

Guide to the Caleb Emerson Collection

Repository:	Marietta College Library, Slack Research Collections Phone: 740-376-4545 http://library.marietta.edu/spc/index.html
Creator:	Emerson, Caleb
Title:	Caleb Emerson Collection
Dates:	1807-1929
Bulk Dates:	1807-1853
Quantity:	.25 linear feet (1 flat mss. box)
Abstract:	Caleb Emerson (1779-1853) was a lawyer and newspaper editor who participated in many Marietta organizations and activities. The collection includes correspondence, notes, meeting minutes, and printed pamphlets.
Identification:	
Language:	English.

Biography/History

Caleb Emerson was born August 21, 1779, at Ashby, Massachusetts. His parents, Timothy and Mary (Felch) Emerson, died when he was young, and he was raised by Samuel and Elizabeth Smith of Mason, New Hampshire. Emerson read law at Amherst, New Hampshire, where he met his mentor, James Elliott, a lawyer from Brattleborough, Vermont. He also assisted the editor of the *Farmer's Cabinet* prior to leaving New England for Marietta, Ohio, in the fall of 1808.

Timothy Pickering, Postmaster General and formerly Secretary of State, wrote a letter of introduction for Emerson, asking for Rufus Putnam's help in getting the young attorney started in Ohio (see Samuel P. Hildreth Collection, Timothy Pickering to Rufus Putnam, October 14, 1808). With the assistance of James Elliott and Paul Fearing, Emerson was admitted to the Ohio bar and opened a law office in Marietta about 1809.

On July 29, 1810, Caleb Emerson was married to Mary Dana, daughter of Capt. William Dana and Mary (Bancroft) Dana, of Belpre, Ohio. At the same time, he began a connection with the *Western Spectator*, a newspaper published in Marietta. He continued his law practice and served as prosecuting attorney of Washington County, Ohio, from 1815 to 1821. Much of Emerson's property was destroyed by fire in October 1820, when he lived on Front Street, between Scammel and Wooster streets.

Caleb and Mary (Dana) Emerson joined the Marietta Baptist Church about 1822, and continued their membership until death. Emerson also served as a trustee of Marietta College, a member of the Washington Benevolent Society, and a member of the local temperance organization. In 1836 he became editor of the *Marietta Gazette*. Among his other literary pursuits were journal articles supporting the abolition of slavery.

Caleb Emerson died at his home in Marietta on March 14, 1853.

Sources:

- Andrews, Martin R., ed. *History of Marietta and Washington County, Ohio, and Representative Citizens*. Chicago: Biographical Publishing Co., 1902, pp. 441-443.
- The Centennial Celebration, Marietta College, 1835-1935*. Marietta College, May 1936, pp. 25-26.
- Greenberg, Gerald S. "Caleb Emerson, Nineteenth-Century Newspaper Publisher of Marietta,

Ohio," *Publishing History*, Vol. 43, Spring 1998, pp. 33-52.
Mann, Bonita H., and Clair V. Mann. *The History of Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy*.
Rolla Missouri: Phelps County Historical Society, 1941, pp. 289-291.

Scope and Content

Comprised of 62 items, this collection is a small sampling of Caleb Emerson's papers. Most of the correspondence is related to business, political, or religious matters, although a few items, such as the December 12, 1843, letter written by Caleb Emerson to his brother and sister, and the October 8, 1839, letter by Charles D. Emerson, are more personal in nature. The bulk of the collection is dated from 1807 to 1853, with a few pamphlets, added to the papers by someone other than Emerson, bearing later dates.

Papers related to Caleb Emerson can also be found in other collections held by the Marietta College Library, including the Ephraim Cutler Family Collection, the Samuel P. Hildreth Collection, the John Mills Collection, and the William Rufus Putnam Collection.

Researchers should also investigate the Caleb Emerson Family Papers, 1795-1905 (MS. 830), held by the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Ohio. Those materials include correspondence, legal and financial papers regarding Emerson's law practice and publishing business, and his participation in anti-slavery, religious, and civic affairs. There are also family materials, Civil War correspondence, and journals of the Washington Benevolent Society.

