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Robert Rantoul, 1778-1858

Robert Rantoul Papers, 1796-1854

**Abstract:** Papers of Robert Rantoul, Sr. Justice of the Peace. Collection contains bills and receipts paid for by Robert Rantoul, as well as those paid by his wife Joanna Rantoul. In addition, the collection includes paperwork associated with Rantoul's career as Justice of the Peace for Beverly (1808-1854), and paperwork relating to his career as Beverly's apothecary (1796-1824). The collection also includes papers related to his career as a legislator and many of the reform efforts he supported.

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**Biographical Sketch:**

Robert Rantoul was born in Salem, Massachusetts, on November 23, 1778. He began attending school at the age of four. He attended several schools throughout his early childhood. In 1792 Rantoul left school to become an apprentice at an apothecary owned by Dr. Williams Stearns. Rantoul left Dr. Stearns' store after one year to work for Samuel G. Mackey of Beverly, Massachusetts. Rantoul then operated Dr. Joseph Osgood's apothecary while Dr. Osgood's son was away. Dr. Osgood's son returned to Beverly in 1796. Thus on June 18, 1796, Rantoul opened his own apothecary in Beverly. By 1798, he was established enough to have an interest in a similar shop in Salem, which his younger brother, Samuel, managed. In 1801 Rantoul expanded his business by purchasing the land near his Beverly shop. Storekeeping documentation is scarce from 1808-1812, when Rantoul found himself involved in many other activities. On August 12, 1824, Rantoul turned over the shop to William Endicott. William Endicott married Rantoul's first daughter, Joanna Lovett Rantoul on September 26, 1824.

Robert Rantoul was actively involved in various organizations in Beverly, MA. As a young man, Rantoul served in the town's militia; eventually becoming a Captain in the light infantry. Rantoul was actively involved in his church. He was the clerk of Frist Parish church for fifty years. Rantoul was also a deacon of the church for forty-six years.

In 1818, Rantoul was selected as a member of the school committee. He held this position until 1854.

Rantoul was involved or interested in many of the social movements of his time. In the spring of 1804, Rantoul was selected as overseer of the poor. A work-house for the poor was constructed in Beverly in April 1804. In 1807 Rantoul became the chairman of the board of overseers. He served in that position until 1854, when he declined to be a candidate. He was an original and life-long member of the Massachusetts Temperance Society (from its inception in 1812). According to Rantoul, his last glass of wine was in 1833. He was also an original trustee of the Institution for the Education of the Blind (1830-1851).

Robert Rantoul was actively involved in local and state government. He was appointed Justice of the Peace and acting trial justice for Beverly from 1808 to 1858. Rantoul was appointed to the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1809. He was reelected to this position annually until 1820. He was chosen as state Senator for Essex County for the years 1820, 1821, and 1822. He then served as Representative in the General Court from 1823 to 1826 and again from 1828 to 1833. Rantoul was a member of the state conventions to amend the Constitution in 1820 and 1853. He also delivered the address to General Lafayette during the general's tour through Beverly in 1844.

Robert Rantoul married Joanna Lovett on June 4, 1801. Joanna was the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Herrick) Lovett of Beverly. Robert and Joanna had seven children: Joanna Lovett Rantoul (January 13, 1803 – June 26, 1863); Robert Rantoul (August 13, 1805 – August 7, 1852); Mary Elizabeth (August 14, 1809 – August 14, 1821); Samuel (March 23, 1813 – December 9, 1831); Charlotte (1816 – December 2, 1839); Elizabeth Augusta Lovett (April 2, 1819 – May 23, 1837); Hannah Lovett (born June 17, 1821). Robert's wife Joanna passed away on September 23, 1848. Of note is that Robert Rantoul, Jr. was elected to serve as a member of the United States House of Representatives in March 1851. However, Robert, Jr. passed away in August 1852 in Washington, DC. Robert Rantoul died October 24, 1858.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The Robert Rantoul Papers contain receipts and bills for his business accounts, including those paid by his wife Joanna Rantoul. The collection also contains court documents covering the vast majority of Rantoul's career as Justice of the Peace. The collection includes some orders received at his Beverly and Salem drugstore. The collection also includes records relating to Rantoul's time as a State Senator and State Representative, his reform efforts, and his duties as a notary public. The materials were divided into twelve series, separating business, court, legislative and personal papers. The bills and receipts within Series I contain accounts settled and paid to local businesses. Series II are notes paid by Robert Rantoul, Series III include his bills of exchange. Series IV is comprised of all his court documents -- this series is further broken down into subseries. Series V is the collection of orders Rantoul received at his

shops and Series VI is classified as miscellaneous items: composed of an account book, correspondence, a contract for labor etc.

Series VII contains legislative papers, including General Court papers filed prior to 1834, papers of the Health Committee, and papers concerning capital punishment. There are also a number of papers relating to the contempt case against Representative David L. Childs in 1832. Series VIII contains Rantoul's bills and receipts for 1816. These records were not incorporated with previous series because they were found separately bundled and marked. Series IX contains two notebooks on the bills incurred during Rantoul's duties as Justice of the Peace. Series X contains billing records related to Rantoul's financial investment in John Dike, Jr.'s schooner, the Abigail. Series XI contains records about various reforms that Rantoul supported or followed. This series includes records on the reform school in Westborough, Work House, and newspaper clippings about abolitionism. Finally, Series XII contains records related to Rantoul's position as a notary public.

