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Brinley Family Papers

1643-2005 (*Bulk*: 1703-1889)

(4.75 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 161



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A prosperous family of merchants and landowners, the Brinleys were well ensconced among the social and political elite of colonial New England. Connected by marriage to other elite families in Rhode Island and Massachusetts -- the Auchmutys,

Craddocks, and Tyngs among them -- the Brinleys were refined, highly educated, public spirited, and most often business-minded. Although many members of the family remained loyal to the British cause during the Revolution, the family retained their high social standing in the years following.

The Brinley collection includes business letters, legal and business records, wills, a fragment of a diary, documents relating to slaves, newspaper clippings, and a small number of paintings and artifacts. A descendent, Nancy Brinley, contributed a quantity of genealogical research notes and photocopies of Brinley family documents from other repositories. Of particular note in the collection is a fine nineteenth century copy of a John Smibert portrait of Deborah Brinley (1719), an elegant silver salver passed through the generations, and is a 1713 list of the library of Francis Brinley, which offers a foreshadowing of the remarkable book collection put together in the later nineteenth century by his descendant George Brinley.

See similar SCUA collections:

Connecticut

Family

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Background on Creator:

Englishmen and colonial Americans, Loyalists and Patriots, colonial Canadians and American citizens, the members of the Brinley family were a diverse group of characters, ranging from auditors to officers, businessmen, lawyers, legislators, book-collectors, historians, aristocratic ladies and housewives, devoted mothers, husbands, and fathers. A few were slave-holders. Yet through decades of tumultuous social and political change, the family maintained certain distinctive traits and traditions, clinging most notably to their strong ties to England and to the status quo at home. The Brinleys were wealthy, business-minded members of the colonial elite, profoundly Protestant, and most were highly educated and steeped in knowledge. Many became prominent public figures and many more served their respective nations in uniform.

The roots of the Brinley family extend back to England, where the common ancestor of the North American branch of the family, Thomas Brinley, served as Auditor of the Revenue for James I and Charles I. When Thomas' son Francis emigrated to Newport, Rhode Island, in the mid-seventeenth century, the family's wealth and prestige were transplanted with him, and many of the Brinleys or their relatives, such as the Auchmutys or Tyngs, rose to public office or wielded a sword under the colonial government, serving as judges or military officers from the time of King Philip's War to the French and Indian War.

Like many of their fellow colonists, the pre-Revolutionary Brinleys were also profoundly religious. Thomas Brinley helped found King's Chapel in Boston, and its cemetery bears the remains of many of his ancestors and descendants. The Brinleys wrote prayers and religious poetry, raised their children with Protestant ideals, purchased pews, and spared no expense in the education of their children, putting almost all of their sons through Harvard. Great education fostered even greater wealth, and under British rule, the family enjoyed great economic success. Thomas Brinley of Boston was a well-to-do merchant, as was his grandson, Edward. Colonel Francis Brinley opened a prosperous farm in Framingham, bequeathing it to his son Nathaniel. As the colonies grew in size and population, the Brinley's sold off parts of their extensive land-holdings, adding further to their wealth, and marriages with elite mercantile and landowning families such as the Malbones and Craddocks only strengthened their social standing.

Personal prosperity and public service forged a strong British identity in most of the pre-Revolution Brinleys, and with the onset of the American Revolution, they were often seen as patriots of a different feather, suffering accordingly for their loyalty. Brinleys were prominent among the Loyalists who petitioned Governor Thomas Hutchinson and General Thomas Gage, and when the fortunes of the empire turned, some fled to England or Nova Scotia, while others were imprisoned. At home, the Brinleys suffered the confiscation and sale of their properties, with little recompense.



Deborah and Francis Brinley, portrait by Charles U. Bond (ca.1830) after John Smibert (1729)

Despite the hardships, the Brinleys who fled were graciously reabsorbed back into English and colonial Canadian society, while those who remained in America recovered their pre-war standing, even while remaining in contact with relatives overseas. In the new United States, the Brinleys continued as their ancestors had, enjoying the wealth and business opportunities afforded them by their religious affiliations, political offices, law practices, Harvard education, and military service. One Brinley became active in political circles in Boston, another assembled one of the grandest private libraries in 19th century America, and yet another served under Secretary of State Daniel Webster. This last Brinley, Francis Brinley, Jr., also continued the grand procession of Brinleys in uniform, serving three times as commander of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

Through the devastation of revolution and Civil War and transplantation from continent to continent, the members of the Brinley family kept alive a distinctive Brinley identity. This fact was not lost upon them, as one particular trait extends through three centuries: the need for Brinleys to know their ancestors. Perhaps George Brinley spoke for all of his family when he wrote: "There is an instinctive impulse in the breast of every human being, which prompts us to inquire not about ourselves... but to trace past generations, examine the family ties, and to ascertain from what nation we sprung, and whether our Forefathers held a distinguished rank in society, or were doomed through ages to enjoy a mediocrity."

Scope of collection

The Brinley collection documents the changing fortunes of a wealthy, educated, and prosperous Anglo-American family from the early eighteenth through the late nineteenth century, and their genealogical interests since. Though varied in scope, the collection offers a valuable reflection on social status in America, from the enjoyment of ties to the highest elite during the colonial period to the sufferings of upper-class Loyalist, and the lifestyle and career choices of wealthy Americans during the nineteenth century. The collection is divided into four series:



Brinley salver, ca.1741

Series 1. Original manuscripts and documents

Series 2. Copies from other repositories

Series 3. Genealogical material

Series 4. Art and Artifacts.

The papers of the colonial-era Brinleys speak of finances and conveyances, and are a great source of insight into entrepreneurship and land transactions in early America, with some information on the Brinleys in the British colonial establishment. Among the highlights are a remarkable folio list of the extensive personal library of Francis Brinley of Newport, 1713, which included dozens of standard works on law and imperial ambitions along with dozens more from the most radical religious sects of the day -- Familists, Ranters, Seekers, and Diggers among them. Religious records and poetry offers glimpses into the minds, hearts, and day to day lives of the privileged stratum in New England, and particularly the life of Colonel Francis Brinley.

The colonial records come to an end with the shot heard round the world, when the American Revolution wreaked havoc on the fortunes and fate of the Brinley family. Although the collection does not document their emotional duress, it does chronicle the extensive damage to their purses, and can be useful in understanding the impact of the Revolution on landed Loyalists. A number of letters in the collection were written by expatriate Brinleys seeking help from their relatives in the new United States in reclaiming their abandoned (or confiscated) American property.

The other side of the Loyalist story is covered by collateral relatives, the Putnams, whose most prominent representative was Major-General Israel Putnam, a hero of the Battle of Bunker Hill. The collection includes a copy of the sermon given at Putnam's funeral, as well as publications by Putnam's son Daniel in 1818 defending Putnam's role at Bunker Hill, and responding to Major-General Henry Dearborn's self-serving history of the battle.

The papers of the next generation of Brinleys describe their lives in the early Republic, as well as the lives of those family members who returned to England or resettled in what is now Canada. These items speak of the strength of family bonds even as political realities rent the family apart. Like their predecessors, the papers of this generation demonstrate moneyed interests, but they also betray a shift into more political thinking. Francis Brinley, Sr., was especially excited about politics, writing newspaper editors on everything from body snatchers to slavery, canals, and the price of milk. His documents are a fine source on the politics of early republican America in general and of the city of Boston in particular. Also notable are several detailed letters concerning the education of Francis, Jr., both before and during his attendance at Harvard, which have much to say about

university education in the early nineteenth century; Robert Brinley's passport to France under the Directory; a copy of *The Newport Herald*, ripe with details of the world in the year in 1788; and the arithmetic book of George Brinley, useful in understanding the history of education in America during the early Federalist period.

The generation that came of age in the mid-to-late nineteenth century, is represented by letters of Francis "Frank" Brinley, Jr., and of George Brinley the book collector, two upper-class men who led very different lives. Frank, like his father, was a public figure who served in several political and military offices. His papers represent, in many ways, the highest ideals of New England society at this time, building a life around erudition and service. Frank's cousin George was more of a private man, and one of the great book collectors of his time. While both cousins took an interest in history, they pursued their interests in different ways: while Frank led and contributed to several historical societies, George gathered an immense personal library, but reportedly allowed only one other person access to it. Almost all of the materials in the collection pertaining to George deal with the auction of that library after his death, and may be useful to the researcher interested in book-collecting and in American library history. An autobiography of George Brinley, Sr., is of particular value.

In addition to the Brinleys, four other branches of the family are substantially represented in the collection: the Auchmuty, Cradock, Tyng, and Putnam families. A few letters from a member of the Malbone family are also included. Married to Brinleys, all of these families seem to have had common business and political interests.

The Brinley collection also includes some miscellaneous materials, in which the connection to the Brinleys is unclear. There are letters, business, papers, songs and poems, and newspaper clippings. Some of the names appearing here are Blake, Bowers, Moore, Murphy, and White. Notable items include a certificate of service for Isaac Bowers in the War of 1812 and a certificate from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Finally, the collection also contains a wealth of Brinley family genealogical research notes assembled primarily by Nancy Brinley. These materials include copies of Brinley family documents held at other repositories, publications, notes and correspondence. Photographs and art work representing family members literally bring the Brinleys to life as do treasured family objects such as a George II silver salver and fish knife, which were passed down the generations and a large punch bowl.

