



Brinton Coxe family papers

Collection 1983

Summary Information

Repository:

Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-732-6200

Creator: Coxe, Brinton, 1833-1892

Title: Brinton Coxe family papers

Collection number: 1983

Dates: 1787-1917

Extent: 17 linear feet (37 boxes)

Language: The collection is primarily in English.

Abstract:

Brinton Coxe, member of a prominent Philadelphia family, studied law, served as president of the Commonwealth Club and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and was active in scholarly pursuits. His brother, Eckley Coxe, ran the family coal mining interests in Drifton, Pennsylvania and served as Democratic state senator from Luzerne County, 1881-1884. Joshua Francis Fisher, Coxe's father-in-law, was also interested in history, serving as vice-president of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and traveling extensively. George Harrison, Fisher's uncle, served as naval agent for Philadelphia, 1803-1831.

The papers are organized in the following series:

I. *Coxe section* (1839-1895) contains Brinton Coxe business and personal correspondence, memoranda, bills, receipts, speeches, notebooks, clippings and essays; Maria Middleton (nee Fisher) Coxe correspondence and papers, 1864-1907; Eckley B. Coxe correspondence and papers (largely political).

II. *Fisher section* (1819-1860) contains J. Francis Fisher correspondence, accounts, historical

papers and miscellaneous; Oliver Hering letters to Mary Middleton, notable for their commentary on literature, religion, society and politics in both England and the United States; and Elizabeth Powel Fisher correspondence and bills.

III. *George Harrison section* (1795-1855) contains correspondence and business papers concerning service as naval agent, financial affairs as trustee for Rebecca McMurtrie, and business, social and political matters.

IV. *Miscellaneous section* contains genealogical material, historical memoranda and notes and miscellaneous family papers and clippings.

Conditions governing access: The collection is open for research.

Immediate source of acquisition: Gift of Mrs. Daniel M. Coxe, 1970.

BRINTON COXE COLLECTION

Gift of Mrs. Daniel M. Coxe, October, 1970

The Collection contains correspondence and financial papers arranged in four sections: Coxe, Fisher, George Harrison and Miscellaneous.

Coxe Section

There are four boxes of chronologically arranged correspondence (1846-1892) touching on Brinton Coxe's roles as Commonwealth Club president, Historical Society of Pennsylvania president, scholar and member of a prominent Philadelphia family; three boxes of miscellaneous Brinton Coxe material including memoranda, bills and receipts, speeches and articles, notebooks and newspaper clippings.

Brinton Coxe married Maria Middleton Fisher, daughter of Joshua Francis Fisher and Eliza Middleton Fisher. There are two boxes of correspondence between Brinton and Maria Fisher Coxe, 1872-1892; three boxes of incoming correspondence to Maria Coxe, 1864-1907; two boxes of Maria Coxe miscellaneous material including letters from Mrs. J. Francis Fisher to her daughter, 1872-1888.

Brinton Coxe's younger brother Eckley (1839-1895) ran the family coal mining interests at Drifton, Pa., and he served as a Democratic State Senator from Luzerne County from 1881 to 1884. There is one box of his incoming correspondence dealing primarily with the 1882 gubernatorial election; one box of miscellany; one box of newspaper clippings.

Fisher Section

Joshua Francis Fisher (1807-1873), father-in-law of Brinton Cox, is represented by one box of outgoing correspondence, 1819-1867, mostly to his mother and uncle George Harrison. The bulk of this material concerns his grand tour of Europe (1831-1832) and the Civil War of which he writes in letters (1860-1864) to his cousin John Brown Francis. There are two boxes of incoming letters, 1814-1873, alphabetically arranged. As an active member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in its formative years and later a vice president, Fisher was recipient of letters from P. S. Duponceau, Jared Sparks, Roberts Vaux and John Fanning Watson who wrote to Fisher on historical matters. Correspondence from John Brown Francis, Henry Dilworth Gilpin and Harrison Gray Otis dealt with politics.