### **Series List:**

Series I: Bills and Receipts

- A) Paid by Robert Rantoul
- B) Paid by Joanna Rantoul

Series II: Notes Paid

Series III: Bills of Exchange

Series IV: Court Documents

- A) Minutes of Evidence
- B) Complaints
- C) List of Prisoners
- D) Writs
- E) Warrants
- F) Miscellaneous

Series V: Orders Received

- A) Beverly Shop
- B) Salem Shop

Series VI: Miscellaneous Papers/Ephemera

Series VII: Legislative Documents

- A) General Court Papers Filed Before 1834
- B) Papers of the Health Committee

- C) Papers on Capital Punishment
- D) Minutes of Evidence Taken on Legislative Committees on Turnpikes and Bridges from June 1823 to February 1825
- E) David L. Childs Case for Contempt of the House of Representatives, February 4, 1832

Series VIII: Bills Paid and Receipts for 1816

Series IX: Bills of Cost in Criminal Prosecutions

Series X: Bills Entered in Account with John Dike, Jr.

Series XI: Reform Activities

- A) Papers Relating to the State Reform School at Westborough (1846-1849)
- B) Papers Relating to the Work House
- C) Newspaper Clippings on Abolitionism

Series XII: Notarial Papers

**Content List:**

Series I: **Bills and Receipts**

**A) Paid by Robert Rantoul**

\*Bills & receipts not listed individually may be found in “letter” general of each subseries\*

**\*\*Box 1 & 2 integrated into Bills and Receipt series – NOW in box 1 of Bills and Receipts\*\***

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
1	1	“A - B” General	1796-1805
	2	Bartlett, Thomas; Bartlett, W.P.	1797-1805; 1797
	3	“C” General	1796-1805
	4	Cushing, Thomas C.	1796-1804
	5	“D” General	1796-1805
	6	Dana, Dexter	1796-1804
	7	Dodge, Bethia; Dodge, Caleb; Dodge, Israel; Dodge, John; Dodge, Pickering	1803; 1796-1797; 1798-1805; 1805; 1799-1805;
1	8	Dix, Elijah	1796-1798;

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Date</b>
		Dix & Brinley	1804;
		Dix & Haskin	1796
	9	"E-F" General	1798-1805
	10	"G-H" General	1796-1805
	11	Hancock, John	1797-1799
	12	Hall, H. & J.P.	1796-1799
	13	"I-L" General	1796-1805
	14	Lecomb, Ebenezer	1804-1805
	15	Lovett, Benjamin Jr;	1797-1799;
		Lovett, Ebenezer;	1805;
		Lovett, Jeremiah;	1799;
		Lovett, Josiah	1805
	16	"M-O" General	1796-1804
2	17	Osgood, Joseph Jr	1796-1797
	18	"P" General	1797-1805
	19	Perry, William	1797-1800
	20	Putnam, Nathaniel [Danvers & Beverly Iron Works]; Putnam & Whitridge	1804-1805; 1805
	21	"R-S" General Includes: Russel, Benjamin Dr. (Columbian Centinel)	1796-1805
	22	Richardson, Eunice; Richardson, J.;	1796; 1803-1805;
		Richardson, L.;	1803;
		Richardson, William	1796
	23	Rose, Brackley	1796-1799
	24	Smith, Ebenezer;	1798-1805;
		Smith, Elias;	1799;
		Smith, Joshua;	1804;
		Smith, Nathaniel;	1803-1804;
		Smith, Thomas;	1797-1799;
		Smith, William;	1797;
		Smith & Bartletts	1796-1798
	25	Stearns, William	1797-1801
	26	"T-W" General	1796-1805
	27	Thorndike, Henry;	1799;
		Thorndike, Israel	1797-1799
	28	Whitwell, JP	1798-1804
	29	Woodberry, Isaac;	1805;
		Woodberry, John;	1805;
		Woodberry, Josiah;	1804;
		Woodberry, Peter;	1798;
		Woodberry, Thomas;	1799;
		Woodberry, Treeborn	1799
2	30	Chemist & Druggist	1797-1804

Includes: Jenks, John; Crawley,  
William; Crawley & Elgie

## B) Paid by Joanna Rantoul

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	31	Various Societies: Beverly Female Readings Society; Beverly J.C.R Society; Beverly Charitable Society; Beverly C.F.R Society;	1813-1844; n.d.
	32	Tuition Payments	1806-1827; n.d.
	33	Household Expenses	1796-1827
3	34	Household Expenses	1831-1832; n.d.

## Series II: Notes Paid

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	35	Various Notes Paid	1797-1799
	36	Various Notes Paid	1800
	37	Various Notes Paid	1801
	38	Various Notes Paid	1802
	39	Various Notes Paid	1803
	40	Various Notes Paid	1804
	41	Various Notes Paid	1805
	42	Various Notes Paid	1806-1808
	43	Various Notes Paid	1809-1810
	44	Various Notes Paid	1811-1812
	45	Various Notes Paid	1816-1818
	46	Various Notes Paid	1822-1823
	47	Various Notes Paid	1824-1829
	48	Various Notes Paid	1831-1833; 1835-1836

## Series III: Bills of Exchange

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	49	Bills of Exchange	1799-1811

## Series IV: Court Documents

### A) Minutes of evidence

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	50	Minutes	n.d.