Series descriptions

Series 1. Original Manuscripts and Documents

1643-1940 (*bulk*1700-1900)

0.5 linear feet

Original letters and documents relating to the Brinley family and collateral relatives. The series is organized by family, and then by writer and generation, in roughly chronological order. Although there is some correspondence among family members, particularly during the later generations, the collection includes a good number of legal documents, obituaries, clippings, and other miscellaneous material.

Series 2. Copies from Other Repositories

1690-1900

0.5 linear feet

Photocopies of letters and documents held in other repositories, most of which were collected by Nancy Brinley in the course of genealogical research. The series is focused primarily on Daniel Putnam and the Malbone family, with a few items relating to Francis Brinley.

Series 3. Genealogy

1911-2005 (*bulk*1983-1992)

2.75 linear feet

Genealogical notes and correspondence, mostly by Nancy Brinley, relating to the history of the Brinley and Malbone families, and particularly early generations of the American family (e.g. Col. Francis Brinley).

Series 4. Art and Artifacts

1741-2005

Paintings and photographic portraits of several members of the Brinley family, along with two intriguing pieces of eighteenth-century silver owned by the family. Noteworthy are an early nineteenth century copy by Charles U. Bond of a 1729 John Smibert portrait featuring Deborah Lyde Brinley and her infant son Francis, and a silver salver from 1741, which descended from generation to generation in the family.

Inventory

Series 1. Original Manuscripts and Documents

1643-1940

Brinley family

1643-1940

Brinley, Thomas

1643

Thomas Brinley (1591-1661) the Auditor was the common origin for the Brinleys in England. An Esquire and an Auditor of the Revenue for two English kings, Thomas was an esteemed and landed member of English society, though his strong allegiance with Charles I and II led to a four year exile. Nevertheless, he returned to England in 1660. His will provided his eldest son Francis with tenements in the town of Newcastle upon Tyne, and two-thirds of his manor in Wakerfield. Buried in the church at the town of Datchett in Buckinghamshire, his tomb inscription read:

Here lieth the body of Thomas Brinley, Esq., who was one of the auditors of the Revenue of King Charles the First and of King Charles II. Born in the City of Exeter. He married Anne, youngest daughter of Wm Ware of Petworth, in Sussex, gent., who had issue by her five sons and seven daughters. He dyed the 15th day of October in the year of our Lord 1661.

An Abstract of Mr. Brinley's Title to Lands at Horton, Co. Bucks and Stanwell, Co. Midsx.

1643 Nov 25

Box 1: 1

Brinley, Francis

1699-1883

Francis Brinley (1632-1719), though the seventh child of Thomas Brinley and Ann Wase, was born Thomas's inheritor after his older brother Richard died young. Despite receiving generous lands from his father in England, Francis Brinley left his homeland for the New World. He emigrated first to Barbados and then to Rhode Island, arriving there by 1652. He acquired considerable property in Boston and in Newport, Rhode Island, and married Hannah Carr in 1657. A man well-esteemed in colonial society, Francis served as a judge in the Court of Common Pleas in Rhode Island. In addition, he collected books, and by 1713 his library had over 200 works, a good number for a colonial library. His son Thomas Brinley of Boston (1661-c.1693), was a prominent merchant in the city and a founder of King's Chapel, and when Francis died in 1719, he elected to be buried in the church's graveyard. Two of Francis' grandchildren appear in the collection, Colonel Francis Brinley and Elizabeth Brinley Hutchinson.

Deed for land purchased by Francis Brinley

1699 Apr

Map case 4

Power of attorney, signed

1699 Nov 6

Box 1: 2

An Accot: Taken of my Bookes Fr Brinley March 27:th 1713

1713 Mar 27

Map case 4:

Waters, Henry: "Genealogical Gleanings in England"

1883 Oct

Box 1: 2

Inventory of Francis Brinley's Library

undated

Box 1: 2

Brinley, Francis, Colonel

1693-1768

Colonel Francis Brinley (1690-1765) was born in England the son of Thomas Brinley of Boston and the grandson of Francis Brinley of Newport. In 1710 he came to Newport, Rhode Island, with his siblings and widowed mother to live with his grandfather, and became his grandfather's heir. In 1718 he married Deborah Lyde, and sometime after the elder Brinley's death the next year, Francis moved the family to Roxbury, Massachusetts and built a house modeled after the family's ancestral home at Datchett, England. From there he managed his considerable estates and his farm in Framingham, Massachusetts, which employed, clothed and fed many workers (including some slaves), and churned out profits through Indian corn and cheese especially. Despite these successes, Francis struggled with alcoholism for a great part of his early life, though he appeared to have finally overcome it by 1738. During this period he was also Colonel of the Roxbury militia and filled the office of deputy surveyor-general of Massachusetts.

In the wintry month of 1748 the Colonel narrowly escaped death in an accident while crossing the ferry to Newport; it was a dangerous time in colonial New England, and as Colonel of the Roxbury militia, Brinley was one of its guardians. A few weeks after Major George Washington's Battle of the Great Meadows in modern-day Pennsylvania sparked the beginning of the French and Indian War, he wrote to the Governor of Massachusetts, William Shirley, furious over disorder in the ranks.

Doubtless he maintained correspondence with the Governor and may have even contributed to Shirley's northern expedition against French holdings in modern-day upstate New York in 1755. He was a deeply pious man, as evidenced from his written prayer (A Prayer for the Morning) and his dues for his pew-seat in King's Chapel, and he also maintained strong ties with England (he includes the King of England in his morning prayer). He also had an interest in poetry, and he turned to it as a vehicle for his grief when his wife, Deborah Lyde Brinley, perished on March 15th, 1761. Through his lines we see the shape of a man trying to reconcile human grief with his faith in a Christian heaven:

Transcendent Bliss without alloy, Vertue's reward Angellick joy. Then why should I mourn or complain, Seeing my loss to her is Gain.

The last few years of his life, as gathered from the few scraps of his diaries, show a leisurely life of paying workers, buying supplies, calculating business figures, relaxing at home, going to Church, and paying visits to friends. It was during this tranquil time of life that his grandson Thomas Brinley died two days after Christmas of an unknown illness in the winter of 1764. Thomas' grandfather died the next year. He and his wife Deborah Lyde Brinley had many children, including Deborah Brinley Murray, Catherine Brinley, Thomas Brinley, Francis Brinley, Jr., Edward Brinley, Nathaniel Brinley, Francis William Brinley, George Brinley, and Elizabeth Brinley.

Mortgage of John Barne's property to Francis Brinley

1733 Jan-June

Box 1: 3

Miss Sarah Hutchinson's account

1736

Box 1: 3

Indenture, Boston

1740 Aug 1

Box 1: 3

Account book (fragment)

1742 Mar 10

Box 1: 3

A Ruff Computation of the Charges of my Farme at Framingham and what it may Produce if rightly Conducted, by Francis Brinley

1742 Mar 26

Box 1: 3

Indenture

1745 Oct 25

Box 1: 3

To The Honble Francis Brinley Esqr. Surveyr Genll of his Majesty's Customs at Boston, from Jos. Hull in North London

1748 Jan 3

Box 1: 3

Note of Receipt settling John Dun's Account, Framingham

1752 Oct

Box 1: 3

To His Excell:y Coll: Shirley

1754 July 30

Box 1: 3

Letter to Colonel Shirley (fragment)

undated

Box 1: 3

Memo: Feb:y 4th: 1760 Minnits on the Affair of Framingham Commons

1760 Feb 4

Box 1: 3

Poetry of Francis Brinley on the occasion of his wife's death, transcribed by Harvard Francis Brinley's hand, and the originals bearing the date of March 15th, 1761.

1881 Jan 24

Box 1: 3

Memo: May 10th, 1763

1763 May 10

Box 1: 3

Diary (fragment)

1763 Oct

Box 1: 3

Diary (fragment)

1964 Dec

Box 1: 3

Assessment of Col. Francis Brinley's Pew at King's Chapel

1765-1766

Box 1: 3

Assessment of Col. Francis Brinley's Pew, decd at King's Chapel

1767-1768

Box 1: 3

Conveyances of Francis Brinley

ca.1769

Box 1: 3

Lists conveyances of land to Francis Brinley during the period 1693 to 1769.

Signature of Francis Brinley

undated

3 copies

Box 1: 3

Letter (fragment)

undated

Box 1: 3

Letter to Messrs: Samll: & Wm Baker (fragment)

undated

Box 1: 3

Francis Brinley: A Prayer for the Morning

undated

Box 1: 3

Hutchinson, Elizabeth Brinley

1703-1707

Elizabeth Brinley Hutchinson was a daughter of Thomas Brinley of Boston and a sister of Colonel Francis Brinley. Born in England, she emigrated to America and married William Hutchinson. In November of 1707, a certain Benjamin Newberry wrote his daughter that "Francis Brinley's Grandaughter has bine published in the Church 3 times to Young Hutchinson, Suppose are or will be Married Suddenly they Intend a very private wedding"

Elizabeth and William had three sons: Eliakim, Shrimpton, and Francis, who would latter graduate from Harvard College in 1736.

