramsden [1], 1865
Smith W. & Sons [1], 1865
Stephenson, Thomas [34], 1856-1865
Stevenson, R.M. [3], 1865
Story, Joseph [8], 1824-1840
Taylor, Frank [2], 1851
Taylor, H. [1], 1852
Thomas, Charles [1], 1851
Thrasher, John Sidney [1], 1853
Throop, Mary J.C. (Abbot) [4], 1851-1883
Totten, Joseph Gilbert [1], 1851
Ticknor, George [2], 1852
Trenton, N.J., Lawyers and Legislators [1], 1852
Train, George Francis [1], 1853
Unidentified [11], 1851-1892
U.S. Census Office [3], 1851
U.S. Department of the Interior [1] (folio), 1851
U.S. Department of State [18], 1850-1857
U.S. Department of State (Comm. to G.K. Rogers as Consul at Lyons) [1], 1852
U.S. Treasury Department [2], 1851-1865
U.S. War Department [1], 1851
U.S. Navy Department [1], 1851
Varnum, Joseph Bradley Jr. [1], 1851
Vick, Bushrod W. [2], 1852
Walsh, Charles T.? [1], 1851
Warren, G.W. [1], 1852
Webb, John F. [1], 1851
Webb, William Benning [1], 1851
Webster, Daniel (drafts & some originals including 15 to G.J. Abbot, 1851-1852, and 11 to Millard Fillmore, 1852) [104], 1811-1852
Wehrmann, L.F. [1], 1851? (or 1852?)
Wells, Israel, et.al. [1], 1852
Wetling, Christopher [1], 1852
William, J. Howard [1], 1852
Winthrop, Robert Charles [2], 1850-1859
Wood, George [1], 1851
Access Terms

Abbot, George Jacob, 1812-1879.
Everett, Edward, 1794-1865.
Fillmore, Millard, 1800-1874.
Fuller, Hiram, 1814-1880.
Jackson, Charles, 1775-1855.
Jewett, Charles Coffin, 1816-1868.
Kent, James, 1763-1847.
King, Horatio, 1811-1897.
Mellen, Prentiss, 1764-1840.
Stephenson, Thomas.
Story, Joseph, 1779-1845.
Thrasher, John Sidney, 1817-1879.
United States. Dept. of State.
Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852.
Canada--Foreign relations--United States.
Canada.
Clergy.
Cuba--Foreign relations--United States.
Diplomats.
Europe.
Fisheries--United States.
Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States.
New England.
Photoprints.
United States--Foreign relations--Canada.
United States--Foreign relations--Cuba.
United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain.
United States--Foreign relations.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
United States--Politics and government.