

# Guide to the Gove Family Papers

WA MSS S-1302



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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-1302

**CREATOR:** Gove family

**TITLE:** Gove family papers

**DATES:** 1788-1870, 1842-1859

**BULK DATES:** 1842-1859

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers contain correspondence and other papers documenting Gove family life and the experiences of Josiah E. Gove in gold rush California.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.gove>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.gove>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The papers were purchased in 1957 from Peter Decker on the William Robertson Coe Fund for Western Americana.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Gove Family Papers are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Gove Family Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Scope and Contents

The Gove Family Papers document the lives of Josiah E. Gove, a gold miner and entrepreneur in California, and his immediate Massachusetts family. The papers span the dates 1788 to 1870, but the bulk of material covers the period 1842 to 1859.

Luke and Harriet Gove, with their two children, Josiah E. and Angie, moved to Stowe, Massachusetts in 1842 to open a boarding house. In 1848 the family moved to Lowell, where Luke and Josiah actively participated in the Sons of Temperance. Josiah moved to Boston in 1849 and in 1850 sailed around Cape Horn to California on the *Edward Everett*. While in California, Josiah corresponded with his parents, sister, and cousins, H. C. Neese and O. C. Neese. He tried several business ventures, including gold mining, operating a store, and running pack mules. Josiah's cousin "French," the son of Luke's sister Betsey and John Paige, occasionally worked with him. In 1856 Josiah was elected justice of the peace for Butte County, California, but by 1859 he had experienced severe financial losses and suffered from poor health. With the financial support and encouragement of his parents, he made arrangements to return to Lowell.

Josiah's letters are concerned with his sea voyage to California, staking mining claims on the Feather River, and difficulties of starting a business. Luke Gove's correspondence focuses on his desire for Josiah to return home and on the general well-being of the family. The initiation ceremony and practices of the Sons of Temperance in Lowell are referred to in Luke's January 1848 letter to his sister Betsey Paige. Angie Gove discusses her schooling, music lessons, and social events. In O. C. Neese's 1854 letter to Josiah, she tells of her plight as an unmarried woman and the arrangements made for her to live with Luke and Harriet Gove.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence	1842-48
b. 1, f. 2	Correspondence	1849-50
b. 1, f. 3	Correspondence	1852-53
b. 1, f. 4	Correspondence	1854-55
b. 1, f. 5	Correspondence	1856-70
b. 1, f. 6	Gove, Angie	n.d.
b. 1, f. 7	Gove, Harriet	n.d.
b. 1, f. 8	Gove, H. N.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 9	Gove, Josiah E.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 10	Gove, Luke	n.d.
b. 1, f. 11	M. C. J. and "Daniel"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 12	Paige, Betsey	n.d.
b. 1, f. 13	Bills and receipts	1788-1867
b. 1, f. 14	Justice of the Peace appointment	1856
b. 1, f. 15	Miscellaneous envelopes	n.d.

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Families  
Frontier and pioneer life -- California  
Gold mines and mining -- California  
Temperance

### **Geographic Names**

Butte County (Calif.)  
California -- Gold discoveries  
California -- Social life and customs -- 19th century

### **Occupations**

Gold miners -- California

### **Names**

Gove, Josiah E.  
Gove, Luke

### **Families**

Gowen family