Letter with autograph, Halifax (fragment)

1702 Sept 27

Box 1: 4

Benja Newberry to Anne Richardson, Newport

1707 Nov 7

Box 1: 4

Hutchinson family

1703-1786

Not much is known about the Hutchinson family, except that Elisha Hutchinson was a citizen of Boston who sued Thomas Aives for squatting on his land in Naggaransett Country in early 1704. According to Professor Richard S. Dunn, Narragansett Country was a "tract of roughly four hundred square miles which now comprises the southwestern third of the state of Rhode Island. Because of the Indians who lived there, and the rocky and marshy terrain, it was one of the last sections of the New England seaboard to be occupied by the English." Shrimpton Hutchinson was a son of Elizabeth Brinley Hutchinson.

History of a suite by Elisha Hutchinson of Boston and John Saffin of Bristoll, Esqrs, against Thomas Aives of the Narraganst Country in Kingstown, written in Halifax.

ca.1703

Box 1: 5

Hutchinson, Thomas: Business note to Mrs. Marry Wardell

1735 Apr

Box 1: 5

Letter with Francis Hutchinson's autograph, Boston (fragment)

1746 Jan 7

Box 1: 5

Letter from Shrimpton Hutchinson, Boston (fragment)

1786

Box 1: 5

Letter with Shrimpton Hutchinson's autograph (fragment)

undated

Box 1: 5

Lyde, Edward

1775

Edward Lyde was a Boston Loyalist who was banished after the war. In September of 1775, three months after the Battle of Bunker Hill, Lyde wrote to his cousin M:rs Mary Gerrish about agricultural affairs. He has an unknown relationship to the family, but may be related to Deborah Lyde Brinley, the wife of Colonel Francis Brinley.

To Mrs Mary Gerrish, to the of Buffield Lyde, Esqr, & Cap.t Goddard Boston.

1775 Sept 15

Box 1: 6

Murray, Deborah Brinley

1762-1794

Deborah Brinley was the first daughter of Colonel Francis Brinley and his wife, Deborah Lyde. She married a British colonel named John Murray and together they retreated to Nova Scotia during the American Revolution. Not long after the war, at a time when the new United States Government was seizing and selling Loyalists properties, the Murrays turned to their American relatives for help in receiving a fair share of Deborah's inheritance. In February of 1794, in New Brunswick, the Murrays made Deborah's American brothers Edward and Nathaniel Brinley their lawyers to "Tell and Convey the most they can Get for the Same One Undivided ninth part of all the lands holder by her said late Father deceased."

Signed witness of debt paid

1762 Nov 29

Box 1: 7

Power of Attorney, Saint John, New Brunswick

1794 Feb 1

Box 1: 7

Murray, Thomas

1794

Thomas Murray was the son of Deborah Brinley Murray and John Murray. When his father died in August of 1794, Thomas shouldered the responsibility for his mother's property in America. At the end of September he wrote Edward and Nathaniel Brinley that he had found "a witness to the due execution of the power so that an assidavit made by him before a Juge of your Supreme Court will I suppose be sufficent to prove that the necess:ary requisites of signing sealing and delivery were actually performed by my mother."

To Mr. Edward & Nath.l Brinley, from Thomas Murray, St. John, New Brunswick.

1794 Sept 26

Box 1: 8

Brinley, Francis, Jr.

1749-1797

Francis Brinley, Jr. (1729-1816) was born in 1729 as the second son of Colonel Francis Brinley and Deborah Brinley. In a 1749 letter to an unknown recipient in Newport, Francis writes of the tediousness of riding home to Boston alone. In November of 1754 he was married to Aleph Malbone, daughter of the Honorable Godfrey Malbone.

A copy of a fall, 1788 *Newport Herald* newspaper is included in his folder and reveals the world of Francis Brinley, Jr. Together with an ad posted by Francis Brinley and John Malbone announcing the sale of his father-in-law's 800-acre property on Prudence Island in Narragansett Bay, are articles announcing "inoculation for the Small Pox," as well as a hair-raising account of Greek piracy in the Ionian sea, and a translation of a letter of Nuncomar, an Indian official executed for forgery, a controversial decision known throughout the English-speaking world.

In addition, Francis Brinley, Jr.'s three letters, one written when he was twenty, the other unknown, and the last in 1797, display a great evolution of penmanship in the 18th century, vividly reflecting the changing styles of the period.

Letter to an unkown recipient, Boston

1749 Mar 19

Box 1: 9

The Newport Herald, Volume II, Numb. 86

1788 Oct 16

Box 1: 9

Letter to Nathaniel Brinley at Boston, Newport

1797 Apr 22

Box 1: 9

Letter to one of Francis' brothers

undated

Box 1: 9

Brinley, Edward

1752-1785

Edward Brinley (1730-1809) was the third son of Colonel Francis Brinley. He was a Boston merchant, who, for a time, worked with his brother-in-law, Godfrey Malbone. In March of 1762, he married Sarah Tyler and by her had seven children, including Sarah Jones, William, Edward, Thomas, Francis Brinley, Sr., and George Brinley. Two years after the Treaty of Paris ended the American Revolution, Edward wrote his brother Thomas Brinley, who had fled to London, asking for the exact price of their father's house in Roxbury that the Legislature could sell it. Edward died in 1809, and joined his ancestors in King's Chapel Burying Ground.

To Godfrey Malbone junr. Esqr. In Newport from Boston

1752 Jan 18

Box 1: 10

To Mr Thomas Brinley, London

1785 July 10

Box 1: 10

Brinley, Nathaniel

1767-1808

Nathaniel (1733-1814), the fourth son of Colonel Francis Brinley, grew up in Roxbury and was a Boston native. On April 17th, 1770 Nathaniel married his cousin and the daughter of George Craddock, Catherine Craddock, whom he affectionately referred to as "Caty" in his letters. The couple had only one son, Robert. Nathaniel ran the family farm in Framingham, where he employed at least fifteen black workers, possibly slaves. It is also reported that Daniel Shays, the leader of the 1786 rebellion, worked on the Brinley farm.

As tensions between American patriots and their British governors grew to mammoth proportions, it was clear to all where Nathaniel's loyalties lay; in 1774 he signed an address of welcome to General Thomas Gage when the latter arrived from abroad to manage the ruly colony. Just before the battles of Lexington and Concord in April 1775, he moved his family to Boston and to the protection of the British army. When it finally abandoned Boston on March 17th, 1776, Nathaniel found himself in jail, but a court of inquiry returned him to Framingham under bond of good behavior. The local committee of correspondence later charged him with disloyal speeches and consorting with traitors. In defense, Brinley reportedly said only, "I am a gentleman, and have done nothing to forfeit that character."

Despite the uncertain economic situation, he retained at least some of his wealth. In 1779, with the hurricane of revolution moving South, Brinley bought the Tyng/Winslow estate in Dunstable, later Tyngsborough, Massachusetts. That same year he purchased a "Negro Man named Cuff" for "Forty Ponds Sterling money of Great Britain" from William Hutchinson, the husband of Elizabeth Brinley Hutchinson. But Nathaniel Brinley and his Framingham farm were not free from financial burdens. In the early summer of 1789, he wrote his sister in Brooklyn that she might "know the true situation of the Mills which we think is very unfortunate indeed."

In 1808, one year after the death of his wife, he sent locks of hair to an unknown recipient after another barrage of deaths: "Inclosed are Locks of my Brother ... Brinley's & his Son Tommy's Hair---Also my most dearly beloved Son Tommy's Hair. Also sundey paper relative to my Brother Toms death &c" Nathaniel met his own end on February 10th, 1814.

Settlement of wages at Framingham from Nath Brinley to Patrick and "His Shay Merk"

1767 Nov 10

Box 1: 11

Wm Hutchinson's receipt on the sale of a slave to Nathaniel Brinley

1779

Box 1: 11

Letter to Elizabeth Brinley in Brooklyn

1789 June 10

Box 1: 11

Letter to Robert Brinley in London regarding his visit to America

1796 Dec 22

Box 1: 11

Letter with Nath Brinley's autograph (fragment)

1808 June

Box 1: 11

Letter with autograph, Nath Brinley (fragment)

undated

Box 1: 11

Genealogical list

undated

Box 1: 11

Brinley, Catherine Cradock

ca.1784

Catherine Cradock Brinley was the wife of Nathaniel Brinley. She is represented by a single item in the collection, a letter to her son, Robert Brinley. In it she reveals her desire that he be well educated, as well as her willingness to sacrifice the pleasure of seeing him so that he can attend a good school.

Brinley, Catherine Cradock: Letter to Robert Brinley

ca.1784

Box 1: 12

Brinley, Robert

1796-1846

Robert Brinley (b. 1774) was the son of Nathaniel Brinley and Catherine Cradock Brinley. In 1802, he married Elizabeth Pitts Brinley, and he lived with his wife Elizabeth in the town of Tyngsborough, Co. Middlesex, Massachusetts. Robert appears to have been closely associated with business, possibly James Lloyd and Company, though it is not exactly clear. In 1796, shortly after the establishment of the French Directoire (Directory), he traveled to France, and his passport described him as being in his twenties, about five feet, four inches, with chestnut hair, blue eyes, and an ordinary nose.

In 1818 he sold fifty acres of land in Winthrop, Co. Kennebec, Mass. to William Thornton for \$125 dollars. Twenty-eight years later he donated four volumes to the Public Library of Harvard University, the receipt of which was signed by Harvard's president, Edward Everett, who would be called upon to deliver the main address at the dedication ceremony for Gettysburg National Cemetery in 1863. After a two hour oration by Everett, President Lincoln stood to offer a few remarks.