## B) Complaints

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	51	Complaints	1803-1804

## C) List of Prisoners

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	52	List with location	1804

## D) Writs

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>	
4	53	Writs	1808	
	54	Writs	1809	
	55	Writs	1809	
	56	Writs	1809	
	57	Writs	1809	
	58	Writs	1810	
	59	Writs	1810	
	60	Writs	1810	
	61	Writs	1811	
	62	Writs	1811	
	63	Writs	1811	
	64	Writs	1812	
	65	Writs	1812	
	66	Writs	1812	
	5	67	Writs	1813
		68	Writs	1814
69		Writs	1815	
70		Writs	1816	
71		Writs	1817	
72		Writs	1818 - 1819	
73		Writs	1820 - 1821	
74		Writs	1822 - 1825	
75		Writs	1826 - 1827	
76		Before Justice Isaac Woodberry Jr.	1815	
		Before Justice Robert Rantoul	1815	
77		Before Justice Josiah Batchelder	1803-1809	
78	Before Justice Jonathan Smith	1810-1814		

## E) Warrants

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
5	79	Various Warrants	1808
	80	Various Warrants	1809
	81	Various Warrants	1810

	82	Various Warrants	1811
	83	Various Warrants	1812
	84	Various Warrants	1813
6	85	Various Warrants	1814
<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
	86	Various Warrants	1814
	87	Various Warrants	1815
	88	Various Warrants	1816 - 1817
	89	Various Warrants	1818 - 1820
	90	Various Warrants	1821 - 1822
	91	Various Warrants	1823
	92	Various Warrants	1824
	93	Various Warrants	1824
	94	Various Warrants	1825
	95	Various Warrants	1825
	96	Various Warrants	1826
	97	Various Warrants	1827
	98	Various Warrants	1827
	99	Various Warrants	1828
	100	Various Warrants	1828
7	101	Various Warrants	1829
	102	Various Warrants	1829
	103	Various Warrants	1830
	104	Various Warrants	1831
	105	Various Warrants	1832
	106	Various Warrants	1832
	107	Various Warrants	1833
	108	Various Warrants	1833
	109	Various Warrants	1834
	110	Various Warrants	1834
	111	Various Warrants	1834
	112	Various Warrants	1834

## F) Miscellaneous

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
7	113	Various court related documents	n.d.

## Series V: Orders Received

### A) Beverly Shop

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
7	114	Orders at Beverly Shop	1796-1798
	115	Orders at Beverly Shop	Before 1799 (1798; n.d.)
	116	Orders at Beverly Shop	1800



	117	Orders at Beverly Shop	1800
8	118	Orders at Beverly Shop	1801
	119	Orders at Beverly Shop	1802
<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
	120	Orders at Beverly Shop	1803
	121	Orders at Beverly Shop	1804
	122	Orders at Beverly Shop	1805
	123	Orders at Beverly Shop	1806
	124	Orders at Beverly Shop	1807
	125	Orders at Beverly Shop	1808
	126	Orders at Beverly Shop	1809
	127	Orders at Beverly Shop	1810
	128	Orders at Beverly Shop	1811
	129	Orders at Beverly Shop	1812
	130	Orders at Beverly Shop	1813
	131	Orders at Beverly Shop	1815
9	132	Orders at Beverly Shop	1815-1818
	133	Orders at Beverly Shop	1819-1823

## **B) Salem Shop**

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
9	134	Orders at Salem Shop	1800-1802

## Series VI: **Miscellaneous Papers/Ephemera**

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
9	135	Personal Papers	n.d.
	136	Personal Papers	n.d.
	137	Personal Papers	n.d.
	138	Personal Papers	n.d.
	139	Personal Papers	n.d.
	140	Personal Papers	n.d.
	141	Personal Papers	n.d.
	142	Personal Papers	n.d.
	143	Material Wrappings	n.d.
	144	Material Wrappings	n.d.
	145	Material Wrappings	n.d.
	146	Material Wrappings	n.d.
	147	Material Wrappings	n.d.

## Series VII: **Legislative Documents**

### **A) General Court Papers Filed Before 1834**

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
10	148	General Court Papers Filed	1825-1826
	149	General Court Papers Filed	1825-1826

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
	150	General Court Papers Filed	1829
	151	General Court Papers Filed	1830
	152	General Court Papers Filed	1830-1831
	153	General Court Papers Filed	1831-1832
	154	General Court Papers Filed	1832
	155	General Court Papers Filed	1832-1833
	156	General Court Papers Filed	1833-1834
	157	General Court Papers Filed	n.d.

**B) Papers of the Health Committee**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
10	158	Health Committee	1832
	159	Health Committee	1832

**C) Papers on Capital Punishment**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
10	160	Capital Punishment	1831-1835
	161	Capital Punishment	1836-1859

**D) Minutes of Evidence Taken on Legislative Committees on Turnpikes and Bridges from June 1823 to February 1825**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
10	162	Turnpikes and Bridges	1823-1825

**E) David L. Childs Case for Contempt of the House of Representatives, February 4, 1832**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
10	163	David L. Childs Case	1832
	164	David L. Childs Case	1832
	165	David L. Childs Case	1832
	166	David L. Childs Case	1832

**Series VIII: Bills Paid and Receipts for 1816**

**\*1816 Moved to Box 3 of Robert Rantoul Bills and Receipts\***

**Box 11 eliminated – other items moved to Box 12**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
11	167	Bills and Receipts	1816
	168	Bills and Receipts	1816
	169	Bills and Receipts	1816
	170	Bills and Receipts	1816
	171	Bills and Receipts	1816
	172	Bills and Receipts	1816
	173	Bills and Receipts	1816
<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Date</u>
	174	Bills and Receipts	1816
	175	Bills and Receipts	1816

176	Bills and Receipts	1816
177	Bills and Receipts	1816

Series IX: **Bills of Cost in Criminal Prosecutions**

12	178	Bills of Cost in Criminal Prosecutions	1818-1823
	179	Bills of Cost in Criminal Prosecutions	1828-1832

Series X: **Bills Entered in Account with John Dike, Jr.**

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
12	180	Bills – John Dike, Jr.	1812
	181	Bills – John Dike, Jr.	1812
	182	Bills – John Dike, Jr.	1812
	183	Bills – John Dike, Jr.	1813-1814
	184	Bills – John Dike, Jr.	1815
	185	Bills – John Dike, Jr.	1815, n.d.