Statement of Arrangement

The papers are arranged first in chronological order, followed by undated materials. Miscellaneous items, such as pamphlets and typescript copies, are placed at the end.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection. Copyright restrictions may apply to materials. Permission to publish materials must be obtained from the repository and from the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation

Caleb Emerson Collection, Marietta College Library

Acquisition Information

Most papers in this collection were acquired June 18, 1994, from Charlotte Carman Foote and Charles W. Carman. The legal document by Caleb Emerson, dated April 1821, and the copy of a document by Caleb Emerson, dated February 26, 1844, were presented in March 1983 by Carol K. Heckman. The deed from Charles and Janet Wilkes to Caleb Emerson, August 26, 1822, and the list of books in Caleb Emerson's estate, March 1853, are of undetermined origin.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box 1/Folder 1 (1807-1818)

1. Letter of Administration to Richard Holt on the Estate of John Holt. Signed by Edwin Putnam, Clerk Pro Tem, Court of Common Pleas, Washington County, Ohio. September 10, 1807.

2. Paul Fearing, Marietta, letter to Philemon Beacher [*sic*, Philemon Beecher] introducing Mr. Emerson, "who wishes to be admitted to our Bar . . ." September 13, 1809.
3. Sardine Stowe, Adams Township, letter to Caleb Emerson, Marietta. Regarding the case of William Hanby. March 30, 1811.
4. Commander in Chief approves the acquittal of Capt. Alexander Hill, as reported following a court martial. Signed by I. Van Hook, Adjutant General of Ohio. May 9, 1811.
5. Record of the Washington Benevolent Society, September meeting, Marietta. Signed by Caleb Emerson, Secretary. Includes names of members. September 16, 1813.
6. W[illiam] R. Putnam, Marietta, letter to Ichabod Nye, Joshua Shipman, and Caleb Emerson of the Washington Benevolent Society. Regarding a copy of his oration. July 7, 1815
7. Letter addressed to John Brough, Esqr. Signature of writer is illegible, possibly from Gallipolis, Ohio. Related to a land transaction. January or February, 1816.
8. Toasts for 4th July 1816. Undated [July 4, 1816].
9. Paul Fearing, Marietta, letter to Caleb Emerson. Regarding the celebration of the 4th of July by the Washington Benevolent Society. June 2, 1818.

Box 1/Folder 2 (1821-1826)

1. Josiah Butler, South Deerfield, N.H., letter to Caleb Emerson. Regarding a misplaced letter. Mentions the "Missouri subject." March 19, 1821.
2. Legal document by Caleb Emerson, Attorney. Regarding Enoch Hoff, Stephen Shepard, and Cuthbert C. Robinson, who owe \$1500 to Sampson Cole, Treasurer of the Township of Marietta. April 1821.
3. Description of the Anniversary of the American Independence, celebrated in Wesley [Township] at the house of Joseph Palmer. Includes the text of an oration delivered at the celebration by Rufus Humphreys. July 1821.
4. G. Evans, Zanesville, Ohio, letter to Ephraim Emerson, Marietta. Mentions Miss Greenleaf, who resides at "Bro. Holoak's." January 15, 1822
5. Josiah Butler, House of Representatives, letter to Caleb Emerson. "As to the speculation here about the next President I can say but little about it . . ." March 2, 1822.
6. J. Cushing letter to Caleb Emerson. Regarding taxes and value of the two farms Emerson sold him. June 4, 1822.
7. James McAboy letter to Caleb Emerson. Asks Emerson to check on various items, such as a geography and atlas. September 23, 1822.
8. Geo[rge] C. Sedwick, Putnam, letter to Caleb Emerson. Letter sent by the steamboat Rufus Putnam, asking for five dollars worth of religious tracts for his Bible class. January 12, 1824.
9. Woollen Manufactory, Steubenville, bill of wool and invoice of cloth to Caleb Emerson. Includes a note signed by James Henry for B. Wells & Co. July 7, 1824.
10. George Turner, E. Greenwich, letter to Caleb Emerson, Marietta. Concerning politics. December 28, 1824.
11. Geo[rge] Wood, Washington City, letter to Geo[rge] C. Sedwick, Zanesville. Regarding religious tracts. January 16, 1826.
12. George Turner, Newport, R.I., letter to Caleb Emerson and Griffin Greene. "I am yet very much in the dark as to the specific misconduct of Wilcox. I have heard generally that he was more than suspected of improperly fingering the mail . . ." January 26, 1826.
13. Minutes of meetings held in Marietta June 14 and 15, to plan "the celebration of the Jubilee of American Independence." Signed by J. Cotton and Caleb Emerson. June 14, 1826.
14. Charles and Janet Wilkes, deed to Caleb Emerson for five three-acre lots in the Ohio Company's Purchase. August 26, 1826.