One last document in the Robert Brinley collection is an undated advertisement proclaiming the "let" of "a large House, admirably situated for a first class Boarding School...." It even includes a little illustration.

Passport for trip to France

1796

Box 1: 13

Transaction of business from the James Lyold and Company, signed by Robt Brinley, Boston

1797 May 18

Box 1: 13

Deed of Conveyance to William Thornton

1818 Dec

Box 1: 13

Receipt of a donation to Harvard University's Public Library, Cambridge

1846 May 1

Box 1: 13

Newspaper advertisement for the "Let" of "a large House."

undated

Box 1: 13

Brinley, Elizabeth Pitts

1834

Elizabeth Pitts Brinley was the wife of Robert Brinley. The couple had only one son, named Nathaniel Brinley. An 1834 letter from Nathaniel Lawrence reveals that Elizabeth came from a distinguished family of Tyngs, including Elizabeth's grandfather, whom Lawrence calls, "Judge Tyng."

Letter to Mrs. Elizabeth Brinley from Nathaniel Lawrence

1834 Apr 7

Box 1: 14

Brinley, Thomas

1783

Thomas Brinley (1726-1784), another son of Colonel Francis Brinley, was born in 1726. He graduated from Harvard in 1744 and established himself as a merchant and distiller in Boston. He married Elizabeth Craddock Brinley, daughter of George Craddock; there were no children.

As tensions between colonists and English government began to boil over, he signed loyal addresses to both Governor Thomas Hutchinson and to General Gage. Like many Northeastern Loyalists, Brinley and his wife fled in March of 1776, first to Nova Scotia, and then to England. He was officially banished by the new American government and his property forfeited in 1781. What followed was a long attempt at retrieving the value of his property, and his Memorandum of the certificates to be procured by me provides a glimpse into that process.

One year before his death, he wrote his brother George about family finances, including the sale of his home in America and the settling of their father's estate. In addition, the letter discusses the settling of a balance of £16, 15 shillings for Scipio, a slave whom Thomas writes as of being purchased by George, though a volume of Boston Marriages notes the marriage of a "Scipio, svt. of Edward Brinley, Roxbury, & Judy Oliver, free negro" on February 16th, 1769. Thomas died at the age of fifty-eight in 1784.

Letter to George Brinley, London

1783 Feb 21

Box 1: 15

A Memorandum of the certificates to be procured by me
undated

Box 1: 15

Brinley, Elizabeth Craddock

1790-1791

Elizabeth Craddock Brinley was the wife of Thomas Brinley, and together they lived in London after fleeing the American Revolution. After her husband died in 1784, Elizabeth applied to the commission adjusting Loyalist claims to American property. She claimed 2500 pounds and was awarded 803 pounds. In 1791, one year after the death of her sister (who died without a will), she composed her own. In it, she gives all that she owns to George Lyde and to her nephew Wentworth Brinley.

Letter to her sister Catherine

ca.1790 June

Box 1: 16

Copy of the Will of Mrs. Elizabeth Brinley dated 14.th June 1791

1791 June 14

Box 1: 16

Brinley, George

1784

The birthdate of George Brinley (d. 1809), another son of Colonel Francis Brinley, is unknown. Like his brother Thomas, he became a merchant in Boston. He also signed the addresses to Hutchinson and Gage, leading to banishment in 1778. He fled first to Nova Scotia and then to England. There he served as Deputy Commissary General. In 1779 he returned to Nova Scotia as Commissary General of British forces in America. Brinley died there in 1809.

To Nat Brinley, Halifax

1784 Feb 11

Box 1: 17

Brinley, William

1795

The son of Francis William Brinley and a grandson of Colonel Francis Brinley, William was an officer in the British Army. In 1784, he wrote his uncle Nathaniel Brinley in Boston for he was "anxious to have Ticket in the Lottery or your Country..." He died in Halifax.

To Mr. Nathaniel Brinley, Boston

1795 Feb 28

Box 1: 18

Brinley, Wentworth

1799

Wentworth Brinley was a son of Francis William Brinley and a brother of William Brinley. He was a Barrister in London associated with Lincolns Inn, an ancient Inn of Court in the city. In August of 1797 he wrote his cousin Robert Brinley about financial matters, and the letter shows that the Brinley family is still very much financially intertwined. Wentworth also writes of his pleasure "to hear of your having had so pleasant a voyage after you sailed from the Channel..." It was a reference perhaps to Robert's return trip from France. On the latter topic he adds a casual line about international diplomacy: "I am sorry to find that the difference between the United States & France is stile unadjusted." France and the United States would fight an undeclared naval war the next year. Wentworth would die childless in London.

To Mr. Robert Brinley, Boston Massachusetts

1799 Aug 3

Box 1: 19

Hazen, Deborah Brinley

1782-1853

Deborah Brinley Hazen was a cousin of Robert Brinley'S. Her remaining letters show a marked attempt to keep in contact with her relatives, a pattern represented in her three temporally-diverse letters. The first, written in 1782 to her uncle Nathaniel Brinley, the second, to Robert Brinley in 1822 (in which she writes of her "extreme dislike to ship-board will I fear prevent my ever seeing any of my dear relations in N. England, but I shall always preserve for them the most sincere friendship & affection"), and in 1853 she writes from New York City to an unidentified relative enquiring information about their family. She also mentions that she met with George Brinley, Senior in St. John five years before, but has not heard from the correspondee's family since then.

Letter to Mr. Nathaniel Brinley, Boston

1782 June 27

Box 1: 20

My dear Cousin, letter to Robert Brinley Esqr

1822 Sept 24

Box 1: 20

My dear Sir, letter to an unidentified relative

1853 Jan 5

Box 1: 20

Envelope addressed to Robert Brinley, Esqr, Senr, Tynsborough Massachusetts with seal included.

undated

Box 1: 20

Brinley, Elizabeth Harris

1784

Not much is known about Elizabeth Harris Brinley; she married a Brinley, possibly Francis Brinley, Sr., and had at least three children, including Ed and Miss Elizabeth Brinley. She was a very pious woman, and wrote her sister in 1784, writing, "I hope you examine your self every night now you have spent the day, and hope you visit the throne of grace daily...."

Letter to her sister

1784 Aug 28

Box 1: 21

Harris, James Winthrop

ca.1880

James Winthrop Harris was the son of the Reverend Thaddeus Mason Harris, who was the uncle of Francis Brinley, Jr., making James Francis' cousin.

Obituary

undated

Box 1: 22

Brinley, Elizabeth

1859-1862

Like many Brinleys, Miss Elizabeth Brinley was fascinated by her family. Perhaps in fond memory, she sent her brother Ed a letter of her mother's (whom she referred to as "my Sainted Mother") in October of 1859. She died in Hartford, Connecticut on September 28th, 1862. A poem published in a local newspaper reveals her identity as a relation of Colonel Daniel Putnam:

Her couch is in the ancestral tomb

With Putnam's honor'd dust,

The true in word, the bold in deed,

A bulwark in his Country's need,

A tower of strength and trust.

Letter from Miss Brinley to Ed Brinley

1859 Oct 19

Box 1: 23

Note of Inheritance, signed "EB"

1860

Box 1: 23

"Miss Elizabeth Brinley," poem by L.H.S.

1862 Sept 28

Box 1: 23

Brinley, Francis, Sr.

1809-1837

Francis Brinley, Sr. (1772-1838) was born on March 26th, 1772, a son of Edward Brinley and Sarah Tyler. He married Elizabeth Henshaw-Harris in 1795, and together they had four children: Sarah, Francis, Jr., Edward, and Catherine Putnam, whose relationship to Colonel Daniel Putnam is unclear, except that the Colonel was at the least Catherine's cousin's grandfather.

Francis Brinley Sr. was an active and vocal contributor to state politics who was unashamed to express his opinion. The collection includes ten articles written by him for publication in newspapers, with many addressed to Benjamin Russell, the editor of *The Massachusetts Centinel*. One year after the death of his wife Elizabeth in 1814, he sent the first such letter in the collection to *The Mercury* and the *New England Palladium*, raging against a twelve-cent hike in the price of milk.

"25 cents a Gallon has always been considered a fair price," he writes, and urges his fellow Bostonians to join him in a boycott against the "regular milkmen." In his argument he appeals to the compassion of his listeners by asking what the price jump means for the poor: "Boston is renowned for its Innate as well as publice charites--the poor are never forgotten." Francis Brinley took great pride in his publications; on the back of the document has been written the word "published" in proud, dark ink.

A trustee of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Francis was a powerful observer of religion in the early American state. In a letter to the *Centinel* concerning his concern over a speech made by Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, Isaac Parker, he writes:

It has been the illiberal policy of Christians to speak of Atheists & Deists, as Birds of the same feather, & we regret that his honor shou'd so nearly have assinated them--As to Atheists; like Mermaids, they are a creature of the imagination; often talked of, but never seen or heard, (at least in this Country).

