

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

2010.FIA.02

Hamilton Family Papers  
1801 - 1908  
(Bulk dates 1830 – 1908)

Processed by Moira O'Connell  
April 2010

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## Collection Information

### Abstract :

The Hamilton Family Papers focus on the lives of Charles A. Hamilton and James P. Hamilton, respected member of Worcester's community in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Materials include store ledgers (Asa and Charles' dry goods store), a diary, bound volumes of poetry and music compositions, legal papers, and materials related to Charles A. Hamilton's role as tax collector, bank employee (both at Quinsigamond Bank and Worcester County Institute for Savings), lawyer, justice of the peace, city clerk, and deputy sheriff for the city of Worcester.

The collection also includes legal papers related to Charles A. Hamilton's estate (executed by James P. Hamilton), as well as James' bound volume of "high school quotations", and correspondence. James P. Hamilton was a member of Worcester society belonging to many social organizations such as the Commonwealth Club Corporation, Tatnuck Country Club, and was an originating member of the Worcester Art Museum.

Key Words: Hamilton; Worcester; Quinsigamond Bank; Worcester County Institute for Savings; Deputy Sheriff of Worcester, Commonwealth Club Corporation; Tatnuck Country Club; Worcester Art Museum; Quinsigamond Boat Club

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Donated by John Herron. Originally in two acquisitions, accession number 1951.51 and 1975.60.

### **Historical/Biographical Notes**

The Hamilton family were active members of the Worcester community during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Prominent citizens, they were involved in city government as well as many of Worcester's well known institutions such as banks and law offices. Materials include store ledgers, a diary, bound volumes of poetry and music compositions, legal papers, and materials related to Charles A. Hamilton's role as tax collector, bank employee, lawyer, justice of the peace, city clerk, and deputy sheriff for the city of Worcester. The collection also includes legal papers and correspondence kept by James P. Hamilton.

Charles A. Hamilton was born on May 11, 1805, the son of Asa and Elizabeth (Blair) Hamilton. He was one of two children, having a brother Sewall who died in 1824. Charles worked with his father, Asa in the family's dry goods store in the mid to late 1820s. In 1830, he was made deputy sheriff for Worcester, a position which he served in for three years. During the 1830s, Charles took on many roles in Worcester, as constable, tax collector, auctioneer, lawyer, notary public, justice of the peace, and city clerk. He used these connections to take additional positions as the treasurer of the republican city committee, the 1<sup>st</sup> Unitarian church, clerk at the Quinsigamond Bank, and the treasurer at the Worcester County Institution for Savings. He married twice, first to Eliza Abbott Porter who died in 1846, and then to Hannah Maria Prescott. He had five children, Sarah Abbott Hamilton, Francis Towne Hamilton, Calvin Willard Hamilton, Edward Bangs Hamilton, and James Prescott Hamilton.

James Prescott Hamilton was born on April 13, 1846. Following in his father's footsteps, he too became a well respected lawyer, and bank representative in Worcester. Taking advantage of his family's prominent place in the city, he was a noted member of Worcester Society, belonging to many social clubs and cultural organizations. He was an original member of the Worcester Art Museum and gained entry into the Commonwealth Country Club, the Tatnuck Country Club, and the Quinsigamond Boat Club. The collection includes papers pertaining to his role as the executor of his father's estate his volume of "high school quotations", and a series of correspondence between himself and his family members as they completed a tour of Europe in 1908.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection contains the documentation from two generations of Hamilton (Charles Augustus and James Prescott Hamilton) starting in 1801 and ending in 1908 (bulk dates 1830 – 1908). Materials include store ledgers, a diary, bound volumes of poetry and music compositions, legal papers, and materials related to Charles A. Hamilton's role as tax collector, bank employee, lawyer, justice of the peace, city clerk, and deputy sheriff for the city of Worcester. The collection also includes legal papers and correspondence kept by James P. Hamilton.

