

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. 42

Date processed: August, 1979

I. Title Howe, Hezekiah, 1775-1838. Papers, 1798-1844.

II. The papers of  
deposited in the Library on \_\_\_\_\_, by  
In \_\_\_\_\_ converted the deposit to a gift.

III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1/2  
Approximate number of items: 680

IV. Restrictions:

V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of  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: Hezekiah Howe was born in New Haven on  
March 24, 1775, the son of Hannah Beers and Captain Hezekiah  
Howe, who died shortly before Hezekiah's birth. He was  
raised by his maternal uncle, Isaac Beers, who combined inn-  
keeping and bookselling at the corner of College and Chapel  
Streets. In 1806 he took on Hezekiah as a full partner in  
his book store. In 1812 Mr. Beers sold his share of the firm  
to Mr. Lauzun DeForest and the firm became known as Howe  
and DeForest. Howe changed partners again at a later date,  
and the firm was known until his death as Howe and Spalding.

The terms bookselling, publishing, and printing were  
almost synonymous early in the nineteenth century, and Mr.  
Howe became involved in all of these activities. In 1828  
he printed the first edition of Webster's Dictionary, which  
was published by Samuel Converse in New York. The bookstore  
was said to have had a circulating library for a time also.

Hezekiah Howe married Sarah Townsend on April 21,  
1800. His one son, Henry Howe, was a well-known historian.  
Hezekiah Howe was a military commander of the Second Brigade,  
New Haven, during the War of 1812. He ended the war with  
the rank of Brigadier General.

See also: Atwater, Edward E., History of the City of  
New Haven, New York, 1887; Baker, Christina Hopkinson, The  
Townsend-Beers House, New Haven, 1932; Dana, Arnold Guyot,  
Dana Collection. MSS #1, New Haven Colony Historical Society.

(over)

VIII. Analysis: About half of this collection is made up of business letters to Hezekiah Howe from scholars, authors, teachers, students, churchmen; suppliers, and other publishers and printers. They came from throughout the country. Most of the letters concern orders for books and subscriptions to journals. We learn also that Mr. Howe sold and printed some Yale publications. The letters give an overview of the book business in the early nineteenth century - shipping problems, employment of assistants, author and royalty negotiations, etc. The collection contains a few personal letters, most of which came from his Townsend in-laws, interfiled in alphabetical order along with the rest of the correspondence, and seven letters written by Hezekiah Howe himself. A few letters, identified in the Table of Contents, were written to and came from him in the field during the War of 1812.

Other material found in this collection include a large assortment of business and personal accounts, also filed in alphabetical order and a few legal documents, including the original partnership agreement between Howe and Beers drawn up in 1809. One folder holds fifteen documents concerning the court martial of Captain Caleb Thompson, ordered by Brigadier General Howe, with William C. Leffingwell as Judge Advocate, which convened in New Haven on January 6, 1815. They give a complete record of the trial and include the original charges, arrest order, brigade orders, minutes of the evidence, defendant's plea and defence and the Judge Advocate's answer.

All the material is contained in one box. The number of items found in each folder is shown in brackets. For a more detailed breakdown, see the Table of Contents.

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Box I:

CORRESPONDENCE - ALS/addressed to Hezekiah Howe:

Folder A: [29]

- \*Andrews, Thomas V., Boston, June 26, 1813, October 2, 1817
- Attwater, J., n.p., December 19, 1812 (military)
- Attwater, Russell, Jun., Russell, County of St. Lawrence,  
November 19, 1813
- \*Backus, Joseph, Bridgeport, February 9, 1813
- \*Bacon, Asa, Litchfield, September 27, 1826
- \*Bakewell, Robert, New York, August 31, 1833
- \*Banner, Peter, Boston, January 7, 1813, February 12, 1813
- \*Barber, Noyes, Groton, November 11, 1817
- Barnard, John J., New York, November 20, 1817; Philadelphia,  
December 6, 1817, December 12, 1817, December 27, 1817
- \*Barnes, Jonathan, Middletown, July 28, 1832, January 2, 1833
- \*Barstow, Zedekiah Smith, Keene, N.H., April 1, 1831
- \*Bartlett, John Sherren, Albion Office, N.Y., August 3, 1832
- Beach, John, Hartford, March 31, 1836
- Beers, E., Jr., New York, July 20, 1807; Boston, February  
27, 1813, June 15, 1813, September 22, 1813
- Beers, Horace, New York, September 18, 1833, October  
11, 1833, October 18, 1833, December 3, 1833