Another letter of note was dated May 26th, 1821, once again addressed to Mr. Russell, tirades against the legality of imprisonment for debt and proposes a bankruptcy law. "Their Country affords them no relief," Francis writes of debtors, and posits "many are the vents of this life, which are governed by no known laws...adverse events, shrouded in futurity, beyond the reach of human ken...often intervene...while Love holds out the Golden Bowl of Joy, 'ere it can reach his lips, 'tis dash'd with gall..." However, the most interesting point of his argument comes when he turns his fury against the Congress, who had just rejected a proposal for instituting a national bankruptcy law:

With all their sympathies excited, and all their powers of eloquence & argument display'd & exercised for the freedom of slaves of the South, they left cold heartedly in worse than Algerine slavery several hundred thousand of their white Brethern of the North & eslewhere.

Another article of interest reveals: "I believe I am the first man whoever proposd Canal to Con River & the Hudson. It was disregarded--but I see by the extract from Russel & Gardners' paper, heresowithe that it may been Noticed---. Rail Roads were then unkown."

Aside from public politics, Francis Brinley, Sr. devoted much thought to education, taking care to watch over his son, Francis "Frank" Brinley, Jr.'s career at Harvard Colledge, even setting up a suitable "chum" or roommate at the College. Two of his first letters in the collection deal exclusivley with young Francis' education and preparedness, or lack thereof, for entering Harvard. It

is also worthwhile to note that many of his personal documents contain references to maritime life in such a way as to postulate that Francis may have once been significantly involved with the sea.

After his first wife died, Francis sought a new wife and found the object of his search in Jerusha Cooper. Together they had two children, Maria Louisa and Charles Henry. Francis Brinley, Sn. died on March 1st, 1838. He was sixty-five years old, just missing his sixty-sixth birthday later that month.

Letter to M.r Francis Brinley from W.m Sullivan Eq.

1809 Aug 4

Box 1: 24

Certification of membership to the Trustees of Donations to the Protestant Episcopal Church

1811 Oct 1

Box 1: 24

Letter from Rev Dr T.M. Harris to M:r Francis Brinley; [followed by] Mr. Brinley's return letter

1814 July 24

Box 1: 24

Letter to Mr Francis Brinley at Boston from Rev. Dr Harris

1814 Aug 24

Box 1: 24

Letter to the Editor, *The Mercury and New England Palladium*, concerning the price of milk

1815 Dec 24

Box 1: 24

Letter to the Editor, *The Massachusetts Centinel*, concerning the state constitution

1820 May 22

Box 1: 24

Letter to the Editor, *The Massachusetts Centinel*, concerning Chief Justice Parker

1820 Oct 14

Box 1: 24

Letter to the Editor, *The Massachusetts Centinel*, concerning religious matters

1820 Oct 27

Box 1: 24

Major Russell, Sir. Letter to the Editor, concerning imprisonment for debt

1821 May 26

Box 1: 25

Communication for the *Centinel*, suggestions for Harvard College

1822 Aug 18

Box 1: 25

Letter of Fr. Brinley Sen. to me [Francis Brinley Jr.] accompanying the College bills & c.

1829 Mar 6

Box 1: 25

Communication. Roxbury Omnibus Coaches, Letter to the Editor.

1837 Aug 13

Box 1: 25

Letter to the Editor concerning Roxbury Omnibus Coaches

ca.1837 [Nov or Dec?]

Box 1: 25

To Benjamin Russell Eq, article of interest concerning canals and railroads

1837 Dec

Box 1: 25

Letter to his daughter Sarah

ca.1837

Box 1: 25

Letter to Sarah and to a son

undated

Box 1: 26

Letter to an unknown recipient

undated

Box 1: 26

Letter to the Editor concerning body snatchers

undated

Box 1: 26

Letter to the Editor concerning the repeal of a termination of Massachusetts Lotteries

undated

Box 1: 26

Brinley, Francis, Jr.

1844-1889

Francis "Frank" Brinley, Jr. (1800-1889) was born in 1800, the second child and the first son of Francis Brinley, SN., and Elizabeth Henshaw Harris. Two of the early letters in his father's collection deals exclusively with young Francis' education and preparation for entering Harvard. At first his teacher, Mr. Pemberton, thinks him ready for college, but Francis' uncle the Rev. Dr Thaddeus Mason writes to Francis Sr., one month later indicating that Mr. Pemberton "speaks less confidently of Francis's preparation for adMission into college, particularly in respect to "making Latin."" His father himself worries that his son is always at home, alone, and studying.

Francis Brinley's latter life reflects his early studiousness. An erudite man, he graduated from Harvard University in 1818, studied law with the Hon. William Sullivan, and became a lawyer, though he soon grew disillusioned with the industry and moved back to Boston to live with his uncle, the Rev. Dr Thaddeus Mason Harris. He joined the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in 1828, and was associated with the order for the rest of his life, achieving such positions as Major and Commander. In 1833, he married Sarah Olcott Porter (Sarah Brinley) in New York City.

Over his life he served the public in many capacities, especially in the state legislature and during the state constitutional convention of 1853, in the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company as three times the Commander, and in Washington as a law clerk under the leadership of Secretary of State Daniel Webster. During the American Civil War he offered his rhetorical skills to the cause of the Union, lecturing throughout the North.

Eventually, he came to live in Newport, Rhode Island, and took an active interest in the historical societies both of the city and the state in which he lived. One obituary article would claim that "Major Brinley at the time of his death probably possessed the finest private library in New England."

Yet though old age found him as smart and witty as in years past, it would finally catch up with him, first taking his eyesight. On the night of June 14, 1889, Francis Brinley, Jr., passed from the world after a comparatively brief illness.

Letter to Robert Brinley. Esq at Tynsborough, Massachusetts, from Francis Brinley, Jr., in Washington

1844 Dec 19

Box 1: 27

Remarks of Francis Brinley, Commander of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, in response to a toast in honor of the Corps, at the Agricultural Dinner, Barnstable

1858 Oct 13

Box 1: 27

Hon. Francis Brinley. Newspaper article concerning Major Brinley's health

1883 Oct 17

Box 1: 27

Honor roll of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, The Boston Commercial

1887 Apr 2

Box 1: 27

"Death of Hon. Francis Brinley" in *Observer*

1889 June 15

Box 1: 27

Obituary, Francis Brinley

1889 June 15

Box 1: 27

"Death of Francis Brinley" in *The Newport Daily News*

1889 June 15

Box 1: 27

Obituary, Francis Brinley in *The New York Tribune*

1889 June 15

Box 1: 27

Obituary, Francis Brinley

1889 June 15

Box 1: 27

Letter from CHB

[n.y.] Aug 22

Box 1: 27

Note of Francis Brinley

undated

Box 1: 27

Articles from an unknown newspaper concerning Francis Brinley (fragment)

undated

Box 1: 27

List of Brinley birthdates, most likely by Francis Brinley

undated

Box 1: 27

Scrapbook

undated

Box 1: 28-29

Francis Brinley's scrapbook is an assortment of genealogical research and a prime resource for Brinley primary documents that have been pasted onto the pages.

Scrapbook

undated

Box 11

Brinley, Sarah

1861-1889

Sarah Olcott Porter married Francis Brinley, Jr. in 1833. In August of 1861, she went south to visit her husband in Washington, days after George B. McClellan was named commander-in-chief of the Army of the Potomac. Note that her passport is signed by Lincoln's Secretary of State William H. Seward. Sarah Olcott Brinley would survive her husband when the latter died in 1889, and she kept a close relationship with her brother-in-law George P. Brinley.

Passport of Sarah Brinley

1861 Aug 5

Box 1: 30

Letter to George P. Brinley

1889 July 20

Box 1: 30

Letter to George P. Brinley

1889 July 27

Box 1: 30

Letter to George P. Brinley

1889 July 28

Box 1: 30

Brinley, George P.

1870-1880

George P. Brinley lived in Montreal for a time as an insurance agent, and has an original photograph in Series IV.

Letter with signature (fragment)

1870 Aug 11

Box 1: 31

Letter to his father

1871 June 11

Box 1: 31

Letter to his father

1871 June 20

Box 1: 31

Letter to his father

1871 July 2

Box 1: 31

Letter to his father

1871 July 8

Box 1: 31

Letter to his father

1872 Sept 15

Box 1: 31

Letter to his father

1872 Sept 28

Box 1: 31

Letter to his father

1872 Dec 23

Box 1: 31

Letter to his father

1872 Dec 28

Box 1: 31

Letter to his father

1873 Apr 29

Box 31

Letter to Francis Brinley

1876 May 2

Box 1: 31

Notification of enrollment in the America Antiquarian Society

1880 Apr 29

Box 1: 31

Letter with signature (fragment)

undated

Box 1: 31

Letter

undated

Box 1: 31

Letter (photocopy)

undated

Box 1: 31

Brinley, Nathaniel, Jr.

1864

Nathaniel Brinley, Jr. was the son of Nathaniel and S. E. Brinley of Tynsborough, Massachusetts. During the American Civil War, he served with the Massachusetts First Heavy Artillery, but was captured in the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House and perished in the infamous Confederate prison of Andersonville, Georgia, in 1864.

Newspaper article concerning the death of Nathaniel Brinley, Jr.