## Series Descriptions

### Series 1: Asa & Charles Augustus Hamilton (1801 – 1879)

#### *Sub Series A: Asa Hamilton*

Deeds

Receipts

Dry goods store records (three bound volumes)

#### *Sub Series B: Charles Augustus Hamilton*

Records of family births, deaths, marriages

Diary

Personal account book

Volume of poetry

Volume of musical compositions

Scrapbook of popular music

Legal papers

Papers associated with Charles' public roles in the city of Worcester

### Series 2: James Prescott Hamilton (1846 – 1908)

#### *Sub Series A: Estate of Charles Augustus Hamilton*

Estate records

Estate Account Book

Estate check books and stubs

#### *Sub Series B: James Prescott Hamilton's Personal File*

High school book of quotations

Correspondence, including two letters from James' daughter Edith to her brother Charles

Hamilton Family Papers  
 2010.FIA.02  
 Series 1, Asa & Charles Augustus Hamilton

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u>   | <u>Description</u>   |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|--|
| 1            | 1               | 2010.FIA.02.1.1.1    | Deed of land purchased from Nathaniel Coolidge (March 9, 1801)                         |
| 1            | 1               | 2010.FIA.02.1.1.2    | Order of Payment, James Campbell (May 19, 1805)  |
| 1            | 3               | 2010.FIA.02.1.1.3    | Tax receipt, James Harrington (July 5, 1831)   |
| 1            | 4               | 2010.FIA.02.1.1.4    | Dry good store ledger, volume 1 (1827 – 1829)  |
| 1            | 5               | 2010.FIA.02.1.1.5    | Dry good store ledger, volume 2 (1830 – 1831)  |
| 1            | 6               | 2010.FIA.02.1.1.6    | Dry good store ledger, volume 3 (1833 – 1851)  |
| 1            | -               | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.1    | Records of births, deaths and marriages in Hamilton Family, bound volume (1830 – 1879) |
| 2            | -               | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.2    | Diary (1835 – 1879)  |
| 2            | -               | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.3    | Personal account book (1857 – 1869)  |
| 2            | -               | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.4    | Book of poetry by Charles A. Hamilton (ca mid-1800s)                                   |
| 2            | -               | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.5    | Book of musical compositions by Charles A. Hamilton (ca mid-1800s)                     |
| 2            | -               | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.6    | Popular sheet music scrap book (ca1890)  |
| 2            | 1               | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.7-22 | Legal papers (1826 – 1879)   |
| 2            | 2               | 2010.FIA.02.1.23-30  | Local appointments to office (1830 – 1851)   |

|   |   |                         |  |
|---|---|-------------------------|--|
| 2 | 3 | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.31-49   | Tax collection records, general (1831 – 1832)                  |
| 3 | 1 | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.50-71   | Tax collection records, Calvinist Parish (1831 – 1833)         |
| 3 | 2 | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.72-93   | Tax collection records, Military (1832 – 1833)                 |
| 3 | 3 | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.94-125  | Tax collection records, First Parish (1831 – 1834)             |
| 3 | 4 | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.126-124 | Tax collection records, School districts 1 and 2 (1832 – 1833) |
| 3 | 5 | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.145-191 | Tax collection records, Second Parish (1830 – 1833)            |
| 3 | 6 | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.192-273 | Tax collection records, Town Orders (1831 – 1836)              |
| 3 | 7 | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.274-292 | Quinsigamond Bank Records (1839 – 1842)                        |

Hamilton Family Papers  
2010.FIA.02  
Series 2, James Prescott Hamilton

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u>     | <u>Description</u>                           |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------------|--|
| 3            | 8               | 2010.FIA.02.2.1.1-17   | Estate executor papers (1846 – 1882)         |
| 3            | 9               | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.18-151 | Settlement of Estate Finances (1879 – 1882)  |
| 3            | -               | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.152    | Estate account book, 2 volumes (1879 – 1882) |
| 3            | -               | 2010.FIA.02.1.2.153    | Estate check book and stubs (undated)        |
| 3            | -               | 2010.FIA.02.2.2.1      | High school book of quotations (1859)        |
| 3            | 10              | 2010.FIA.02.2.2.2-11   | Correspondence (1880 – 1908)                 |

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2010.FIA.02.2.2.12-29

Miscellaneous records (ca mid-1800s  
to early 1900s)