

# Guide to the Jeremiah Mason Papers

MS 347



September 1982

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 347

**CREATOR:** Mason, Jeremiah, 1768-1848

**TITLE:** Jeremiah Mason papers

**DATES:** 1798-1844

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

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence during his terms as Attorney General of New Hampshire (1802-1805), as a senator in the United States Senate (1813-1817), and as a representative in the New Hampshire House of Representatives (1820-1824). The correspondence also reflects his activities in private practice and in local issues, such as the Dartmouth College Case (1818-1819). The correspondence, which is largely political, reflects the issues of the times, among them Aaron Burr's activities, the Tripolitan War, the War of 1812, the presidential elections of 1816 and 1824, the embargo and the tariff. Among the correspondents are Nicholas Biddle, David Daggett, Rufus King, William Plumer, Benjamin Tappan and Bennett Tyler.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0347>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0347>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

Purchased, 1964.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Jeremiah Mason Papers (MS 347). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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### Existence and Location of Copies

Additional information not yet available in the online version of the finding aid exists in the repository. Contact Manuscripts and Archives for assistance.

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## Biographical / Historical

1782-84: Prepared for college under Nathan Tisdale of Lebanon

1784: Entered Yale College, New Haven.

1788: Graduated from Yale College.

1788-89: Read law in the office of the Hon. Simeon Baldwin in New Haven.

1789-91: Read law in the office of Gen. Stephen Row Bradley in Wetminster, VT.

1791: Admitted to the Vermont bar.

1791-94: Practiced law in Westmoreland, New Hampshire

1794-97: Practiced law in Walpole, New Hampshire

1797: Removed to Portsmouth, New Hampshire (1797-1832).

1799: Married Mary Means, 1777-1858, daughter of Colonel Robert Means of Amherst, New Hampshire.

1802: Appointed Attorney General of New Hampshire (served 1802-05)

1813: Elected as a Federalist to the United States Senate (served 1813-17)

1815: Received an honorary L.L.D. From Bowdoin College.

1816: Declined appoint as Chief Justice of New Hampshire.

1817: Resigned from the Senate; re-entered private practice; received an honorary L.L.D. From Harvard College.

1818-19: Associated with Daniel Webster and Jeremiah Smith in the Dartmouth College Case.

1820: Elected tot he New Hampshire House of Representatives (served 1820-24)

1823: Received an honorary L.L.D. from Dartmouth College.

1824: Candidate for election to the United States Senate; defeated in legislature by one vote.

1828: Chosen president and counsel for Portsmouth Branch of the Bank of the United States (served 1828-32).

1832: Moved to Boston to practice law.

1838: Retired from the active practice of law.

1848 Oct 14: Died in Boston; buried in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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## Scope and Contents

The Jeremiah Mason Papers span the years 1798-1844. The collection, although small, is an exceedingly rich one for the early years of the nineteenth century.

Family and personal matters are touched upon in the correspondence, but the bulk of the material is concerned with the political scene between 1800 and 1825. Mason's correspondence with people both in and outside of Washington kept him informed of the political climate during the administrations of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe. Of particular interest are the letters of Nicholas Biddle, President fo the Bank of the United States.

Among the topical subjects mentioned in the papers are Aaron Burr's activities, various bills before the House and Senate, the Tripolitan War, treaties, consummated or otherwise, with Great Britain and Spain, the War of 1812, the presidential elections of 1816 and 1824, the embargo, the tariff, and the Dartmouth College Case.

The Jeremiah Mason Papers were purchased in 1964.

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## Collection Contents

| Correspondence |  |
|----------------|--|
| b. 1, f. 1     | 1798-1807  |
| b. 1, f. 2     | 1814-1815  |
| b. 1, f. 3     | 1816-1817  |
| b. 1, f. 4     | 1818-1820  |
| b. 1, f. 5     | 1822-1823  |
| b. 1, f. 6     | 1824<br>English  |
| b. 1, f. 7     | 1826-1827  |
| b. 1, f. 8     | 1828<br>English  |
| b. 1, f. 9     | 1829<br>English  |
| b. 1, f. 10    | 1832-1844  |
| b. 1, f. 11    | Typewritten extract from the autobiography of Jeremiah Mason |

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## 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

Elections -- United States  
Lawyers

### Geographic Names

United States -- Foreign relations  
United States -- History -- Tripolitan War,  
1801-1805  
United States -- History -- War of 1812  
United States -- Politics and government  
United States -- Politics and government -- 19th  
century

### Occupations

Politicians

### Names

Austin, James Trecothick, 1784-1870  
Biddle, Nicholas, 1786-1844  
Burr, Aaron, 1756-1836  
Chauncey, Charles, 1777-1849  
Daggett, David, 1764-1851  
Evans, Estwick, 1787-1866  
Havens, Nathaniel Appleton, 1762-1831  
King, Rufus, 1755-1827  
Lawrence, Amos, 1786-1852  
Loring, Charles G. (Charles Greely), 1794-1867  
Marsh, Charles, 1765-1849  
Mason, Jeremiah, 1768-1848  
Parrott, John Fabyan, 1767-1836  
Plumer, William, 1759-1850  
Sharp, Daniel, 1783-1853  
Smith, Jeremiah, 1759-1842  
Tappan, Benjamin, 1773-1857  
Thompson, Thomas W., 1766-1821  
Tudor, William, 1779-1830  
Tyler, Bennet, 1783-1858  
Williams, John, 1778-1837

### Corporate Body

Dartmouth College -- History