

## Robert Rantoul, Jr. papers, 1819-1848

**MSS:** #006

**Processed by:** Debra J. Lay, Ed. D., February - May 2018

**Volume:** 3 Boxes

**Abstract:**

The Robert Rantoul, Jr. papers measure 46.5 linear feet and date from 1819 to 1848. This is a collection of papers regarding Robert Rantoul, Jr.'s dissertation and school notes from his years at Phillips Andover Academy and Harvard University, beginning in 1819 with his narrative titled; *Sloth*. There are also items relating to his time serving as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives including 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. In addition there are agreements documenting the contract for the sale of the merchant ship, *Temora* and records of materials used for repairing the ship's hull in a timely manner. The remainder of the collection contains business related matter, bills and receipts of payment, personal and business related correspondence, and newspaper clippings.

**Provenance:** The Robert Rantoul, Jr. Papers are part of the Endicott gift given to the Society in the 1920's. Robert Rantoul, Jr.'s papers are part of the larger Robert Rantoul papers collection.

**Preferred Citation:**

Robert Rantoul, Jr. papers, Historic Beverly, Beverly, MA

**Copyright:** Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be submitted in writing to the Curator of Collections in the Cabot House of Historic Beverly

**Bibliographical Note:**

Robert Rantoul, Jr. (1805-1852) was born in Beverly, Massachusetts, the eldest son of Robert 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 Leverett 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. 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). In 1851, Rantoul, Jr. was asked to fill the seat of the United States Senator Daniel Webster. Rantoul, Jr. died of skin infection (erysipelas) caused by a streptococcus bacteria at Washington, DC, during the first session of the Thirty-Second Congress in 1852.

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

This collection consists of a variety of documents from letters written to Robert Rantoul, Jr., to depositions, to school papers from Harvard (beginning in 1822) and Philips Academy (years prior to 1822) in Andover. They have been divided into series according to subject to make them more accessible. Determining between Harvard and Philips Academy School Papers is reliant mostly on dates, when present; though not all material is dated. Many papers are without the signature of Robert Rantoul, Jr., therefore his handwriting is a determining factor in authentication.

### **Series List:**

This collection is arranged into five series:

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 1833-1847

**Series /Arrangement Note:** The contents of Series I are presented in original order and include the records mainly relating to the case between Oliver G. Lane and Ebenezer Stedman; whereas there was disagreement between these two parties as to the quality of materials used in the building of a hull and the application of a warranty. Folders 6 and 7 also contain a list of those materials. Folder 7, contains an original Rantoul Jr. signature.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title/Content</b>	<b>Dates</b>
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf D	23	1	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	1833, 1835
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf D	23	2	Request for court appearance made by Oliver G. Lane, 1833 Deposition of Joseph Lawrence, Ship Owner Copy of protest: September 1833 Deposition of Lyman Allyns, Ship Master Deposition of John Brandigee, Ship Owner Deposition of 1st Officer Deposition of John White, Mariner	1833
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf D	23	3	Deposition of Samuel Kennedy, Mariner Deposition of Christopher Leeds Deposition of Samuel Titcomb, 1834 Deposition of Oliver G. Lane, 1833 Stedman vs. Lane: October 29, 1834 Stedman vs. Lane envelop: October 29, 1834 Certificate, Abraham Robinson Court awarded Damages Report, October 15, 1833	1833, 1834
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf D	23	4	Articles of agreement: November 12, 1847 Deposition of B. Titcomb Release and discharge of Gideon Lane, Jr. to Oliver G. Lane, April 21, 1834 Stedman vs. Lane, List of witnesses Ebenezer Stedman and Samuel Titcomb and Edward Titcomb Agreement for hull purchase with Oliver G. Lane, March 15, 1833 Release and discharge of Oliver G. Lane to Gideon Lane, Jr. March 15, 1833 Christian Griffin vs. Gideon Lane, Jr.	1833, 1834, 1847
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf D	23	5	Lane vs. Stedman, Abraham Robinson testimony Deposition of Captain Andrew Matthers: Dec 9, 1833 Deposition of Captain Prescott Spalding, Jr. Erastus Baldwin account of ship repair Deposition of Samuel Chipman, Ship Carpenter Deposition of Enoch Barnes, Carpenter	1833

CHMV Unit 12 Shelf D	23	6	<p>Copy of Survey of Ship <i>Temora</i>, November 23, 1833</p> <p>Deposition of Samuel Lane</p> <p>Deposition of James M., head caulker</p> <p>Deposition of Perez Huddleston, May 28, 1847</p> <p>Deposition of Stephen Hathaway, Master Mariner, May 28, 1847</p> <p>Release of debt for Oliver G. Lane to Gideon Lane, Jr. April 23, 1834</p> <p>List of ship carpenters and repairmen</p>	1833, 1834, 1847
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf D	23	7	<p>Release of debt for Oliver J. Lane by William Hodgkins to: May 4, 1835 with Robert Rantoul Jr. signature</p> <p>Copy of Deposition of Levi Case</p> <p>Release of Oliver G. Lane to William Hodgkins, April 1, 1834</p> <p>Prescott Hawking: explantation of ship repairs</p> <p>Hull building agreement between Ebenezer Stedman and Titcomb, March 15, 1833</p> <p>List of timbers used in ship</p> <p>A True Copy of Letter to Oliver G. Lane, November 14, 1833</p> <p>Notes of deposition questions</p>	1833, 1834, 1835

**Series II: Bills and Receipts 1824-1840**

**Series /Arrangement Note:** The contents of Series II are presented in original order and include bills and receipts relating to the case between Oliver G Lane and Ebenezer Stedman, ship building materials, deeds and surveys. Folder 8, contains two original Rantoul Jr. signatures.