Series XI: **Reform Activities**

**A) Papers Relating to the State Reform School at Westborough (1846-1849)**

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
12	186	Westborough School	1846
	187	Westborough School	1846
	188	Westborough School	1847
	189	Westborough School	1847
	190	Westborough School	1847
	191	Westborough School	1848
	192	Westborough School	1848
	193	Westborough School	1849

**B) Papers Relating to the Work House**

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
12	194	Work House	1804, 1817-1818, 1821, n.d.
	195	Work House	1835, 1838-1839, n.d.
	196	Work House	1845-1846

**C) Newspaper Clippings on Abolitionism**

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
12	197	Abolitionism	1852

Series XII: **Notarial Papers**

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
12	198	Notarial Papers	1808-1809, n.d.

199	Notarial Papers	1809-1810
200	Notarial Papers	1811-1816
201	Notarial Papers	1817-1826, n.d.

### **Bibliography and Related Collections:**

*The Beverly Citizen*. March 5, 1892.

*Historical Collections of The Essex Institute*. Salem: G.M. Whipple & A.A. Smith, 1863.

Vol. 5. 145-152, 193-202, and 241-254.

*Historical Collections of The Essex Institute*. Salem: Charles W. Swasey, 1864.  
25-36 and 79-92.

Lovett, Robert W. "Squire Rantoul and His Drug Store, 1796-1824." In *Bulletin of the Business Historical Society* Vol. 25, No. 2 (Jun., 1951). Cambridge, MA: The President and Fellows of Harvard College. 99-114

"Robert Rantoul." In *History of Essex County; With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1888. 728-729.

\* Note: See attached inventory for related collections.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

This portion of Robert Rantoul Papers contains personal papers and compositions, financial records of the Boston wholesale shoe and leather business Bigelow & Livermore, and court documents from Robert Rantoul Jr.'s time as the US District Attorney. The materials are divided into three series, separating personal papers, Bigelow & Livermore records, and court documents. Series I contains personal items, including a journal, and compositions on a variety of topics. Series II is made up of records from Bigelow & Livermore, primarily focusing on the finances of the business such as ledgers, receipts, and invoices. Series III contains transcripts of court cases under the jurisdiction of Rantoul Jr. as well as various statistics.

### **Series List:**

Series I: Personal Papers

- A) Ephemera
- B) Compositions

Series II: Bigelow & Livermore Records

Series III: Statistics & Transcripts

**Content List:**

Series I: **Personal Papers**

**A) Ephemera**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Date</b>
13	202	“Index To Commonplace Book” (encapsulated)	1822
		England & Wales Statistics On Capital Punishment (3 copies: 2 folded, 1 encapsulated in “Documents, Oversize, Box 1”)	1835
		Letter	n.d.
		Translated phrase	n.d.
		Dated sheet	n.d.

**B) Compositions**

13	203	Rafael del Riego during the Spanish Civil War of 1820-1823 (reorganized by page number, numbering restarts after 7, last page encapsulated)	n.d.
	204	Geology	n.d.
	205	“The Education Of A Free People” (reorganized by page number, missing pages 16, 33-44)	n.d.
	206	Importance of reading	1820
		Notes on European/English History	n.d.
		Government (encapsulated)	n.d.

Series II: **Bigelow & Livermore Records**

13	207	William D. Coolidge (chron., “Sales by W. D. Coolidge of Adventure No. 3” encapsulated)	1834-1835
	208	“Consignment Papers Of Bigelow & Livermore” (chron.)	1834-1835
	209	Payments, receipts, invoices (chron.)	1834-1836

210	“Copy Of Sales To Griggs & Weld Oct 9, 1835” (chron.)	1835
211	“Otis G. Randall”	1835
212	“Papers Of Bigelow & Livermore” (checks chron.)	1835-1836
213	“Bigelow & Livermore Papers” (“Notes Discounted Dec 2, 1835” encapsulated)	1835-1836
214	“Dissolution Of The Co-Partnership” (“From Bill Book: Bills Receivable” encapsulated)	1835-1836

### Series III: Statistics & Transcripts

13	215	Statistics: “List of property in the possession of the Collector of the Customs for the District of Boston & Charlestown belonging to the United States of America, July 1, 1844” (in “Documents, Oversize, Box 1”)	1844
		“Missouri Census of 1840 & 1844”	1844
		“Transcript from Route Book Massachusetts” (chron.)	1846
	216	Court Case: Asa A. Brown vs. Henry S. Hills	1837-1838
	217	Court Case: against John M. French (includes physical description, Navy shipping articles (in “Documents, Oversize, Box 1”))	1846-1847
	218	Court Case: M.S. vs. James M. Thompson	c1846
	219	Court Case: Anderson vs. Dean	c1847
	220	Material wrappings	n.d.