Folder B: [39]

- \*Belknap, Ebenezer, New York, January 20, 1834
- \*Benedict, George Wyllys, Burlington, Vt., October 12, 1827
- \*Benedict, Noah B., Woodbury, May 9, 1831
- Bennett, Joseph, n.p., August 1, 1817
- \*Bokum, Herman, Harvard College, April 27, 1835
- \*Botsford, Russell B., Danbury, June 16, 1831
- \*Bowdoin, James, Hartford, July 10, 1832
- \*Bradley, Joseph Habersham, n.p., June 27, 1831
- \*Brereton, John H., Boston, September 3, 1834, September  
9, 1834, October 12, 1834
- Bronson, L.C.H., Waterbury, December 5, 1834
- Bushnell, Nehemiah, Millbury, September 7, 1835,  
September 15, 1835
- Carruth, Jas., H., Wethersfield, September 25, 1832
- \*Chapin, Graham Hurd, Washington, December 16, 1835
- Chapman, E., Tolland, April 4, 1831
- \*Coe, Noah, New Hartford, New York, October 4, 1816;  
New York, May 30, 1817
- \*Coit, Gurdon Saltonstall, Bridgeport, October 2, 1833,  
February 25, 1834, May 12, 1834
- Colton, Simeon, Monson,, July 21, 1828

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\*From Leffingwell Volumes

CORRESPONDENCE - ALS/addressed to Hezekiah Howe (Continued):

Folder B: (Continued)

- \*Cone, Jonathan, Bristol, March 27, 1813, November 2, 1813
- \*Converse, Sherman, New York, March 3, 1831, March 8, 1831,  
December 25, 1833, July 14, 1834
- \*Cowens, Charles C., Zanesville, Ohio, January 15, 1831
- Cowles, C.D., Farmington, September 3, 1834, January 28, 1835
- \*Cummings, A.P., New York, April 25, 1836

Folder C: [39]

- DeForest, David, Bridgeport, September 10, 1834
- DeForest, J.H., Humphreysville, (August 13, 1834, to  
Mrs. Hamlin re H. Howe); to H. Howe, August 27, 1834,  
September 15, 1834, March 13, 1835
- DeForest, L., New York, May 13, 1811
- Denison, Chas., Williams College, October 29, 1798
- \*DeWitt, John, West Point, October 7, 1828
- \*Doolittle, Isaac, Paris, March 18, 1834, March 24, 1834  
(plus enclosure re building of kiln), August 6, 1834
- \*Duyckinck, Evert, New York, October 21, 1817, November  
29, 1817, October 31, 1825
- \*Eliot, Andrew, New Milford, January 28, 1813, December 20, 1816
- \*Ely, David, Huntington, June 8, 1813
- Fellows, Rich S., New York, January 18, 1833, April 8, 1833
- French, Stiles, Northampton, March 4, 1833; Bethany,  
April 3, 1833
- \*Gale, Leonard Dunnell, New York, February 23, 1835
- \*Gaglignani, A & W, Paris, June 27, 1831, January 6, 1835
- \*Gelston, Maltby, Sherman, Ct., August 11, 1813
- \*Goddard, Levi Hezekiah, Norwich, August 28, 1832
- Goodrich, A.J., New York, March 27, 1835
- \*Green, Samuel, New London, February 8, 1813, February 24, 1813,  
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- \*Gridley, Uriel, Watertown, February 2, 1813, May 22, 1813,  
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- \*Grimke, Frederick, Chillicothe, February 17, 1831

Folder D: [33]