Also in the J. Francis manuscripts there are three boxes of bills, receipts and accounts, 1825-1863; 1½ boxes of miscellaneous material, including his articles, speeches and notes on history, and some papers relating to the building in 1853 of Alverthorpe, Fisher's estate in Abington, Pa. Approximately 100 letters, 1835-1846, to Mary Middleton, J. Francis Fisher's mother-in law, from her brother Oliver Hering in Southhampton, England, are notable for their commentary on literature, religion, society and politics in both England and the United States. There is one box relating to J. Francis Fisher's mother, Elizabeth Powel Fisher, containing correspondence, bills, receipts and accounts, 1820-1855.

George Harrison Section

George Harrison (1762-1845), uncle of J. Frances Fisher, was a protege of Robert Morris. After Morris' fall, Harrison served

as naval agent for Philadelphia (1803-1831) while rebuilding his career as merchant. Of the three boxes of alphabetically arranged correspondence, one box is entirely concerned with financial affairs of Rebecca McMurtrie for whom he was trustee. The remainder of the correspondence relates to business, social and political matters. Some of the more prominent contributors are Joseph Bonaparte, Robert Morris (40 letters, 1787-1798), Harrison Gray Otis (only 7 letters. The bulk of what was an extensive correspondence rests somewhere else.), Commodore George C. Read, Senator William Cabell Rives, Commodore John Rodgers, Samuel Smith. There are interesting commentaries from a diplomat in Paris during the 1830's (Levett Harris, who is also heavily represented in the J. Francis Fisher papers), scouting reports on the commercial possibilities of Peru following the Spanish liberation in 1821 from Washington Stewart, and 1830's political commentary from John Jones Milligan (U. S. Congressman from Delaware, Whig) and Richard Peters. There is a letter in this section of Thomas Jefferson to William Short, May 15, 1815, on the subjects of naval heroes from the War of 1812, Napoleon and the Pope. There is one box of Harrison Miscellaneous material.

Miscellaneous Section

The collection contains two boxes of genealogical material, mostly Coxe, containing research correspondence, notes and memoranda, and charts; half a box of historical abstracts; a miscellany box holding portraits and pictures, Coxe family business papers, miscellaneous letters; and one box of newspaper clippings.

BRINTON COXE COLLECTION

Coxe Section

- Box 1: Brinton Coxe Correspondence, 1846-1879
- Box 2: Brinton Coxe Correspondence, 1880-1888
- Box 3: Brinton Coxe Correspondence, 1889-1890
- Box 4: Brinton Coxe Correspondence, 1891-1892 and no date.
- Box 5: Brinton Coxe Miscellaneous. Memoranda, notes, etc., 1855-1892 and no date.
Bills, receipts, accounts, etc., 1841-1892.
Historical Society of Pa., miscellaneous accounts.
Commonwealth Club, miscellaneous accounts.
Power of Attorney.
- Box 6: Brinton Coxe Miscellaneous. Bear Tree, plans and notes.
Charles Siddall, real estate, 1891.
Edmund James Drifton Coxe, school reports.
Biographies, memorials, etc.
Articles, essays, etc.
Speeches
Printed material
Certificates, diplomas, etc.
- Box 7: Brinton Coxe Volumes. Daybooks, notebooks.
Copy of Guterbock's Bracton
Newspaper clippings.
- Box 8: Brinton Coxe and Maria Middleton (Fisher) Coxe Correspondence. 1872-1884.
- Box 9: Brinton Coxe and Maria Middleton (Fisher) Coxe Correspondence. 1885-1892.
- Box 10: Maria Middleton (Fisher) Coxe Correspondence, 1864-1891.
- Box 11: Maria Middleton (Fisher) Coxe Correspondence, 1892-1907.
- Box 12: Maria Middleton (Fisher) Coxe Correspondence, no date, A-Z.

