

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts
No. 107

Date processed: February, 1980

- I. Title Barber, J.W. (1798-1885) Collection 1813-1883
- II. The papers of John Warner Barber deposited in the Library on: ~~by~~
~~XXX~~ converted the deposit to a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 7 1/2"
Approximate number of items: 75 plus one bound volume
- IV. Restrictions: none
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on
- VII. Biographical note: John Warner Barber, engraver and historian, was born in East Windsor, Connecticut in 1798. He was the son of Elijah and Mary Warner Barber. At 16 he was apprenticed to Abner Reed of Hartford, a banknote engraver, with whom he worked until 1823 when Barber opened his own wood and copperplate engraving business in New Haven. In 1827 Historical Scenes in the U.S. was published. This first book by Barber was a history prepared from personal recollections of participants who were interviewed by the author as he drove around the country. Barber illustrated this and his other works with his drawings engraved on copperplates. Between 1828 and 1856 he published historical works on New England, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and New Haven. In 1861 his largest work was published: Our Whole Country. This book was illustrated with 400 woodcuts from Barber's original drawings. Barber also published religious works, several of which were combined and issued in one volume, The Bible Looking Glass.
He was married twice: to Harriet Lines who died in 1826 and to Ruth Green. When he died in 1885, four daughters and two sons survived him.
See the Dictionary of American Biography for a complete biography and references on Barber.
- VIII. Analysis: The collection consists of three one-half boxes and one oversize container. It includes Barber's diary which he kept every day from 1813 to 1883 and is an invaluable source not only for his work but that of Abner Reed and others with whom he came in contact. Xeroxes of the diary through 1839

Analysis: continued

are also included in the collection. The remaining papers consist of accounts, correspondence, drawings and proofs (of banknotes and of the Amistad captives) and examples of Barber's work (illustrations and letterheads). The collection also contains drawings for the seal of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, including not only Barber's designs which were rejected, but L.C. Punderson's which was accepted.

Box 3 contains woodblocks for many of Barber's engravings for his books.

The collection spans the years 1813 when he was apprenticed to Reed through 1833, two years before his death.

The NHCHS Library has an extensive collection of Barber's books. See the card catalogue for these.

BARBER COLLECTION 1813-1883 MSS#107

Table of Contents

<u>Box 1-</u>	<u>Diary</u>		
	<u>Folder A</u>	John W. Barber's diary, Jan., 1813-Dec., 1883 one line daily-plus newspaper clippings of obituaries of JWB and his daughter (pasted in) [See Box 2, Folders L, M, & N, for photocopy of diary]	[1]
<u>Box 2-</u>			
	<u>Folder A-</u>	<u>Accounts</u> Notebook, 1832-1840; 1880-1881 includes copies of letters written by JWB and newspaper clippings re his work, Account-list of payments to George Goodwin 1819-1820	[2]
	<u>Folder B-</u>	<u>Correspondence</u> ALS-JWB to Benjamin F. Thompson, Dec. 15, 1840 (letterhead, rare old Barber woodcut showing complete Yale Brick Row and President's House JWB to BB Satterlee, Jan. 29, 1876 (ALS Abner Reed to JWB., Jan. 1856, in Reed's "Guide to Penmanship" *Z43.R32)	[2]
	<u>Folder C-</u>	<u>Booklets</u> Title pages written by JWB (material has been catalogued) Handwritten book-tiny-"The Literary Book Club", c. 1843 Almanack, 1815 printed by JWB, 18p.	[3]
	<u>Folder D-</u>	<u>Drawings and Proofs</u> Three banknotes proofs, -Bank of Hudson, NY, (mentioned in diary) 1816, signed by JWB. -Middletown, CT. bank, n.d.-signed -Union Bank, Boston, Mass. c. 1817 (maybe by Abner Reed, but similar to first two above, <u>Drawings</u> - copies of promissory notes, 1842 <u>Proofs</u> - engravings of four Amistad captives n.d., (gift of R.R. Chamberlain) <u>New Haven Colony Historical Society Seal</u> , c. 1863 -original drawing & description by JWB. for seal, -pencil sketch for another seal, -printed copy of seal by L. Punderson (gift of Foster W. Rice) -(See also negative based on H. Agur, 1838 NHCHS Seal, in library file.)	[8]

MSS #107 Barber, John Warner (1798-1885). Papers 1818-1833.

Box 2 - continued

- Folder E - Engravings - copies [24]
 - view of Chester, 1836
 - buildings and houses in Conn. - n.d.
 - from "General History" (see broadside, Folder J)
 - New York Harbor from Barber book
 - letterhead - Public Square, New Haven"
 - ALS, J. N. Churchill to G. H. Fowler, 1848.
 letterhead - Mill River Works by JWB
 - notepaper - copy from original woodcut, ca. 1850
 - seal - fire company, Newtown, CT 1844
 - New Haven Post Office, 1825-1835, in color mounted on cardboard
 - view of New Haven and Fort Hale
- Folder E_{1,2,3} - historical illustrations from books [13]
- Folder F - Xerox copies
 - from book on Cold Water Army, 1842. Engravings by JWB [3]
 - title pages from "A History of the U.S.A."
 - New Haven & vicinity - Lighthouse, 1881. Engraving.
- Folder G - Miscellaneous [5]
 * - broadside, n.d., for Barber's "Elements of General History"
 - photo of Henry Howe's house in Ohio
 Verso, description by JWB
 ** - photo of JWB' workshop, n.d.
 - photo of engraving for book
 - negative of photograph of re-engraving of Battle of
 Lexington by A. Doolittle and J. W. Barber, John Warner,
 History and Antiquities of New Haven, 1832, p.113.
 *F 104.N 6 B272, 1832.
 * - negative of "Pursuing the Regicides" from *E 178 .B252 £832.
 - Negative of plate for engraving of Barber at 82 yrs old
- Folder H - ALS, Edmund L. Barber to Kate Woodward [1]
 (granddaughter of JWB), n.d., includes illustrations
 (E. L. Barber, 1808 - 1870, brother of JWB)
- Folder I - Description and contents of Barber collection in NHCHS
 (8 pp. typed list of books by, about and engraved
 by JWB - purchased from R. R. Chamberlain, 1945)
- Folder J - Papers concerning the collection
- ← Folder K - Plate for engraving of Barber, plus picture on back. [1]

Folders L, M, & N Photocopy of Barbers diary, from Box 1, Folder A

Box 3 - Woodblocks

from which illustrations for books were made (from Pardee-Morris House, 1933) [23]

- two small prints from Barber engraving
 *- (broadside see Oversize Item II)
 *- (negative see library file)
 ** - (see Oversize Item III)

Oversize Item I

[2]

- Advertisement for JWB as engraver, designer and for classes in penmanship & drawing, (mounted on board, n.d.)
Verso, photolithographic facsimile of George Washington's appointment as Commander-in-Chief, June 19, 1775 (original in U.S. Patent Office, Washington, D.C.)
- A miniature of the world in the 19th century, copy of engraving and text by JWB, 1823

See also: Amos Doolittle papers, receipt to JWB

Box 4.

- Folder A. History and Antiquities of New Haven. 1832 edition. [1]
 Barber's personal copy.
- Folder B. Views of New Haven (2 copies) 1825. [4]
 Illustration from "Views of New Haven".
 Illustration from "History and Antiquities of New Haven".

Oversize Item II

[1]

- Broadside, n.d. for Barber's "Elements of General History,"

Oversize Item III

- Photo of JWB's workshop, n.d.

[1]

Oversize Items I, II, & III, (~~located: bottom AD draw~~).

Oversize shelving #7 shelf