- \*Hamersley, Jas. Y., Hartford, December 7, 1833
- Hart, Luther, Plymouth, November 10, 1813
- \*Hatch, F.W., Edenton, North Carolina, March 1, 1813
- \*Holland, Wm. B., Hartford, January 15, 1833, October 8, 1833,  
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- \*Hopkins, Albert, Williams College, October 1, 1831,  
November 15, 1831
- Hosmer, Chas., Hartford, November 3, 1832
- Hotchkiss, Wm. S., New York, September 21, 1817
- \*Hough, Isaac I., n.p., March 14, 1813
- Howe & DeForest (by D.D.), New Haven, August 17, 1813

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\*From Leffingwell Volumes

CORRESPONDENCE - ALS/addressed to Hezekiah Howe (Continued):

Folder D: (Continued)

- Howe, Henry, Cincinnati, August 3, 1800  
Howe, Henry (HH's son), Boston, December 22, 1837  
\*Hubbard, Rufus, Norwich, February 17, 1834  
\*Humphreys, Hector, Annapolis, November 25, 1833  
\*Huntington, F.J., Hartford, January 20, 1833  
\*Jackson, James, Franklin College, Athens, Georgia, June 6, 1833  
Jewett, Geo. W., Saybrook, December 28, 1816 (military)  
Judson, David, Fairfield, December 1, 1817; December 3, 1817  
Kellogg, Isaac, New Hartford, November 10, 1834  
\*Lamson, Nathaniel, Litchfield, March 25, 1817  
\*Lane, H.B., Wesleyan U., Middletown, October 10, 1833, February 12, 1834, October 5, 1832  
\*Law, John, Newtown?, March 20, 1817  
Leod, David W., New Haven, January 31, 1831  
\*Lyman, Jonathan H., Northampton, Massachusetts, August 4, 1817

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- McDonald D., Cheshire, August 10, 1813  
\*Mansfield, Elizabeth, West Point, March 5, 1825  
\*Mather, Thomas G., Middletown, April 24, 1833, May 24, 1833  
Merwin, Timothy T., Norwalk, June 28, 1831, July 2, 1832, June 27, 1834  
\*Middlebrook, J. Elijah, Trumbull, October 7, 1816  
\*Mills, Z., Librarian, Ohio State Library, March 26, 1836  
\*Mitchell, Rev. W., Newtown, October 7, 1827, October 31, 1827  
\*Morgan, Rev. Allen C., Waterbury, December 10, 1834  
\*Newman, Mack, Andover, Massachusetts, October 14, 1816, July 23, 1817  
\*Newton, Alfred, New Caanan, February 8, 1831  
\*Noble, Birdsey G., Middletown, April 15, 1817, February 28, 1820  
\*Noble, Wm. H., Stanford, July 26, 1833  
\*North, Erasmus D., East Windsor, October 16, 1827  
North, Theodore, Goshen, April 6, 1813  
Norton, Eliazer, Hartford, May 14, 1817 (military)  
\*Norton, Seth, Clinton?, March 3, 1817  
O'Brien, Henry E., New York, August 15, 1816  
\*Ogden, David L. Rev., Southington, September 16, 1834, September 1834, November 5, 1834  
\*Olds, G.S., Rev., Northampton, September 18, 1817  
Olmstead, Hawley, Wilton, October 2, 1833  
\*Parker, Dan, Rev., Sharon, May 5, 1813, September 4, 1813  
\*Pascalis, Felix, New York, September 2, 1817  
\*Perkins, G.L., Norwich, February 13, 1813 (military)  
\*Pierpont, H.B., Long Island, November 14, 1817  
Pierpont, John, New York, April 15, 1813  
Miner, Thomas, M.D., Middletown, Conn., June 22, 1827

Folder F: [33]

- \*Read, Nathan, Washington, October 14, 1817  
Ripley, Geo. R., Norwich, October 31, 1832

\*From Leffingwell Volumes

CORRESPONDENCE - ALS/addressed to Hezekiah Howe (Continued):

Folder F: (Continued)