1864 Dec 15

Box 1: 32

Brinley, George

1840-1857

George Brinley was the father of George The Book Collector. He married Catherine Putnam, the daughter of Daniel Putnam and Katerine Hutchinson, and lived in Hartford. In 1840 he wrote an article for the *Connecticut Courant* concerning the loss of the steamboat the Lexington on January 13, 1840. The boat was carrying eighteen thousand dollars worth of gold and silver and was bound from New York to Connecticut when it was overtaken by a fire and sunk, with the loss of nearly all persons and articles aboard. Three years later, at the bequest of his daughter Elizabeth, he penned down an autobiography in 1843, which is included in the collection, and dedicated it to her. Near the end of his life, he didn't like leaving his "quiet fire side and warm chamber, for a frozen atmosphere & cold rooms of a Hotel---An Octogenarian should be cautious in exposing the sluggish current of his blood to the Cold-". In addition to his autobiography, he has three letters, a newspaper article he wrote, a poem by L. H. S. commemorating his passing, and his ciphering book.

Article concerning the loss of the steamer *Lexington*

1940

Box 1: 33

Letter to Madam Fogg

1845 Aug 14

Box 1: 33

Letter to a "fellow sinner"

1855 Aug 27

Box 1: 33

Letter to R. Brinley, Esq.

1855 Dec 27

Box 1: 33

Funeral of George Brinley, Esq., Poetry of L.H.S.

1857 Jan 24

Box 1: 33

Envelope with note and signature of E.M.M.

undated

Box 1: 33

Brinley, George: Ciphering book

ca.1790

Box 1: 34

A "ciphering" book was an arithmetic workbook used by American school children in the late 18th century. George Brinley used his workbook circa 1790, and fashioned pages from the documents of other family members as binding, and was likely to have been the author of a few rough poems elegantly inscribed on the binding as well as here and there between math assignments. In his schooling, George Brinley learned tables for multiplication, addition of English Money, Troy weights, and cloth measure, as well as rules of reduction, the rule of three in decimals, and other general mathematical concepts of the era.

Brinley, George: Autobiography

1843 Nov

Box 1: 35

Brinley, George

1853-1911

Born in Boston in 1817, George Brinley (1817-1875) the Book Collector was precisely that, and he was one of the best, if not the best, collectors in late 19th century America. One writer in the *New York Daily Tribune*, on covering the first part of the Brinley book sale, wrote that "he was known to the bibliographic elect as a bold, shrewd, and determined buyer in the auction-room, where he was always represented...but the catalogue of his library is at once the cause of astonishment and surprise." As such, he was frequently turned to as a reference, receiving questions from as close as Albany, NY, and as far away as England.

Aside from George himself, "the only person who had access to its volumes," reported the *Hartford Daily Courant*, "and who is everywhere an accepted authority on American history," was Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull, who, after George's death, catalogued the library and played an integral part in its sale.

The collection itself was largely composed of valuable editions concerning early American history, and after only five days of bidding, the *New York Daily Tribune* tallied the profits at \$43,604.81. The same paper added that "the estate will undoubtedly get back more than the books originally cost Mr. Brinley. Collectors see in this fact a new confirmation of their familiar claim, that ancient books as money investments pay better than the average railroad, oil well or silver mine." After all the auctions for each of the five parts of George Brinley's library, the total sale was \$127,138.12.

George Brinley's health had begun to decline in the early 1870s. He moved first to Florida and then to Bermuda, where he died in 1875. Beginning in early 1879, the American library of George Brinley was auctioned off in several parts, each part divided by subject matter and by geography, the first part relating to general America, the British colonies, New France, and New England. The sale was eagerly tracked by the press and many of newspaper clippings included here cover it.

Letter to Mrs. Sarah O.P. Brinley

1853 Sept 16

Box 2: 1

Letter from C. Callaghan

1858 Apr 7

Box 2: 1

"Passengers Sailed" in the *New York Evening Post*

1875 Apr 16

Box 2: 1

"Passengers Arrived" in the *New York Evening Post*

1875 May 24

Box 2: 1

"Obituary of George Brinley" in the *Newport Daily News*

1875 May 27

Box 2: 1

"Wills in Probate" in the *New York Evening Post*

1875

Box 2: 1

"Sale of the Brinley Library," in the *New York Evening Post*

1877 Aug 2

Box 2: 1

"Rare Old Books To Be Sold" in the *New York Daily Tribune*

1879 Feb 11

Box 2: 1

"Prices For Which The Books etc In The First Part of The American Library of The Late Mr. George Brinley Were Sold, March 10th-15th 1879"

1879

Box 2: 1

"Inside the Brinley Library" in *The Hartford Daily Courant*

1879 Feb 12

Box 2: 1

"The Great Sale of Books" in the *New York Daily Tribune*

1879 Mar 15

Box 2: 1

"The Brinley Book Sale" in the *New York Daily Tribune*

1879 Mar 17

Box 2: 1

"Books at Great Prices" in the *New York Daily Tribune*

1880 Mar 25

Box 2: 1

"Prices For Which The Books in the Second Part of the Brinley Library were sold, March 22nd-25th, 1880"

1880

Box 1: 33

"Curious American Books" in the *New York Times*

1881 Apr 6

Box 2: 2

"Fine Books at Auction" in the *New York Daily Tribune*

1881 Apr 6

Box 2: 2

"Prices For Which The Books in the Third Part of the Brinley Library were sold, April 4th-8th, 1881"

1881

Box 2: 2

Enveloped addressed to Geo P. Brinly Esqr, Hartford, Conn.

1885 Sept 11

Box 2: 2

"Prices For Which The Books in the Fourth Part of the Brinley Library were sold, November 15th-18th, 1886"

1886

Box 2: 2

Letter from Robert E. Dunston

1889 Apr 28

Box 1: 33

"Prices For Which The Books in the Fifth Part of the Brinley Library were sold, April 18th-20th, 1893"

1893

Box 2: 2

Envelope signed by E.A.B.

1911 Jan

Box 2: 2

"The Brinley Mazarine Bible"

[n.y.] May 10

Box 2: 2

"Statement, Fourth Sale Brinley Library"

undated

Box 2: 2

"The Brinley Library Sale"

undated

Box 2: 2

"Very Rare Books"

undated

Box 2: 2

Newspaper fragments covering the sale of George Brinley's library

undated

Box 2: 2

"Psalm Book Once Owned by Brinley"

undated

Box 2: 2

Brinley, Edward H.

undated

Signature of Edward H. Brinley

undated

Box 2: 3

Cradock family

1717-1807

Cradock, John

1717

Letter from John Cradock to his son and daughter

1717 July 28

Box 2: 4

Cradock, Zachary

1739-1744

His letter of 1744 bears reference to the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748) in Europe. Zachary was living in England at the time.

Letter from Zachary Cradock to his brother

1739 Aug 2

Box 2: 5

Letter from Zachary Cradock

1744 June 16

Box 2: 5

Cradock, George

1720-1769

My Dearest Life, a letter from George Cradock to his wife

1720 Nov 17

Box 2: 6

Conveyances of George Cradock

1723-1755

Box 2: 6

Bond of George Cradock to Francis Brinley

1730 June 24

Box 2: 6

My Dearest Life, a letter from George Cradock to his wife

1733 Feb 12

Box 2: 6

Appointment of Robert Auchmuty Esqr- as His Majesty's Commisary and Judge of the Admiralty in His Majesty's Provinces and Colonies of the Massachusetts Bay New Hampshire Rhode Island Providence Plantations and the Narragansetts Country or King's Province in America, and appointment of George Cradock as his Deputy

1733 Sept 26

Box 2: 6

Bond of George Cradock to Francis Brinley

1746 Dec 30

Box 2: 7

Letter from J. Berriman

1751 Nov 25

Box 2: 7

Appointment of George Cradock to Deputy Judge of the Admiralty in Boston by Chambers Russell Esqr

1762 May 17

Box 2: 7

To George Cradock Esqr at the next House to the Sign of the black & white Horse, South End, Boston, from Andw Belcher

1769 June 2

Box 2: 7

To Mrs Mary Cradock at her house in Boston via New Yorke (fragment)

undated

Box 2: 7

Breynton, Mary Cradock

1797

My Dear Nephew, Letter to Mr. Robert Brinley

1797 Sept 6

Box 2: 8

Breynton, George

1807

Letter to Mrs Catherine Brinley

1807 Aug 12

Box 2: 9

Auchmuty family

1733-1794

Auchmuty, Robert, Sr.

1733-1749

Lease of Boston house from Ebenezer Holmes

1733 Jan 1

Box 2: 10

Letter to George Cradock

1742 Feb 15

Box 2: 10

Bill of exchange to Samuel Auchmuty

1744 May 15

Box 2: 10

Letter from Richard Nicholls

1749 Jan 9

Box 2: 10

Auchmuty, Robert, Jr.

1752-1784

Robert Auchmuty, Jr. (1725-1788), was a prominent citizen of Boston and an equally prominent Loyalist. He married a daughter of George Craddock and was thus the brother in law of Thomas and Nathaniel Brinley. He was born in 1724, the son of Robert Auchmuty, a Boston lawyer. He attended schools in Boston, including the Latin School. Auchmuty followed his father into law. He became a well known lawyer in Boston, and in 1767 he was appointed Judge of the Vice Admiralty Courts in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. With John Adams and Josiah Quincy, he defended the British soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre in 1770. He and his wife fled Boston in 1776, settling in London. His American property was declared forfeit and sold in 1779. Auchmuty remained in London until his death in 1788.