### Bibliography and Related Collections:

- "Robert Rantoul." In *History of Essex County; With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1888. 728-729.
- Rantoul Jr, Robert. "Reminiscence." In *Historical Collections of The Essex Institute*. Salem: G.M. Whipple & A.A. Smith, 1863. 145-147.
- Lovett, Robert W. "Squire Rantoul and His Drug Store, 1796-1824." In *Bulletin of the Business Historical Society* Vol. 25, No. 2 (Jun., 1951). Cambridge, MA: The

President and Fellows of Harvard College. 99-114

\* Note: See attached inventory for related collections.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection contains courtroom records, depositions, releases and agreements mainly relating to the case of Ebenezer Stedman versus Oliver G. Lane beginning March 15, 1833. Robert Rantoul, Jr. argued the case for the defendant, in writing, with attorney Saltonstall. Included are depositions of carpenters, shipmasters and merchants from Gloucester and Newburyport, Massachusetts and also Groton and New London, Connecticut. There are also contract agreements documenting the contract for the sale of the merchant ship, Temora and records of materials used for repairing the ships hull in a timely manner.

The remainder of the collection contains business related matter, bills and receipts of payment, personal and business related correspondence, newspaper clippings, a dissertation and school notes from Rantoul's years at Phillips Andover Academy and Harvard University. There are also a few items relating to his time serving as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

### **Series List**

**Series 1:** Courtroom records

**Series 2:** Bills and receipts

**Series 3:** School papers

**Series 4:** Correspondence

**Series 5:** Miscellaneous

### **Content List**

#### **Series I     Courtroom Records 1833-1835**

Records mainly relating to the case between Oliver G.Lane and Ebenezer Stedman.

Box 14	Folder 221	Deposition of Erastus Baldwin Deposition of John White, 1833 Judgments: March 18, 1835 Deposition of Acors Burns Deposition of Amos Mallery: Deposition of Ship Master, Perkins
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- 222 Request for court appearance made by Lane: 1833  
 Deposition of Joseph Lawrence  
 Copy of protest: September 1833  
 Deposition of ship master Lyman Allyns  
 Deposition of John Bandigee  
 Deposition
- 223 Deposition of Samuel Kennedy  
 Deposition of Christopher Leeds  
 Deposition of Titcomb  
 Deposition of Oliver G. Lane  
 Stedman vs. Lane: October 29, 1834  
 Certificate, Abraham Robinson  
 Court awarded Damages Report, 1833

**Series I Courtroom Records 1833-1847**

Records mainly relating to the case between Oliver G. Lane and Ebenezer Stedman and other courtroom documents.

- 224 Articles of agreement: November 12, 1847  
 Deposition of B. Titcomb  
 Release, Oliver G. Lane to Gideon Lane  
 List of witnesses  
 Agreement, March 15, 1833  
 April 21, 1834  
 Christian Griffin vs. Gideon Lane, Jr.
- 225 Abraham Robinson testimony  
 Deposition of Captain Andrew Matthers: Dec 9, 1833  
 Deposition of Captain Spalding: 1833  
 Erastus Baldwin account of ship repair  
 Deposition of Samuel Chipman  
 Deposition of Enoch Barnes
- 226 Survey of Ship Temora  
 Deposition of Samuel Lane  
 James M ship  
 Deposition May 28, 1847  
 Release: Oliver Lane to Gideon Lane  
 List of ship carpenters and repairmen
- 227 Release: William Hodgkins: May 4, 1835  
 Deposition of Levi Case  
 Release of Oliver G. Lane to William Hodgkins  
 Prescott Hawking: explanation of ships repairs  
 Agreement between Ebenezer Stedman and Titcomb  
 List of timbers used in ship: Edward Titcomb  
 Letter to Oliver G. Lane November 14, 1833  
 Unreadable



**Series II Bills and Receipts 1824-1834**

Bills and receipts relating to the case between Oliver G Lane and Ebenezer Stedman, ship building materials, deeds and surveys. Items are listed by subject, author and creation date.

228 Gideon Lane: September 27 1834.  
Timber: April 25, 1833  
Timber August 15, 1833  
August 15, 1833  
Samuel Hitchcock: March 12, 1840  
Deed, Oliver Lane unto Ebenezer Stedman: October 15, 1833  
Survey of ship Temora: November 27, 1833  
Deed, Oliver Lane to Gideon Lane: 1824  
Title and sale of Temora. Gloucester April 4, 1834

**Series III Harvard Papers -1826**

Student work, notes, essays and compositions. Listed by topic.

Box 15 229 School reform: May 21, 1836  
"The Queen of France"  
New England  
Law  
National Pride in America  
Poem  
Government  
Thoughts  
Processes and behavior  
230 Biological behavior  
American Indians July 14, 1825  
Behavior  
Language of research and toleration  
Physics  
Philosophy  
Pursuits of agricultural labor vs. artists and manufacturers  
Philosophy  
231 Government  
Morals  
Law  
School papers  
School papers  
Unreadable

	History
	Poetry vs. prose
	Abstract analysis of lecture
232	Happiness
	Notes
	How British travelers and tourists are treated by American
	Citizens
	Fear
	Poem
	Gossiping
	Government and law
	Sentimentalism
233	Philosophy
	Notes
	Biological notes
	Consent and inquiry
	Pleasures of sight and hearing
	Works of art and mind
	Philosophy
234	Government and law
	Philosophy
	Man
	Sir W. Berkley Governor of Michigan
	Philosophy
	History of man

### **Series III School Notes 1820-1826**

Compositions from Robert Rantoul's schooling at Phelps Academy in Andover, Massachusetts and from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Topics include fictional writing, works in the Spanish language and a dissertation. Items are listed by topic and creation date.