- Box 13: Maria Middleton (Fisher) Coxe Miscellaneous. Letters from
Eliza Middleton (Mrs. J. Francis) Fisher,
1872-1888.
Essays, poems, etc.
Bills.
Memoranda, scraps, etc.
Printed material.
Expenses (volume), 1893-1894.
- Box 14: Maria Middleton (Fisher) Coxe Miscellaneous. Children's letters.
Calling cards.
- Box 15: Eckley B. Coxe Correspondence, 1879-1895.
- Box 16: Eckley B. Coxe Miscellaneous. Committee reports.
State Hospital for Injured Persons
of the Middle Coal Field of Penn-
sylvania, miscellaneous papers.
Tench Coxe Estate accounts, 1879-
1892.
Papers relating to coal mining.
Printed: Political--campaigns
and elections.
Legislative.
Pamphlets.
Advertisements.
- Box 17: Eckley B. Coxe Miscellaneous. Newspaper clippings.

Fisher Section

- Box 18: Joshua Francis Fisher Letters, 1819-1869 and no date.
- Box 19: Joshua Francis Fisher Correspondence (incoming), A-L.
- Box 20: Joshua Francis Fisher Correspondence (incoming), M-Z.
- Box 21: Joshua Francis Fisher Bills, Receipts, Accounts, 1825-1852.
- Box 22: Joshua Francis Fisher Bills Receipts, Accounts, 1853-1857.
- Box 23: Joshua Francis Fisher Bills, Receipts, Accounts, 1858-1863.
Account Books: 1820-1824.
1848-1854.
Eliza Middleton Fisher,
1851-1853.
- Box 24: Joshua Francis Fisher Miscellaneous. Historical papers (articles,
speeches, notes).
Memoranda, scraps.
Miscellaneous.
Printed material.
3 school notebooks
Diary, 1856-1857.

Box 25: Joshua Francis Fisher Miscellaneous. Alverthorpe, bills and correspondence, 1848-1860.
William L. Fisher v. J. Francis Fisher.
Charles Francis v. Joseph P. Norris, Jr.
Abraham S. Sec mortgage with John T. Sharpless.

Box 26: Mary Middleton's letters from Oliver Hering, 1800, 1818, 1835-1846.

Box 27: Elizabeth Powel Fisher Correspondence, A-Z.
Bills and Receipts.

George Harrison Section

Box 28: George Harrison Correspondence, A-L.

Box 29: George Harrison Correspondence, McMurtrie.

Box 30: George Harrison Correspondence, M-Z.

Box 31: George Harrison Miscellaneous. Correspondence and business papers, 1795-1836.
Profit and Loss Statements, 1806-1831.
Estate papers, will and memoranda.
Speeches, articles.
Scraps, memoranda.
Mrs. Sophia Harrison, bills and receipts, 1831-1855.

Miscellaneous Section

Box 32: Genealogy. J. A. Burt correspondence and research, 1880-1889.
George W. Collen correspondence and research, 1873-1874.
Wills.
Dr. Daniel Cox, notes relating to Scull's Biography.

Box 33: Genealogy. Notes and memoranda
Heraldry
Genealogical charts (see also Collen material).

Box 34: Historical Abstracts.
"An Account of Two Missionary Voyages By the appointment of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The one to New Jersey in North America, the other from America to the Coast of Guinea. By Thomas Thompson, A. M., 1758."

Box 34: Historical Abstracts (cont.)

Copy of letter to Thomas Walpole, December 27, 1773,
concerning the Boston Tea Party.

"A Catalogue of Books Tracts and Manuscripts Chiefly
relating to North and South America Many from the
Collection of the late Mr. Obadiah Rich...1872."

Mss. relating to Pennsylvania.

Oliver Hering and Julines Hering manuscripts, 1674-
1786. Two parts.

"A Collection of Letters Written at various Times
from America." 1699-1745.

"A Letter from Colonel Pickering Containing a
Narrative of the Outrage Committed on him at Wyoming."

Box 35: Miscellaneous. Coxe family business papers, 1851-1890.

Edmund S. Coxe, miscellaneous papers.

Miscellaneous Coxe family letters.

Portraits, photographs, silhouettes.

Miscellaneous letters.

Poems.

Architectural drawings.

Printed material.

Mitchell v. Sibbett.

Miscellaneous miscellany.

Volumes: Pslam Copy book

Charles Francis Account book, Vinyard
ground.

Recipe book.

Box 36: Newspaper clippings.