Business note from Josiah Quincy

1752 July 21

Box 2: 11

Draft on account for a gallon of rum

1755 June 3

Box 2: 11

Letter to Francis Brinley

1765 Jan 5

Box 2: 11

Letter to Nathaniel Brinley

1771 June 27

Box 2: 11

Letter to Nathaniel Brinley

1771 Nov 9

Box 2: 11

Letter to Nathaniel Brinley

1784 Oct 6

Box 2: 11

Tyng and Pitt Families

1681-1797

Tyng, Edward

1681

Edward Tyng was born in Dunstable, England, in 1610. In 1639 he emigrated to Boston, where he established himself as a merchant. He became an important man in the city, serving on the General Court and as Colonel of militia. In 1660 he bought 3000 acres of land in Dunstable, though the area was still a wilderness. This tract was the basis of the Tyng estate in Dunstable and Tyngsborough. Tyng left this estate to his eldest son Jonathan when he died in 1681.

Will

1681 Jan 19

Box 2: 12

Tyng, Jonathan, Colonel

1702-1782

Colonel Jonathan Tyng, born in 1642, was the first white settler in Dunstable. He remained there through King Philip's War, when the rest of the settlement fled. He asked the General Court for reinforcements, insisting that the settlement should be held. After the war Colonel Tyng became a guardian for local peaceful Indians. In compensation he received Wicausuck Island on the Concord River. Indians also sold him property. This land, together with his inheritance, gave Jonathan Tyng the largest estate in the area. He was obviously a man of importance in Dunstable and in the colony. He served on the Governor's Council, in the General Court, and as Colonel of the Middlesex County militia. Colonel Tyng died in 1723 (note that this date is disputed; an item in the folder hold his death date to be 1702). His large estate was divided amongst his children. In 1779 a Tyng heir sold part of the estate to Nathaniel Brinley. Nathaniel's son Robert married another Tyng heir, Elizabeth Pitts. With this most of the Tyng estate came to the Brinley family.

Article concerning his death in the *Boston Gazette*

1702 Jan 27

Box 2: 13

Copy of deed of sale

1782 Nov 30

Box 2: 13

Tyng, Eleazar

1723

Probate of Jonathan Tyng's will

1723 Feb 13

Box 2: 14

Winslow, Sarah Tyng

ca.1720

Will

ca.1720

Box 2: 15

Tyng, John

1793-1794

Petition to Massachusetts Senate

1793 June

Box 2: 16

Warrant to arrest and whip slave

1794 Mar 10

Box 2: 16

Savage, Habijiah

1733

Warrant against Ebenezer Kent

1733 Apr 25

Box 2: 17

Pitts, John

1793-1797

Letter to Elizabeth Pitts

1793 July 2

Box 2: 18

Letter from William Tyng

1797 June 17

Box 2: 18

Putnam Family

1790-1818

Putnam, Israel, Major-General
1790

Major-General Israel Putnam (1718-1790) was a famous American general who had fought with distinction in the French and Indian War and in the Revolutionary War, particularly at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775. After his death, his son Daniel vigorously defended his memory and his deeds.

A Sermon, Occasioned by the Death of the Honorable Major-General Israel Putnam, of Brooklyn, by Josiah Whitney, A. M.
1790 June 1

Box 2: 19

Putnam, Daniel, Colonel

1818

A son of Major-General Israel Putnam, Daniel Putnam denounced Major General Henry Dearborn's account of the Battle of Bunker Hill, calling it "void of truth in some of its most prominent parts," in an open letter to Dearborn published as a booklet and in *American Friend* in 1818.

Letter to Major General Henry Dearborn, in the newspaper *American Friend*, by Daniel Putnam, Esq.

1818 June 19

Box 2: 20

An Account of the Battle of Bunker's Hills; by H. Dearborn, with a Letter to Maj. Gen. Dearborn, Repelling his Unprovoked Attack on the Character of the Late Maj. Gen. Israel Putnam, by Daniel Putnam, Esq.

1818

Box 2: 20

Draft of a letter to Major General Henry Dearborn

undated

Box 2: 20

Malbone Family

1871

Morgan, Emily Malbone

1871

Letter to Francis Brinley

1871 July 28

Box 2: 21

Letter to Frank and Sarah Brinley (fragment)

undated

Box 2: 21

Miscellaneous

1705-1859

The Brinley collection also includes some miscellaneous materials, for which there is no clear connection to the family. There are wills, letters, business papers, songs, poems, and newspaper clippings all ranging from the early 18th century to the 1950s. Items of interest include a certificate concerning the military service of Isaac Bowers in the War of 1812, a document from the Archbishop of Canterbury, a newspaper article that mentions Edward Lyde, and a blank example of 18th century laid paper. Some of the names appearing in this folder are Blake, Bowers, Moore, Murphy, and White.

Transcript of court suit brought by Hannah White

1705 Jan 1

Box 2: 22

Letter from Jonathan Belcher (fragment)

1739 June 28

Box 2: 22

Fragment with signature

1770

Box 2: 22

Business accounts, unsigned

1797-1804

Box 2: 22

"General Description of America," poem by eleven-year old Eliza Fay Blake

1804 Mar 4

Box 2: 22

Letter from John Moore to Lemuel Brooks

1833 Apr 10

Box 2: 22

Certificate of posthumous administration of goods for Mary E. Murphy by the Prerogative Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury

1839 July 29

Box 2: 22

"A Dirge for Miss Septima Fogg" by C.S. Percival

1851 Nov 4

Box 2: 22

Newspaper article that mentions Edward Lyde

1854 Nov 23

Box 2: 22

Newspaper clipping from the *Boston Daily News*

1855 July 24

Box 2: 22

Letter to the Editor of an unknown newspaper, initialed "N.F."

1868 Apr 25

Box 2: 22

Certificate of military service for Isaac Bowers in the War with Great Britain

1857 June 17

Box 2: 22

Song for the "Brotherhood of Good Fellowship," unsigned

1859 Jan 12

Box 2: 22

Newspaper clippings

1950s

Box 2: 23

Poem, unsigned

undated

Box 2: 24

Fragment identifying Mary Savage

undated

Box 2: 24

Newspaper article concerning the Putnams at the Battle of Bunker Hill

undated

Box 2: 24

Newspaper article concerning the marriage of Sarah Brinley

undated

Box 2: 24

"The sorrows of a Wife at the tomb of her Husband," unsigned poem

undated

Box 2: 24

"Bachanalian Song," unsigned poem

undated

Box 2: 24

Series 2. Copies from Other Repositories

1690-1900

Brinley, Francis letter (photocopy)

1796

Box 2: 25

Brinley, Francis scrapbook (microfilm)

undated

Box 9

Brinley, Frank letter (photocopy)

1750

Box 2: 26

Brinley, George (1842-1919) (photographic print)

undated

Box 2: 27

Connecticut State Library: Putnam family (photocopies)

undated
Box 2: 28
Historical Society of Pennsylvania: Malbone family letters (photocopies)
1745-1752
Box 2: 29
Love, Elizabeth notebook (photocopies)
1729-1833
Box 2: 30
Low, Mary C.: Malbone family (transcriptions)
1857
Box 2: 31
Malbone family documents (photocopies)
1809-1890
Box 2: 32
Malbone family documents (transcriptions)
1715-1740
Box 2: 33
Malbone, Godfrey (photocopies)
1772
Box 2: 34
Malbone, John (photocopies)
1786-1796
Box 2: 35
Muir, John: "Inside the Brinley" (transcription)
1879
Box 2: 36
Putnam, Daniel (photocopies)
1812-1819
Box 2: 37
Putnam, Daniel correspondence (photocopies)
1820-1824
Box 2: 38
Putnam, Daniel correspondence (photocopies)
1825
Box 3: 1
Putnam, Daniel correspondence (photocopies)
1826
Box 3: 2
Putnam, Daniel correspondence (photocopies)
1827
Box 3: 3
Putnam, Daniel correspondence (photocopies)
1828
Box 3: 4
Putnam, Daniel correspondence (photocopies)
1829
Box 3: 5
Putnam, Daniel correspondence (photocopies)
1830-1833
Box 3: 6
Putnam, Daniel correspondence (photocopies)
undated
Box 3: 7
Putnam, Daniel deed (photocopies)
1791
Box 3: 8
Rhode Island Historical Society: Brinley family (photographs of documents)
1690-1853
Box 3: 9

Wat Krason Library: photocopies

1900

Box 3: 10

Worcester College, Oxford University: Malbone, Godfrey Connecticut papers (photocopies)

undated

Box 3: 11

Series 3. Genealogy

1911-2005

Publications

1923-2003

Brindley, Gordon: *Brindley Genealogy, Including the James Brindley Clan of Leek, Francis Brinley and New England, "Southern" Brindleys*

2002

Box 3: 12

Brinley, Nancy: *Francis Brinley's Personal History*

Box 3: 13

Massachusetts Historical Society: *The Battle of Bunker Hill*

1968

Box 3: 14

Metropolitan Museum of Art: *Faces of a New Nation: American Portraits of the 18th and early 19th Centuries*

2003

Box 3: 15

Newport Historical Society: *Bulletins*

1920 Apr-1932 Apr

Box 3: 16

Rhode Island Historical Society: *Bulletins*

1923 Oct-1950 July

Box :

Three Bookmen in the Watkinson Library's Past

1954

Box 3: 18

Research and Correspondence

1911-2005

Biographical material

1930-1966

Box 3: 19

Brindley, Gordon: "James Brindley of Alton, Staffordshire, and the George Washington Connection"

2003

Box 4: 1

Brindley World News

2002 Summer-2003 Winter

Box 4: 2

Brindley family newsletter.