Box 1/Folder 3 (1827-1828)

1. Baron Stow, Washington, letter to "Brother Emerson." Regarding Mr. Rice's "course of mismanagement." January 8, 1827.
2. Francis Lincoln, Putnam, letter to Caleb Emerson. Asks for payment of money owed him by Mr. Glines. October 27, 1827
3. R. Prentiss, Marietta, letter to Caleb Emerson. Discusses a possible lawsuit. "Although Attorneys are 'all honorable men,' still they have their intrigues & like large fees . . ." December 8, 1827.
4. Thurston Crane, Cincinnati, letter to Caleb Emerson. "I very cheerfully comply with your request & send you a copy of the lines on the death of our dear little Daughter – Elizabeth." March 24, 1828.
5. W[illia]m Wright Southgate, Newport, [Kentucky], letter to Caleb Emerson. Has forwarded papers of a legal case to Richard S. Wheatley of Louisville. June 20, 1828
6. Hugh Trevor, Athens, letter to Ephraim Emerson, Marietta. Asks for religious tracts to be left with Allen V. Medbury. July 1, 1828.
7. Geo[rge] C. Sedwick, Zanesville, letter to "Bro. Emerson." Regarding Emerson's writing for "the Magazine." July 16, 1828.
8. Appointment of Ichabod H. Nye as Second Sergeant in the Ninth Company, 1st Regiment, 1st Brigade and 3d Division of Ohio Militia. Signed by G. Prentiss, Pascal P. Putnam, and J. T. Clark. Marietta, September 5, 1828.
9. Thurston Crane, Cincinnati, letter to Caleb Emerson, Marietta. Describes the revival of religion in his area. Mentions the possibility of an apprenticeship in Cincinnati for Emerson's son. October 8, 1828.
10. A. Nye, Columbus, to Caleb Emerson, Marietta. Expresses appreciation for the support of his friends and constituents; discusses elections. December 25, 1828.

Box 1/Folder 4 (1829-1839)

1. Jacob Eaton letter to Ephraim Emerson. "This Ch[urc]h is in a state of trial peculiarly so at this time; a great excitement about free-masonry has prevailed around us . . ." May 20, 1829.
2. Account (1825-1829) of Ebenezer Gates, guardian of Charles Brough, Mary Ann Brough, William Brough, and John Brough. 1829.
3. Proposal to the Town Council of Marietta for "a bridge across the run on 4th between Green & Butler Sts." Includes names of several men and their pledges of support. May 22, 1830.
4. E[benezer] Gates, Marietta, guardian for John and Charles Brough, note to Caleb Emerson. Asks Emerson to pay Hugh Ferry from the money belonging to John and Charles Brough. August 24, 1830.
5. Hugh Ferry, guardian for Mary Ann Brough, receipt to Caleb Emerson for dividends from the John Brough estate for Jane Terry, his wife, and Mary Ann Brough. August 25, 1830.
6. E[benezer] Gates, guardian of John Brough [Jr.], receipt to Caleb Emerson, administrator of John Brough, Esq. estate. Marietta, September 11, 1830.
7. Charles Brough receipt to Caleb Emerson. November 21, 1832.
8. Accounting of work done for Caleb Emerson by W[illia]m White, including hauling of wood and stone. August 17, 1832 – December 14, 1832.
9. E. Battelle, Newport, to E. Emerson. Regarding the publication of 150 copies of the Constitution for the Temperance Society. January 18, 1833.
10. Partial text of and address entitled, "Forty eighth anniversary of the settlement of Marietta." Provides early history of the settlement. April 7, 1836.
11. C[harle]s D. Emerson, Cincinnati, letter to his sister, Miss E. S. Emerson, Marietta. "There is a splendor & luxury here, with the opulent, which you never dream of in little quiet Marietta." Describes Longworth's Gardens. October 8, 1839.

