

MARBLEHEAD



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PRENTISS FAMILY PAPERS 1761-1822, 1844-1853

MSS 5

Processed by: Lee Jacoby
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Accession #s: 1914.250
1917.282
1926.136–1926.157
1933.34–1933.39
1939.136

Volume: 2 boxes
2.0 linear feet

Provenance: This material was donated by John Orne Frost, the estate of Caleb Prentiss by William P. Wilkins, Mrs. W. P. Wilkins for the Joshua Prentiss estate, and Hazel Stevens.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Joshua Prentiss was born on September 9, 1744, in Holliston Massachusetts, the son of Reverend Joshua and Mary (Angier) Prentiss. As a young man he was a merchant in Marblehead. He served in the Revolutionary Army in Captain John Merritt's company, which was part of Col. John Glover's regiment. He was surveyor and inspector of the port of Marblehead from 1804 to 1829. He was a representative to the State Legislature in 1810 and served as Town Clerk in Marblehead from 1804 to 1833. The Methodist Church in Marblehead was organized in his Mugford Street home. He married Grace Bubier in 1766; they had 13 children: Joshua, Mary, John Bubier, Henry, Margaret, Abigail Bigelow, Grace, Ruth, Thomas, Christopher, Christopher B., Caleb, and Ruth Freeman. After her death he married Dorothy (Churchill) Jayne, the widow of Peter Jayne. Joshua Prentiss died at 92 years of age in Marblehead on June 24, 1837.

Caleb Prentiss was born on January 31, 1786, in Marblehead, the youngest son of Joshua and Grace Prentiss. He was a Captain of Artillery in the Massachusetts Militia in the War of 1812. He married Elizabeth Knight in 1812; they had ten surviving children: Caleb Jr., Elizabeth Knight, Grace Bubier, Mary Abigail, Emily Helen, Henry, Sarah Chinn, Joshua, Benjamin Knight, and Joseph Gallison. Caleb Prentiss died on January 17, 1872, in Danvers, Massachusetts.

Peter Jayne was born in about 1725. He was the first schoolmaster in Marblehead. He married Susanna Haskell in 1753; they had four surviving children: Susanna, Mehitable, Nancy, and

Peter Bonner. Following her death in 1776 he married Dorothy Churchill; they had four children: Peter, Hugh Hill, Joseph Churchill, and John. Peter Jayne died on November 16, 1784, in Marblehead.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains the papers of the Prentiss family of Marblehead, Massachusetts. Included are wills, deeds, personal correspondence, receipts, a foreign certificate, and military papers from the War of 1812. Also included are papers of Peter Jayne of Marblehead, related by marriage to the Prentiss family. The collection is divided into five series.

Series I. Joshua Prentiss (1744-1837) Papers contains the papers of Joshua Prentiss, including the wills of Christopher Bubier and John Felton, deeds, a promissory note, receipts, the marriage intentions of Christopher Prentiss and Nancy Gatchel, and a protest regarding the capture of the ship *Franklin* by the British in 1802.

Series II. Joshua Prentiss (1766-1807) Papers contains a foreign certificate from Guadeloupe for the schooner *Midas* captained by Joshua Prentiss, eldest son of Joshua Prentiss (1744-1837).

Series III. Caleb Prentiss Papers includes military papers from the Massachusetts Militia during the War of 1812. The papers from 1811 to 1814, when Caleb Prentiss was Captain of the Artillery, include muster rolls, company warrants, general orders, payrolls, correspondence, and one document written in code. There are also military papers from 1810, when Martin Wells was Captain and Caleb Prentiss a Lieutenant of the Artillery. The personal correspondence includes long letters to Caleb's wife and father while he was in Jonesborough, Maine, in 1821-1822. There are also a few legal documents and receipts.

Series IV. Peter Jayne Papers contains deeds, correspondence concerning his students plus one letter to a friend, and legal papers concerning Peter Jayne's death in 1784.

Series V. Joshua Prentiss (1827-1905) Papers. There is an extract of a letter Joshua Prentiss, presumably the son of Caleb Prentiss Jr., wrote to the *Boston Daily Bee* in 1855.

RELATED COLLECTIONS

Prentiss, Caleb. Daguerreotype. Acc. #1925.128

Prentiss, Joshua. Lithograph. Acc. #1925.127

Prentiss Family Bible. Acc. #1922.74

SERIES LIST

SERIES I. Joshua Prentiss (1744-1837) Papers

SERIES II. Joshua Prentiss (1766-1827) Papers

SERIES III. Caleb Prentiss Papers

SERIES IV. Peter Jayne Papers

SERIES V. Joshua Prentiss (1827-1905) Papers

CONTENTS LIST**SERIES I. Joshua Prentiss (1744-1837) Papers**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Wills, deeds, receipts, and other papers	1761-1806
2(OS)	1	Deed, Christopher Bubier to Thomas Grant and Joshua Prentiss	1782
1	2	Information accompanying lithograph of Joshua Prentiss	Undated

SERIES II. Joshua Prentiss (1766-1827) Papers

1	3	Foreign certificate for <i>Midas</i> (Schooner)	1822
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SERIES III. Caleb Prentiss Papers

1	4	Military papers	1810-1814, undated
2(OS)	2	General Orders, September 6th, 1814	1814
1	5	Correspondence	1821-1822, undated
	6	Legal documents	1813, 1844
	7	Receipts	1809-1816, 1853

SERIES IV. Peter Jayne Papers

1	8	Deeds, correspondence, and legal documents	1762-1797
2(OS)	3	Order of distribution of Peter Jayne estate	1795

SERIES V. Joshua Prentiss (1827-1905) Papers

1	9	Extract from letter to <i>Boston Daily Bee</i> , November 2, 1855 (copy)	Undated
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Subject Headings

Bubier, Christopher (1706-1789)
Bubier, Grace (1744-1789)
Felton, John (1691-1771)
Jayne, Peter (ca. 1725-1784)
Marblehead, Massachusetts
Massachusetts Militia—War of 1812
Prentiss, Caleb (1786-1872)
Prentiss, Joshua (1744-1837)
Prentiss, Joshua (1766-1827)
Prentiss, Joshua (1827-1905)
Ships—*Franklin* (Ship)
 Midas (Schooner)
United States—War of 1812