235	A touch of the sentimental
	French Revolution
	Religion
236	Spanish text: 7 volumes of Spanish writing:1820
237	Health
	Unreadable/various matters from Harvard and Phillips
	Academy
	Sketch of Mr. O'Connell
	Town government
238	"Moral Education"
	Letter A: October 21, 1819
	September 30th 1819

Dissertation on "Political Economy"  
School notes

**Series IV Letters and correspondence 1834-1847**

Personal letters written to Robert Rantoul, Jr. regarding collections, court cases, permits and personal matters. Items are listed by topic, author and creation date.

- |        |     |  |
|--------|-----|--|
| Box 16 | 239 | Rodney French: September 26, 1843<br>J.H. Ward: September 1843<br>Grange Clark: September 5, 1843<br>Hinckley: October 19, 1840<br>Letter in spanish: 1844<br>October 19, 1840<br>Captain Jordan: 1846<br>Captain Jordan<br>Captain Jordan<br>October 18, 1846<br>Collection Letter, Custom House, Boston: October 11, 1847                              |
|        | 240 | Richmond Loring: March 17, 1847<br>Two Seamen Deserted: March 20, 1847<br>Permit inquiry for mining: October 20, 1845<br>May 6, 1847<br>Correspondence<br>Lawrence, Collections Office of New York: September 9, 1845<br>Parsons: July 5 1843<br>B.F. Gallett: August 30, 1843<br>April 21, 1834 Letter regarding Lane's case from Lurett<br>Saltonstall |
|        | 241 | Collections letters (series of 8)  |

**Series V Miscellaneous papers 1824-1847**

Papers of Robert Rantoul, Jr. relating to various matters

- |  |     |   |
|--|-----|---|
|  | 242 | Newspaper clipping, Weekly Bay State Democrat, February 20, 1846<br>Minutes of town records of Beverly, Massachusetts<br>Preliminary Poll for elections: John Quincy Adams vs. Andrew Jackson: 1824<br>Signed petition regarding hawkers and peddlers<br>Envelope: Ipswich<br>November 23, 1847<br>Massachusetts House of Representatives: 1835 |
|--|-----|---|

- 243 Certificate of appointment from John D' Witt: April 1835  
 1835 Massachusetts Riots  
 Grace Howland. Letter asking for oil gauging use in ships,  
 New Bedford, 1843  
 Insolvency Assignment, Joseph Broadhead, October 14,  
 1846  
 Estimates of property: June 30, 1848  
 Act on hawkers and peddlers: February 5, 1835  
 244 Duty on tea and coffee: December 1843  
 Richard Codeman, 1826  
 James Dalton- Richard Codeman, 1826  
 Petitioners: April 6, 1845  
 Receipts of Law Books purchased by Robert Rantoul, Jr.  
 1841  
 Captain John Lovett  
 245 Material wrappings

### **Bibliography and Related Collections:**

Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Judicial Court of  
 Massachusetts: Octavius Pickering, Counselor at Law, Volume XIX. Boston: Little,  
 Brown and Company. 1864.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Captain Robert Rantoul (1753-1783) was born in Middleton, Kinross, Fife, Scotland and  
 immigrated to America in 1769. He married Mary (Preston) Rantoul (1755-1816) in  
 1774 and the couple had four children: Robert Rantoul (1778-1858), Samuel Rantoul  
 (1781-1802), William Rantoul (d. 1816, 22 years old) and Mary "Polly" Rantoul Peabody  
 (1783-1836). Captain Rantoul was lost at sea in 1783, while commanding the ship *Iris*.

Robert Rantoul (1778-1858) was born in Salem, Massachusetts, the eldest child of  
 Captain Robert and Mary Preston Rantoul. Only partially educated, he was apprenticed  
 to a druggist and opened his own apothecary in Beverly in 1796. In addition to owning  
 the apothecary, Rantoul was highly visible in Beverly politics. He served as the overseer  
 of the poor of Beverly from 1804 to 1854 and was a parish clerk of the First Parish  
 Church of Beverly from 1808 to 1858. Rantoul was a Justice of the Peace and an acting  
 trial justice from 1808 to 1858. He was elected Senator for Essex County in 1820, 1821  
 and 1882 and served a total term of 25 years. Rantoul was an original member of the  
 Massachusetts Temperance Society and a trustee of the Institution for the Education of  
 the Blind. He married Joanna (Lovett) Rantoul (1780-1848), with whom he had seven  
 children: Joanna Lovett Rantoul Endicott (1803-1863), Robert Rantoul, Jr. (1805-  
 1852), Mary Elizabeth Rantoul (1809-1821), Samuel Rantoul (1813-1831), Charlotte

Rantoul (1816-1840), Elizabeth Augusta Rantoul (1819-1837), and Hannah Lovett Rantoul (1821-1898).

Robert Rantoul, Jr. (1805-1852) was born in Beverly, Massachusetts, the eldest son of Robert Rantoul and Joanna (Lovett) Rantoul. He was educated at Philips Academy in Andover and entered Harvard in 1822, where he studied political science and the languages and literature of continental Europe. He studied law with John Pickering and Levrett Saltonstall, both of Salem, Massachusetts, and was admitted to the bar in 1829. Rantoul, Jr. practiced law in Salem, South Reading, Gloucester and Boston. In 1843 he became the Collector of the Customs for the Port of Boston and Charlestown and from 1845 to 1849 he was a United States District Attorney for Massachusetts. Rantoul, Jr. was opposed to capital punishment and interested in banking reform; his political involvement evolved over the course of his life. In 1851, Rantoul, Jr. was asked to fill the seat of United States Senator Daniel Webster. Rantoul, Jr. died of a skin infection (erysipelas) caused by a streptococcus bacteria at Washington, DC, during the first session of the Thirty-Second Congress in 1852. He married Jane Elizabeth (Woodbury) Rantoul (1807-1870) in 1831, with whom he had two children: Robert Samuel Rantoul (1832-1922) and Charles William Rantoul (1839-1918).