- Roberts, Eli, New Haven, February 7, 1812  
Rockwell, Elijah, Colebrook, September 30, 1816  
\*Rowan, Stephen N., Greenwich, November 5, 1816  
\*Sanford, E., Union Camp, New London, September 22, 1813 (military)  
\*Sanford, Ezekiel, Philadelphia, October 2, 1816, August 25, 1817  
\*Savage, Thomas Staughton, Middletown, May 11, 1831  
Sherman, Chas., New Haven, July 19, 1817  
Sherman, George, Newton, April 21, 1817, September 23, 1817,  
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\*Sherwood, Samuel B., Saugatuck, May 10, 1831  
Shipman, George, New York, October 1, 1832  
\*Silliman, Gold S., Providence, April 14, 1800  
Skinner, R.S., New Haven, May 18, 1831  
\*Smith, Ashbel, New York, September 7, 1832  
Spalding, Geo., Middletown, April 12, 1837, April 14, 1837  
Stanley, Geo. W., Middletown, October 13, 1830, October 11, 1833  
Staples, John B., New York, January 6, 1821, January 13,  
1835, February 13, 1835  
Starr, N., Middletown, December 25, 1814  
Steele, Oliver, Albany, October 20, 1834, March 5, 1835,  
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Sterling, John M., Cleveland, September 29, 1834  
\*Stoddert, John T., Port Tobacco, Charles County, Maryland,  
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Stone, Leman, Derby, October 15, 1816  
Swift, Lucian, Windham, July 29, 1833

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- \*Tenney, C.J., Wethersfield, February 4, 1833  
\*Terry, Alfred, Hartford, January 7, 1832  
Tiffany, J.L., New York, March 4, 1813, September 14, 1833  
\*Tomlinson, John L., Derby, April 7, 1813  
\*Toundrow, Thomas, Boston, February 3, 1833, September 26, 1837,  
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Townsend, Atwater, New York, December 4, 1837  
Townsend, Caleb A., Richmond, February 24, 1814; New York,  
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1837, December 3, 1837  
Townsend, Eban Jr., New York, December 9, 1813, August 27,  
1814, November 12, 1816, March 4, 1817, May 16, 1817,  
January 4, 1817, February 15, 1835, May 14, 1836  
Townsend, Elihu, New York, April 28, 1813, June 15, 1831,  
July 24, 1832, May 30, 1836

Folder H: [31]

- Townsend, K. and E., New York, October 11, 1810  
\*Townsend, Kneeland, New Haven, September 5, 1817; Townsend,  
Ohio, September 29, 1817; Milan, January 7, 1835, March 8, 1836

CORRESPONDENCE - ALS/addressed to Hezekiah Howe (Continued):

Folder H: (Continued)

- \*Townsend, W.L., New York, January 25, 1815, February 28, 1815, March 28, 1817
- \*Van Deming, Wm., Fort Trumbull, January 2, 1813 (military)
- \*Velasquez, de la Cadena, Mariano, March 18, 1827; New York, October 13, 1827
- \*Walsh, Robert M., Philadelphia, March 22, 1830
- Ward, James, Hartford, November 21, 1813, (military)
- \*Warner, James F., Rev., Litchfield, January 28, 1834, May 19, 1834
- \*Waterman, Elijah, Rev., Bridgeport, December 27, 1813, January 30, 1817
- \*Wetmore, Victor, Hartford, November 23, 1816, November 30, 1816
- Whiting and Watson, publishers, New York, May 1, 1813, May 27, 1813
- Whiting, Samuel, Redding, July 27, 1816, January 18, 1831, February 4, 1831
- \*Wickham, Joseph D., New York, November 20, 1817, December 8, 1817
- \*Williams, Thomas W., New London, December 27, 1813
- \*Winthrop, Francis B., Jr. New York, August 12, 1816
- \*Woodbridge, W.C., Princeton, July 10, 1817
- \*Woodruff, Geo. C., Litchfield, October 1, 1832, March 4, 1833
- \*Wooster, E.L., Huntington, January 12, 1813
  
- \*Unidentified signatures: Samuel L?, Boston, February 9, 1813  
Phil Facens?, n.d., n.p.