Location	Box	Folder	Folder Title/Content	Dates
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf D	23	8	Captain Gideon Lane, Jr. receipt: September 27 1834 with Robert Rantoul, Jr. signature Timber purchased by Richard Heath from Captain Gideon Lane, Jr.: April 25, 1833 Timber purchased from Captain Gideon Lane, Jr.: August 15, 1833 William Gooch bill to Captain Gideon Lane, Jr. for wood: August 15, 1833 Receipt of payment for timber from Charles Woodbury to Samuel Hitchcock: March 12, 1840 Copy of Declaration of Oliver G. Lane versus Ebenezer Stedman et. al: October 15, 1833 - endorsed by Caleb Cushing Defendant and Plaintiff note Survey of ship Temora for Oliver G. Lane: November 27, 1833 Deed, Oliver Lane to Gideon Lane: April 23, 1824 Title receipt for Temora, Gloucester April 4, 1834 paid to Oliver G. Lane by William Hodgkins, with Robert Rantoul, Jr. signature	1824, 1833, 1834, 1840

**Series III: School Papers 1819 - 1836**

**Series /Arrangement Note:** The contents of Series III are presented in original order and most papers do not have dates. Student work, notes, essays and compositions are listed by topic. Compositions and essays are written in the affirmative or negative depending on the position taken. Since Robert Rantoul, Jr. began Harvard in 1822, papers before that year indicate attendance at Philips Academy Andover. All of Series III is contained within Box 24. Folder 10, contains one original Rantoul Jr. signature.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title/Content</b>	<b>Dates</b>
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E	24	1	School Reform: May 21, 1836 "The Queen of France" Moral Turpitude New England Law National Pride in America Poem Patriotic Celebrations Government Thoughts Processes and Behavior Public Performances in College	1836
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E	24	2	Biological Behavior American Indians July 14, 1825 Behavior Self-esteem Language of Research and Toleration Physics Phenomenon of Mind Philosophy Pursuits of Agricultural Labor vs. Artists and Manufacturers Philosophy Investigation of Truth	1825
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E	24	3	Government Morals Law Idolatry Athenians Our Country's Magistracy History Poetry vs. prose Abstract Analysis of Lecture	Undated

CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E	24	4	Happiness Foreign Tales How British travelers and Tourists are Treated by American Citizens Fear Poem Thunder Gossiping Government and law Sentimentalism	Undated
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E	24	5	Choosing a Subject No Vacation Biological Notes Regarding Animal and Vegetable Kingdom Consent and Inquiry Pleasures of Sight and Hearing Works of Art and Mind with Punctuation Corrections The Theorists Elections	Undated
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E	24	6	Organs of Sense Genius Government and Law Conservation History of Man	Undated
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E	24	7	A Touch at the Sentimental French Revolution Government Reform Bibliography Numbered List, written in Latin Religion Booklet of Passages - Source Unknown	Undated
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E	24	8	Spanish text: 7 volumes plus one - Spanish writing: 1820's	1820
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E	24	9	Health Higher Politics Wartime History Historical notes about 100's BC Notes on various topics, i.e., Spanish Empire, History of Great Britain, Naturalists, and Race Sketch of Mr. O'Connell - Source Unknown Town Government - Source Unknown	Undated

CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E	24	10	You knock! Not at Home! Dean Swift? Moral Education Letter A: October 21st with Rantoul Jr. signature Sloth: September 30th 1819 Dissertation on "Political Economy" Terminating Existence by Death	1819
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**Series IV:** Letters and Correspondence 1834-1847

**Series /Arrangement Note:** The contents of Series IV are presented in original order and include personal letters written to Robert Rantoul, Jr. regarding collections, court cases, permits and personal matters. All of Series IV is contained within Box 25.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title/Content</b>	<b>Dates</b>
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E	25	1	From Rodney French: September 26, 1843 From J.H. Ward: September 1843 From Grange Clark: September 5, 1843 From Nath Hinckley: October 19, 1840 Letter in Spanish: 1844 From Sandwich, MA: October 19, 1840 From Greely d'Guild: June 23, 1846 From Greely d'Guild: June 13, 1846 From A. N. Nelson: March 21, 1846 Subpoena served: October 18, 1846 October 9th note regarding Sylvester Brown From Marcus Morton, Collection Letter, Custom House, Boston: October 11, 1847	1840, 1843, 1846, 1847



CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E	25	2	<p>Copy of court document written by Richmond Loring: March 17, 1847 from Richmond Loring to The Honorable Collector of Customs, Boston</p> <p>Two Seamen Deserted: March 20, 1847 signed by Robert Rantoul, Jr., on behalf of P. R. George</p> <p>Permit inquiry for mining: October, 1845 signed by Robert Rantoul, Jr. as Massachusetts District Attorney, Boston, May 6, 1847</p> <p>Correspondence from "A Friend" to Robert Rantoul, Jr.</p> <p>Copy (Not official) from R. J. Walker Lawrence, Collections Office of New York: September 9, 1845</p> <p>From Theophilus Parsons to Robert Rantoul, Jr.: July 5 1843</p> <p>From Benjamin F. Gallett to Robert Rantoul, Jr.: August 30, 1843</p> <p>From Lurett Saltonstall to Robert Rantoul, Jr., letter regarding Lane's case: April 21, 1834</p>	1834, 1843, 1845, 1847
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E	25	3	<p>Collections letters (series of 8) to Robert Rantoul, Jr. from Adam Bailey, March 31, 1845 Marcus Morton; October 2, 1845 May 16, 1843 October 18, 1845 J.W. Barker, August 11, 1845 Marcus Morton; April 17, 1847 January 23, 1846 September 27, 1845</p>	1843, 1845, 1846, 1847

**Series V:** Miscellaneous papers 1801-1848

**Series /Arrangement Note:** The contents of Series V are presented in original order and include papers of Robert Rantoul, Jr. relating to various matters such as court cases, petitions, and order forms for law books. Additionally, Folder 7 contains envelopes and wrapping material. All of Series V is contained within Box 25. Folders 4 and 6 contain an original Rantoul Jr. signature.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title/Content</b>	<b>Dates</b>
CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E	25	4	<p>Newspaper clipping, Weekly Bay State Democrat, February 20, 1846 - Letters on the Death Penalty by Robert Rantoul, Jr.</p> <p>Minutes of town records of Beverly, Massachusetts</p> <p>Preliminary Poll for elections: John Quincy Adams vs. Andrew Jackson: 1824</p> <p>Signed petition regarding hawkers and peddlers: 1835</p> <p>Petition of Samuel Lyman and others of Chester praying on an alteration in the law relating to the hawkers, peddlers, and petty chapmen; January 12, 1835</p> <p>Envelope: Ipswich</p> <p>Letter from Anna Kiernan, Widow Massachusetts House of Representatives: 1835 written by John Hayes</p> <p>Letter signed by Robert Rantoul, Sr., December 8, 1830 regarding taking the deposition of Stratton Robertson</p> <p>Letter from D. L. Bingham to Robert Rantoul, Esq., April 15, 1824 regarding disobedient children of the Roberts family</p>	1824, 1830, 1835, 1846

<p>CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Certificate of appointment of a Justice of the Peace from John D' Witt: April 23, 1835</p> <p>Series of readings with edits regarding the Massachusetts Riots</p> <p>Letter from Grace Howland to Robert Rantoul Jr.: Asking for oil gauging use in ships, New Bedford, 1843</p> <p>Note to Joseph Broadhead, from Hopewell: Insolvency Assignment, May 1, 1846</p> <p>Commonwealth of Massachusetts Insolvency document stating Robert Rantoul Jr. as the appointed Assignee in the Broadhead case October 14, 1846</p> <p>Estimates of various properties: June 30, 1848</p> <p>Order on a 2nd reading for the Act on hawkers, peddlers, and petty chapmen: February 5, 1835</p>	<p>1835, 1843 1846, 1848</p>
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<p>CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Copy of a letter to the Boston Custom House on the duty on tea and coffee with Robert Rantoul Jr.'s signature: November 23, 1843</p> <p>Letter to Robert Rantoul Jr., from Rogers regarding the appointment of a new post master, September 27, 1843</p> <p>Copy of a letter to Robert Rantoul Jr., from Mr. Sturgis, regarding duties on tea and coffee, November 20, 1843</p> <p>Copy of two letters to Robert Rantoul Jr., from John L. Gardiner, regarding duties on tea and coffee, November 28th, 1842 and November 20, 1843</p> <p>Copy of letter to Robert Rantoul Jr., from Samuel Bridge, regarding duty on teas, November 17, 1843</p> <p>Letter to Samuel Bridge, from R. B. Forbes regarding duty on teas, November 16, 1843</p> <p>Richard Codman Act of Bankruptcy, 1803</p> <p>James Dalton- Richard Codman, 1801 and Petitioners dated April 6, 1835/1845</p> <p>Two Receipts of Law Books purchased by Robert Rantoul, Jr. from Charles C. Little &amp; James Brown, 1840</p>	<p>1801, 1803, 1842, 1840, 1843, 1846</p>
<p>CHMV Unit 12 Shelf E</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Material wrappings</p> <p>Envelop for the papers relating to the settlement of the estate of Captain John Lovett, died 1805</p> <p>Envelop for the copies of reports on duties for teas and coffee, December 2, 1843</p> <p>Band for papers with seal</p> <p>Band for papers from the Letters of Collector of Boston with seals</p>	<p>1805, 1843</p>