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Rantoul Family Papers contains mainly correspondence and receipts for four generations of the Rantoul family. The collection includes school compositions, notebooks, hand drawn maps, news paper clippings, pamphlets and speeches. The materials have been divided into series based on family member, beginning with Captain Robert Rantoul and ending with extended family correspondents. Each series is arranged chronologically, with undated material at the end.

### **RANTOUL FAMILY PAPERS, 1773-1915**

#### **SERIES LIST**

**SERIES I:** Captain Robert Rantoul

**SERIES II:** Mary (Preston) Rantoul

**SERIES III:** Samuel Rantoul (d. 1802)

**SERIES IV:** William Rantoul

**SERIES V:** Robert Rantoul

**SERIES VI:** Joanna (Lovett) Rantoul

**SERIES VII:** Joanna Lovett Rantoul Endicott (d. 1863)

**SERIES VIII:** Augusta Rantoul Endicott (daughter of Joanna Lovett Rantoul)

**SERIES IX:** Mary Elizabeth Rantoul

**SERIES X:** Samuel Rantoul (d. 1831)

**SERIES XI:** Charlotte Rantoul

**SERIES XII:** (Elizabeth) Augusta Rantoul

**SERIES XIII:** Hannah Lovett Rantoul

**SERIES XIV:** Robert Rantoul, Jr.

**SERIES XV:** Jane Elizabeth (Woodbury) Rantoul

**SERIES XVI:** Robert S. Rantoul

**SERIES XVII:** Other Correspondents

### **CONTENTS LIST**

**SERIES I:** Captain Robert Rantoul

<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Contents</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
1	Invoices and Receipts	1773-1781
2	Invoices and Receipts	1782-1795

**SERIES II:** Mary (Preston) Rantoul

3	Invoices and Receipts	1783-1786
4	Invoices and Receipts	1787-1791
5	Invoices and Receipts	1792
6	Invoices and Receipts	1793-1799
7	Invoices and Receipts	1800-1802
8	Invoices and Receipts	1803-1805, 1807-1810
9	Invoices and Receipts	1811-1816

**SERIES III:** Samuel Rantoul (d. 1802)

10	Childhood Compositions, Invoices, Correspondence	1791-1802
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**SERIES IV:** William Rantoul

11	Cipher Book, School Invoices, Poems	1802-1805
12	Notebooks, Invoices	1810-1811
13	Notebook, Invoices	1812-1813
14	Notebook, Invoices, Correspondence	1814-1816

**SERIES V: Robert Rantoul**

15	Invoices, Correspondence	1769-1799
16	Invoices	1800
17	Invoices, Military Commissions	1801
18	Invoices, Correspondence	1804-1819
19	Correspondence	1820-1822
20	Correspondence	1823-1824
21	Correspondence	1825
22	Correspondence	1826
23	Correspondence	1827-1828
24	Correspondence	January - April 1829
25	Correspondence	May - June 1829
26	Correspondence	July - September 1829
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Contents</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
27	Correspondence	October - December 1829
28	Correspondence	1830-1831
29	Correspondence	1832
30	Correspondence	1833-1834
31	Correspondence	1835-1836
32	Correspondence	1837-1838
33	Correspondence	1839
34	Correspondence	1840-1842
35	Correspondence	1843-1849
36	Correspondence, Will	1851-1857
37	Newspaper clippings, Legal Publications	1896, undated
38	Correspondence, Invoices	undated
39	Legal Pamphlets, Composition Book	undated

**SERIES VI: Joanna (Lovett) Rantoul (d. 1848)**

40	Correspondence	1819-1848
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**SERIES VII: Joanna Lovett Rantoul Endicott**

41	Correspondence	1820-1839
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**SERIES VIII:** Augusta Rantoul Endicott

42 Sketchbook 1848-1850

**SERIES IX:** Mary Elizabeth Rantoul

43 Correspondence 1816, undated

**SERIES X:** Samuel Rantoul (d. 1831)

44 Journals 1825, 1828

45 Correspondence 1821-1829

46 Correspondence 1830

47 Correspondence 1831

**SERIES XI:** Charlotte Rantoul

48 Correspondence 1828-1838, undated

**SERIES XII:** (Elizabeth) Augusta Rantoul

49 Correspondence 1831-1833, undated

**SERIES XIII:** Hannah Lovett Rantoul

<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Contents</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
50	Autograph books, Correspondence	1831-1836
51	Composition, Copy Book	1837
52	Correspondence	1838-1839
53	Correspondence	1840-1843
54	Correspondence	1844-1845
55	Correspondence	1846-1847
56	Correspondence	1848-1849
57	Correspondence	1850-1851
58	Correspondence	1852-1859
59	Correspondence	1860-1862
60	Correspondence	1864-1868
61	Correspondence	1869
62	Correspondence	1870, 1871, 1875
63	Correspondence, Booklet	1880, 1885-1886
64	Receipt, Estate Inventory	1891, 1895, 1898
65	Correspondence	undated
66	Correspondence	undated

