

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the Webster Family Correspondence

Summary Information

Repository

Albany Institute of History & Art Library

Creator

unidentified

Title

Webster Family Correspondence

Identifier

MG 239

Date

1798-1838

Physical Description

1 box

Physical Location

The materials are located onsite in the Museum.

Language of the Material

English

Abstract

This collection contains correspondence addressed to Charles R. Webster, and his twin brother, George Webster, printers and founders of the Albany Gazette. The collection also contains letters written by their children and other family members, as well as fifty letters either addressed to or written by the son of Charles R. Webster, Matthew H. Webster, who served as Chairman of the Albany Institute.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Webster Family Correspondence, 1798-1838, MG 239. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, Albany, New York.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions on Access

None

Copyright

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession: # unidentified

Accession Source/Date: unidentified

Processing Information

Processed by C. Lynch, November 2014; finding aid updated by H. Cox, August 2021.

Biographical/Historical

Charles R. Webster (1762-1834) and his twin brother, George Webster (1762-1823) were founders of the Charles R. and George Webster & Co. The brothers, who were born in Hartford Connecticut, became powerful figures in the printing and publishing business in Albany by resurrecting the out-of-print Albany Gazette in 1784, as well as participating in several lesser known printing ventures. By 1790, the brothers' printing firm was Albany's leading publisher, and Charles was extremely active in Albany community affairs: He was a founder and vice president of the Albany Mechanics Society which

formed in 1793. He was also involved in the Albany Library, a member of the first Presbyterian Church, and a well-known Federalist.

The first folder in this collection contains a number of letters addressed to both Charles R. Webster and George Webster. These letters deal mainly with their business affairs, with some dealing with familial affairs.

The second folder contains letters written by members of Charles R. Webster's family including his wife and children. These letters deal mainly with the family's travels and personal affairs.

The letters in the third folder of this collection are mainly addressed to Matthew H. Webster, excepting the few written by Matthew himself and his brothers. Matthew H. Webster (1816-1893) was the son of Charles R. Webster. Matthew served as Chairman of the Albany Institute, and was also involved in the formation of a meteorological society in Albany. The letters addressed to Matthew cover a range of subjects from the Albany Institute, his business affairs, his involvement in a meteorological society, and his involvement in his father's estate.

Scope and Contents

[This collection is contained in one box containing three folders. The first folder contains 21 letters addressed to either Charles R. Webster (1762-1834), George Webster (1762-1823), or both. The second folder contains 7 letters written by other members of the Webster families, including siblings and children of Charles R. Webster and George Webster. The third folder contains 50 letters addressed to Matthew H. Webster, son of Charles R. Webster and Chairman of the Albany Institute. The letters are organized chronologically in each folder.

Contents List

The following section contains a listing of the materials in the collection.

| Description | Box | Folder |
|--|-----|--------|
| Letters to Charles R. Webster and George Webster | 1 | 1 |
| Letters of Charles R. Webster's Family | | 2 |
| Letters to Matthew H. Webster | | 3 |