Folder I: CORRESPONDENCE [15]

ALS/written by Hezekiah Howe (addresses of correspondents unknown)

- \*Durrie and Peck, January 29, 1831
- Eleazer Foster, Esq., June 30, 1809
- \*Howe and DeForest, April 9, 1813, August 23, 1813 (military, written in Groton)
- Morse, Rev. Dr., April 19, 1822, May 22, 1822, December 15, 1823
- Starr, Nathan, May 10, 1827
- \*Terry, A., Esq., September 12, 1832 (from Boston)
- \*Young, William, Esq., January 27, 1800

ALS/to and from other members of Hezekiah Howe's family

- To Mr. Beers from Jos. L. Tilinghaut, April 20, 1803
- To Francis Howe from Frank Howe, West Point, May 11, 1830
- To Mrs. Hezekiah Howe from Attwater Townsend, New York, April 11, 1837

ALS/from Howe and Spalding

- Behjamin Prescott and Caleb A Townsend, June 21, 1823

\*From Leffingwell Volumes

BUSINESS PAPERS - Bills, receipts, iou's, etc.

Folder J: A - G [86]

Folder K: H - Y [81]

PERSONAL ACCOUNTS - Bills, receipts

Folder L: A - H [77]

Folder M: J - W [61]

MISCELLANEOUS

Folder N: Legal documents and papers concerning Hezekiah Howe's land [5]

Partnership agreement: Hezekiah Howe and Isaac Beers, August 28, 1809

Writs:

Hezekiah Howe vs. Daniel Mead, February 12, 1810

Hezekiah Howe vs. Henry H. Porter, April 17, 1833

Extracts from town records respecting Hezekiah Howe's land

Plan of Howe land, 1803 (plan of land near the corner of State and Chapel Streets, as anciently owned)

Folder O: Booklet: Christian Spectator, a "religious periodical work," proposal for publishing and list of prospective subscribers, Howe and Spalding, New Haven, 1818 [1]

Folder P: Court Martial of Capt. Caleb Thompson, of the Second Light Infantry Co., in the 10th Regiment of the Connecticut Militia. Ordered by Hezekiah Howe, Brigadier General, Commander of the Second Brigade. Trial convened on January 6, 1815, New Haven. [15]

- \*Original charges against Capt. Thompson by Hoz. Goddard, Paymaster General, Nov. 6, 1814. ADS
- \*Copy of Capt. Thompson's arrest order by Hezekiah Howe, certified by William C. Leffingwell, December 15, 1814. ADS
- \*Hezekiah Howe's letter to William C. Leffingwell (Judge Advocate for court martial), December 15, 1814. L
- \*Brigade orders for court martial, page 1; charges against Capt. Thompson, page 2, December 15, 1814. (Document torn, section missing.) ADS
- \*Order to adjutants requiring them to detail company officers for court martial by R.I. Ingersoll, Brig. Maj., December 15, 1814. ADS
- \*Letter to Major Ralph I. Ingersoll from James Bradly, Adj., December 28, 1814. Also includes answer from R.I. Ingersoll. ADS

\*From Leffingwell Volumes



Folder P: (Continued)

- \*Hezekiah Howe's letter to witnesses; December 27, 1814. LS
- \*List of members of court,
- \*Booklet - proceedings of trial,
- \*Lt. Col. Staples, minutes of the evidence and account of expenses. ADS
- \*Caleb Thompson, plea to jurisdiction of the court. ADS (in two parts)
- \*Judge Advocate's answer to plea to jurisdiction. D  
Capt. Thompson's defence. (15 p. document written by Thompson, but unsigned)

Folder Q: [47]

Cross reference index cards prepared for the Leffingwell Volumes. Give dates of writer and contents of letter.

Folder R: Ledger cover, 1830.

Folder S: Correspondence regarding collection, 1978-

Folder T. Engravings by Henry Howe as illustrations for historical works. (37)

Folder U Mrs. Henry Howe, photograph

\*From Leffingwell Volumes