**SERIES XIV:** Robert Rantoul, Jr.

67 Journal, Correspondence, Map 1814, 1816, 1818

68 Correspondence 1819



69	Correspondence	1820
70	Correspondence	1821
71	Correspondence	1822
72	Correspondence	1823-1825
73	Correspondence	1826-1827
74	Correspondence	1828-1829
75	Correspondence, Notebooks	1830-1831
76	Pamphlets of Speech	July 4, 1832
77	Correspondence	1832-1833
78	Correspondence	1834
79	Correspondence, Pamphlets	1835
80	Correspondence	1836
81	Correspondence, Speech	1837
82	Correspondence	1838
83	Correspondence	1840 – July 1843
84	Correspondence	August 1843
85	Correspondence	September 1843
86	Correspondence	October 1843
87	Correspondence	November – December 1843
88	Correspondence	1844-1845
89	Correspondence	1846-1847
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Contents</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
90	Notebook	1847
91	Correspondence	1848-1849
92	“United States Magazine and Democratic Review”	October 1850
93	Correspondence	1850-1851
94	Speeches [published]	April 1851
95	Correspondence	1852
96	Copy of Treatise on Ether	1852
97	Speeches [published]	1852
98	Correspondence and Notes	undated
99	Correspondence and Notes	undated
100	Correspondence and Notes	undated
101	Correspondence and Notes	undated
102	Speech and Booklet on Banks	undated
103	Report on Liquor Licensing, Boston	undated
104	News clippings [about R. Rantoul, Jr.]	1838, 1852, 1868, 1889, undated

**SERIES XV: Jane Elizabeth (Woodbury) Rantoul**

105	Correspondence	1833, 1842, 1844-1845, 1851-1852, 1864, 1870, undated
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**SERIES XVI: Robert S. Rantoul**

106	Correspondence	1837, 1845, 1852-1853, 1861
107	Correspondence News clippings	1881, 1895, 1910, 1915 1894, undated
108	Correspondence	undated
109	Memoir on Edmund B. Wilson	1895
110	Henry Fitz-Gilbert Waters	1914

**SERIES XVII: Other Correspondents**

111	William Endicott	1826, 1838, undated
112	Elizabeth Abbot	1830, 1837
113	Mrs. Everett, A.W. Abbot, M.R. Peabody	1842
114	Lovett Family	1791, 1794, 1799, 1804, 1818, 1834, undated
115	Miscellaneous Families [Rantoul, Watson, Whitney, Gould]	undated

<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Contents</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
116	Miscellaneous Families [Dike, Peabody], News clippings	undated
117	Legal Papers: Dodge, Baker Crosfield, Moses, Batchelder	1834, 1844-1845, 1888
118	Deeds for land in Nova Scotia: M.E. Collicutt, M.E. Salter	1893, 1895
119	Hand drawn maps – Spain	undated
120	Shipping Accounts	1793-1796
121	Shipping Accounts	1797-1799
122	Shipping Accounts	1800-1805
123	Shipping Accounts	undated

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### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Robert Rantoul Papers contains mainly correspondence and receipts generated over the lifetime of Robert Rantoul. The collection includes drawings, legal publications and court documents. The material is arranged chronologically, with undated material at the end.

### **ROBERT RANTOUL PAPERS, 1784-1858**

<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Contents</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
1	Setting Up Business	1784-1830
2	House and Shop	1798-1804
3	Receipts	1782-1799
4	Correspondence	1799
5	Correspondence	1800
6	Correspondence	1801
7	Correspondence	1802
8	Correspondence	1803
9	Correspondence	1804
10	Correspondence	1805
11	Correspondence	1806
12	Correspondence	1807
13	Pamphlets: Legal, Corporal Punishment,	1807-1855, undated

	Temperance	
14	Correspondence	1808
15	Correspondence	1809
16	Undated Court Summons	18—
17	Correspondence	1810
18	Correspondence	1811
19	Correspondence	1812
20	Correspondence	1813
21	Correspondence	1814
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Contents</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
22	Correspondence	1815
23	Correspondence	1816
24	Correspondence	1817
25	Correspondence	1818
26	Correspondence	1819
27	Correspondence	1820
28	Correspondence	1821
29	Correspondence	1822
30	Correspondence	1823
31	Correspondence	1824
32	Correspondence	1825
33	Correspondence	1826
34	Correspondence	1827
35	Correspondence	1828
36	Correspondence	1829
37	Correspondence	1830
38	Correspondence	1831
39	Correspondence	1832
40	Correspondence	1833
41	Correspondence	1834
42	Correspondence	1835
43	Correspondence	1836
44	Correspondence	1837
45	Correspondence	1838
46	Correspondence	1839
47	Correspondence	1840-1841
48	Correspondence	1842
49	Correspondence	1843
50	Correspondence	1844
51	Correspondence	1845
52	Correspondence	1846
53	Correspondence	1847
54	Correspondence	1848
55	Correspondence	1849
56	Correspondence	1850
57	Correspondence	1851

58	Correspondence	1852
59	Correspondence	1853
60	Correspondence	1854
61	Correspondence	1855
62	Correspondence	1856
63	Correspondence	1857
64	Correspondence	1858
65	Letters to Samuel Rantoul (d. 1802)	1796, 1801
66	General Lafayette's Visit to Beverly	1824
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Contents</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
67	Correspondence, Receipts	undated
68	Blank Court Documents	undated

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

“Robert Rantoul” in *History of Essex County; With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis and Company, 1888. pp. 728-729.

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