

# Guide to the Frost Family Papers

MS 226



compiled by William E. Brown, Jr. and Diedre Reynolds

November 1984

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 226

**CREATOR:** Frost family

**TITLE:** Frost Family Papers

**DATES:** 1710-1923

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.5 linear feet (6 boxes, 1 folio)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers contain correspondence, account books, and other material documenting the personal lives and professional careers of members of the Frost family. Correspondence of William Frost details his political activity in the Maine Territory, Jeffersonian politics in Massachusetts, and the Embargo Act. Material relating to Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain's Civil War duties is scarce. His years as Bowdoin College president and his role in the election riot of 1880 are documented more fully. Other material details Chamberlain's business interests.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0226>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0226>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased in 1941.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown, though much of the material in this collection is likely in the public domain. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Frost Family Papers (MS 226). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

William Frost was born on November 15, 1754. He served as a deacon in the Congregational Church and as an officer in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He also served as treasurer of York County, in the Maine Territory. Frost lived in Andover, Massachusetts, where he married Sarah Holt in 1777. He died on September 18, 1836.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers contain correspondence, account books, and other material documenting the personal lives and professional careers of members of the Frost family. Correspondence of William Frost details his political activity in the Maine Territory, Jeffersonian politics in Massachusetts, and the Embargo Act. Material relating to Joshua Lawrence Chamberlains Civil War duties is scarce. His years as Bowdoin College president and his role in the election riot of 1880 are documented more fully. Other material details Chamberlain's business interests.

The Frost Family Papers are arranged in six (6) boxes and one (1) folio, totalling two and one-quarter (2.25) linear feet. The papers are arranged in two series:

I. CORRESPONDENCE, 1710-1923

II. ACCOUNT BOOKS, 1844-1860

SERIES I, CORRESPONDENCE, 1710-1823, contains personal, business, and financial papers relating to members of the Frost family. Early letters and papers focus on the activities of William Frost (1754-1836), particularly in York County, Maine. Many of the receipts and financial papers from the 1700s are signed by prominent New England figures. Correspondence in the early 1800s includes several letters from representatives of Joseph Nye and Son, merchants of Boston. Details of trading efforts by these merchants in New Orleans date through 1809, and include letters from the captain of one of the vessels.

Correspondence from 1810 through 1820s focuses on Frost's political activity in the Maine Territory. Several letters and copies of documents describe the political climate of the time, and include references to the Second Bank of the United States and the Society for Suppressing Vice and Immorality. Individual correspondents include: Orchard Cook, Prentiss Mellen, Richard Cutts, and Elbridge Gerry.

In correspondence from the 1860s through the early 1900s the primary figure is Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain. Material in this series focuses on his career as governor of Maine (1866-1871), president of Bowdoin College (1871-1873), and as a private citizen. Letters relating to the Florida West Coast Improvement Company, a private financial concern which Chamberlain served as president are included in files for the 1870s. Letters relating to the Maine election riot of 1880, and Chamberlain's role in preventing violence, are arranged in a folder for that year. Additional topics of note in this series include: the Homossa Land Company, *New England Magazine*, and Fitz John Porter.

SERIES II, ACCOUNT BOOKS, 1844-1860, consists of financial material relating to business interests of Frost family members.

FOLIO consists of family deeds, indentures, and papers, including material relating to Joshus Lawrence Chamberlain's business pursuits.

The papers were purchased in 1941.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Correspondence, 1710-1923. II. Account Books, 1844-1860.

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**Collection Contents**  
**Series I: CORRESPONDENCE, 1710-1923**

*2 linear feet (5 boxes)*

This series is arranged in chronological order.

|                |  |                       |
|----------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 1, f. 1-18  | 1710-1867  | 1710-1867             |
| b. 2, f. 19-34 | 1868-1888<br><a href="#">CORRESPONDENCE, 1868-1888</a> | 1868-1888             |
| b. 3, f. 35-49 | 1889-1893 April  | 1889-1893 April       |
| b. 4, f. 50-65 | 1893 May-1906  | 1893 May-1906         |
| b. 5, f. 66-77 | 1907-1923, undated                                     | 1907-1923,<br>undated |

**Series II: ACCOUNT BOOKS, 1844-1860**

This series is arranged in chronological order.

|                |                          |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| b. 6, f. 78-80 | 1844-1846; 1860, undated | 1844-1846; 1860, undated |
| b. 7           | 1722-1910                | 1722-1910                |

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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Business  
College presidents  
Families

### Geographic Names

Maine -- History  
Massachusetts -- History  
New England  
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865  
United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775  
United States -- Politics and government

### Occupations

Legislators  
Politicians  
Public officers  
Soldiers

### Names

Allen, Stephen M. (Stephen Merrill), 1819-1894  
Andrew, John A. (John Albion), 1818-1867  
Arthur, Chester Alan, 1829-1886  
Barnes, Arthur J., 1842-1914  
Barrett, Joseph  
Bates, James  
Belmont, August, 1813-1890  
Blaine, James Gillespie, 1830-1893  
Brown, Warren, 1836-  
Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919  
Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence, 1828-1914  
Cooks, Orchard  
Corry, Samuel  
Cutts, Richard, 1771-1845  
Frost, William, 1754-1836  
Gallaudet, Edward Miner, 1837-1917  
Gerry, Elbridge, 1744-1814  
Gladden, Washington, 1836-1918  
Gould, Emily Bliss, 1822-1875  
Grange, Gidem, 1767-1822  
Hale, Edward Everett, 1822-1909  
Hawkins, Dexter A. (Dexter Arnoll), 1825-1886

Hay, John, 1838-1905  
Kimball, David T. (David Tenney), 1782-1860  
Lyman, Isaac, 1759-1827  
Mellen, Prentiss, 1764-1840  
Merriam, Henry Clay, 1837-1912  
Morrill, Lot M. (Lot Myrick), 1812-1883  
Otis, Harrison Gray, 1765-1848  
Phillips, Wendell, 1811-1884  
Porter, Fitz-John, 1822-1901  
Rice, A. J.  
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919  
Root, Elihu, 1845-1937  
Savage, Charles  
Schaff, Morris, b. 1840  
Schurz, Carl, 1829-1906  
Sewall, J. B.  
Smedley, Matilda  
Smith, Asa D. (Asa Dodge), 1804-1877  
Von Daur, Henri  
White, Daniel

### Families

Frost family  
Salter family

### Corporate Body

Bowdoin College