Brinley family photographs (photographic prints)

undated

Box 4: 3

Brinley, Nancy: Brinley/Malbone Letters, Book I

1983-1989

Box 4: 4

Brinley, Nancy: Brinley/Malbone Letters, Book I

1988

Box 4: 5

Brinley, Nancy: Brinley/Malbone Letters, Book I

1988

Box 4: 6

Brinley, Nancy: Brinley/Malbone Letters, Book I

1988

Box 4: 7

Brinley, Nancy: Brinley/Malbone Letters, Book I

ca.1988
Box 4: 8
Brinley, Nancy: Brinley/Malbone Letters, Book I
ca.1988
Box 4: 9
Brinley, Nancy: Brinley/Malbone Letters, Book I
ca.1988
Box 4: 10
Brinley, Nancy: Brinley-Malbone Letters, Book II
ca.1988
Box 4: 11
Brinley, Nancy: Brinley-Malbone Letters, Book II
ca.1988
Box 4: 12
Brinley, Nancy: Brinley-Malbone Letters, Book II
ca.1988
Box 5: 1
Brinley, Nancy: Brinley-Malbone Letters, Book II
ca.1988
Box 5: 2
Brinley, Nancy: Brinley-Malbone Letters, Book II
ca.1988
Box 5: 3
Brinley, Nancy: Col. Francis Brinley (Early Brinley History), Book I
ca.1988
Box 5: 4
Brinley, Nancy: Col. Francis Brinley (Early Brinley History), Book I
ca.1988
Box 5: 5
Brinley, Nancy: Col. Francis Brinley (Early Brinley History), Book I
ca.1988
Box 5: 6
Brinley, Nancy: Col. Francis Brinley (Early Brinley History), Book I
ca.1988
Box 5: 7
Brinley, Nancy: Col. Francis Brinley (Early Brinley History), Book 2
ca.1988
Box 5: 8
Brinley, Nancy: Col. Francis Brinley (Early Brinley History), Book 2
ca.1988
Box 6: 1
Brinley, Nancy: Descendants of Francis Brinley and Aleph Malbone
ca.1988
Box 6: 2
Brinley, Nancy: Descendants of Francis Brinley and Aleph Malbone
ca.1988
Box 6: 3
Brinley, Nancy: Early Brinley Families
ca.1988
Box 6: 4
Brinley, Nancy: Early Brinley Families
ca.1988
Box 6: 5
Brinley, Nancy: Early Brinley Families
ca.1988
Box 6: 6
Brinley, Nancy: Early Brinley Families
ca.1988
Box 6: 7

Brinley, Nancy: Edward Brinley and Sarah Tyler

ca.1985

Box 7: 1

Brinley, Nancy: Edward Brinley and Sarah Tyler

ca.1985

Box 7: 2

Brinley, Nancy: Genealogical materials

ca.1986

Box 7: 3

Brinley, Nancy: Genealogical materials

ca.1986

Box 7: 4

Brinley, Nancy: Genealogical materials

ca.1985

Box 9

Computer disks containing files created by Nancy Brinley during her genealogical research.

Brinley, Nancy: Genealogical materials

ca.1985

Box 7: 5

Ledger containing files names of documents stored on computer disks.

Brinley, Nancy: Genealogical materials

2004-2005

Box 7: 6

Brinley, Nancy: Malbone, Francis Brinley

ca.1984-1992

Box 7: 7

Brinley, Nancy: Malbone, Francis Brinley

ca.1984-1992

Box 7: 8

Brinley, Nancy: Malbone, Francis Brinley

ca.1984-1992

Box 8: 1

Brinley, Nancy: Malbone, Francis Brinley

ca.1984-1992

Box 8: 2

Brinley, Nancy: Malbone, Francis Brinley

ca.1984-1992

Box 8: 3

Browne, Ann P.: Malbone family research and notes

ca.1985

Box 8: 4

Browne, Ann P.: Notebook

1951-1979

Box 8: 5

Correspondence

1955

Box 8: 6

Correspondence: provenance of Francis Brinley's Scrapbook

1939-1953

Box 8: 7

Hoppin, Charles: Research manuscript

1911-1912

Box 8: 8

Index: Francis Brinley's scrapbook

ca.1985

Box 8: 9

Malbone bibliography

undated

Box 8: 10

Newspaper clippings: George Brinley's Bay Psalm Book

ca.1947

Box 8: 11

Newport Historical Society: Correspondence

1982

Box 8: 12

Research: Putnam-White Trial

1921-1983

Box 8: 13

Shopleigh, Alexander: biographical information

1942

Box 8: 14

Series 4. Art and Artifacts

1741-2005

Malbone family silver

1741-1783

2 items

Abercrombie, Robert: Silver salver

1741

35.5 cm. diam.

Engraved on reverse "From Godfrey Malbone of Newport. Obt. Nov 1787 to his daughter Elizabeth Hutchinson Obt. 1756, to her daughter Catherine Putnam, to her daughter Catherine Brinley, obt. Oct. 1842, to her son George Brinley, Jr., Obt. May 1875, to his son, George Brinley Tertius, Obt. August 24, 1892, to his son George Brinley, Obt. May 6, 1835, to his nephew Edward Charles Brinley, Jr." Also engraved Malbone-Scott coat of arms on top. London hallmark for 1741 with the touch mark "RA" in script in two conjoined circles for silversmith Robert Abercrombie. With respect to the anomalous first date in the chain of custody, note that Godfrey Malbone died in 1768.

Hennell, Robert: Fish knife

1783

31.5 cm.

Engraved blade shows central image of a fish and a monogram (possibly MLW); bears standard mark and city mark for London, hallmark for Robert Hennell (oval with RH), and date mark (h) for 1783.

Malbone family silver: research

1944-2005

Box 8: 15

Photographs

ca.1875-1910

2 folders

Box 8: 16-17

Includes photographs of George Brinley III, Mary E. Carter, painting of Colonel Daniel Putnam, Charles Augustus Brinley, Mary Goodrich Frothingham, Israel Putnam, George Brinley (1774-1857), and Catherine Putnam Brinley.

Portrait: Deborah Lyde Brinley and infant son Francis

ca.1835

Oil on canvas

Copy by Charles U. Bond of original by John Smibert (1729). Smibert original now in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art with its companion portrait of Francis Brinley, Sr.

Portrait: Brinley, Deborah

ca.1795

Silhouette

Box 10

Framed silhouette of the daughter of Colonel Francis and Deborah Lyde Brinley.

Portrait: Brinley, Francis

1824

Watercolor

Box 10

Portrait: Putnam, Catherine

ca.1840
Pastel on paper
Oval portrait, framed, of young woman in red.

Gift of Brinley Thomas, 2011

Portrait: unidentified woman with lace
ca.1840
Pastel on paper
Oval portrait, framed, of young woman with lace head covering.

Gift of Brinley Thomas, 2011

Smibert, John: research
1984-1996

Box 8: 18

Punchbowl: Chinese export porcelain

ca.1790

41.5 (diam.) x 18 cm.

Large export porcelain punchbowl with restrained design featuring Federal-style urn. Similar to transfer ware purchased by Commodore Richard Dale in Canton, 1787, now in the collections of Independence Seaport Museum.

Gift of Brinley Thomas, 2011

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

The collection was acquired from Cedric Robinson in June 1987. Additions to the collection were made by Edward "Ned" and Nancy Brinley in 2004-2006.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Lisa May; re-processed with additions by Mike Verney, 2008.

Bibliography

Brindley, Gordon, *Brindley Genealogy, Including the James Brindley Clan of Leek, Francis Brinley and New England, "Southern" Brindleys*. Leek, Staffordshire : Churnet Valley Books, 2002. Series 3 (Box 3:12).

Language:

English

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Brinley Family Papers (MS 161). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

American loyalists--Massachusetts--History
Book collectors--United States--History--19th century
Brinley, George, 1817-1875--Library.
Businessmen--Massachusetts--History
Businessmen--Rhode Island--History
Landowners--Massachusetts--History
Landowners--Rhode Island--History
Massachusetts--Economic conditions--18th century
Massachusetts--Politics and government--19th century
Rhode Island--Economic conditions--18th century
Rhode Island--Politics and government--19th century
Slavery--United States--History
United Empire loyalists--History

United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783

Contributors

Brinley family [\[main entry\]](#)

Craddock family.

Tyng family.

Brinley, Francis, 1632-1719.

Brinley, Francis, 1690-1765.

Brinley, Francis, 1772-1838.

Brinley, Francis, 1800-1889.

Brinley, Nathaniel, b. 1733.

Brinley, Thomas, 1726-1784.

Brinley, George, d. 1809.

Auchmuty, Robert, 1687-1750.

Auchmuty, Robert, 1724-1788.

Tyng, Edward, 1610-1681.

Tyng, Jonathan, 1642-1723.

Craddock, George.

Brinley, Elizabeth Craddock.

Winslow, Sarah Tyng, 1720-1791.

Genres and formats

Business records

Conveyances

Deeds

Diaries

Genealogies

Indentures

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