12. Samuel P. Robbins, Singapore, to C. and W. D. Emerson, Editors of the *Marietta Gazette*. Describes the lifestyle in Singapore and his work as a missionary. November 30, 1837.
13. The First Regular Baptist Church of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Letter dismissing John L. Smith and his wife, Frances C. O. Smith, who are members in "good and regular standing." Signed by Benjamin L. Fahnestock. December 4, 1839.

Box 1/Folder 5 (1843-1852 and Undated)

1. The Regular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ, "Called Good Hope," Salem Township, Washington County, [Ohio]. Letter dismissing Polly E. Coomb, a member in good standing. Signed by George Wickens. June 19, 1841.
2. Nahum Ward letter to C. Emerson. Regarding land boundaries. 1843.
3. Nahum Ward letter to C. Emerson. Regarding a land transaction. June 28, 1843.
4. Caleb Emerson, Marietta, letter to "Dear Brother and Sister." "I had the honor . . . to be one of a delegation to accompany John Quincy Adams to Pittsburgh. In conversation he remarked that the Texas question would probably be agitated with warmth in Congress . . . He observed that the President of the United States had immense power to do evil, and very little to do good." December 12, 1843.
5. J. B. Cook, Columbus, letter to "Bro. Crane," pastor of the First Baptist church, Marietta. Regarding religious matters. Written on paper that includes "A Pictorial Chart of Daniel's Visions," arranged and published by J. V. Himes of Boston. February 15, 1844.
6. Manuscript copy of a document written by Caleb Emerson regarding the charges against Osmund Darrow, brought by the Newport church, in respect to certain transactions with John Crea. February 26, 1844.
7. Note stating that C. & Mary Emerson "did not feel well able to attend the Church Meeting," and were saddened by "an implied censure of some severity, uttered in that meeting by Elder Corwin." March 30. 1852. Reverse contains biographical notes on Joseph Wood, who was born 9 Jan 1739, in Burlington County, New Jersey, and settled at Belleville in 1785.
8. Catalogue of Books belonging to the Estate of Caleb Emerson. March 1853.
9. List of stockholders in the Marietta Library, with amount of stock owned by each. Undated.
10. E. Sproat note to "Mr. Brough" regarding a draught for Capt. Eaton. Also asks for two quarts of brandy "for a particular occasion." Undated.
11. D. Allinson letter to unknown, regarding the sale of land. Undated.
12. Envelope addressed to the Rev. George C. Sedwick, Zanesville, Ohio. Undated.

Box 1/Folder 6 (Miscellaneous)

1. Petition to Congress from the Committee of Correspondence for Washington County. ". . . the road from Washington City to Chillicothe, by the way of Winchester and Marietta, could be made at least fifty miles shorter than the one by Fort Cumberland, Wheeling and Zanesville . . ." June 29, 1826.
2. Pamphlet, "Annual Report of the First Baptist Church of Marietta, O[hio]." Provides statistics and lists names of members. August 1, 1867.
3. Printed program for the Pioneer Day Celebration. April 7, 1916. (2 copies)
4. *History of the Marietta Baptist Church and Marietta Baptist Association*, compiled and printed by Mary E. Mason; reviewed and approved by Seline Pearce and W. A. Whiston of the Committee on Church History, September 1925. Presented to Augustine Carman by Miss Addie Irish, August 1929. Note indicates that corrections in book are A. S. Carman's handwriting. Contains a typed letter from Addie C. Irish, Marietta, to Dr. and Mrs. Carman, relating news of friends and an apparent rift within the church, August 15, 1929.

Box 1/Folder 7 (Transcriptions)

Transcripts of a selection of Caleb Emerson papers, typed by Charlotte Foote, ca. 1987.