



BHC-MSS 0134
Guide to the Papers of Burr Knapp
By Martha Rockwell
May 2021

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Knapp, Burr

Title: Papers of Burr Knapp

Dates: 1825-1888

Quantity: .3 linear feet (1/2 mb)

Abstract: Consisting of correspondence, accounts, enrollment bonds, and personal compositions, the papers of Burr Knapp allow for insight into one of the oldest maritime trade families in Bridgeport and how the city relied on harbor trade in the first half of the 1800s prior to industrialization.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Note: Arranged by Martha Rockwell in 1994, finding aid written by Meg Rinn in 2021.

Biographical History:

Burr Knapp (1797-1876) was a successful Bridgeport businessman with an emphasis on maritime trade. Working along with Brooks (later the banking firm Burr and Brooks would be named for them), Burr Knapp managed a number of schooners in and around Bridgeport including the *Moonlight*.

The Knapp family was prominent in the area, and Burr married into the equally well known Hawley family through one of their daughters, Marietta (1808-1889.) Together they had a daughter, Marietta B. Knapp.

Burr was also involved in organizing the Second Congregational Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut, including helping to provide land and funding. The matter is discussed in *A History of the Old Town of Stratford and the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut* by Rev. Samuel Orrcutt.

Scope and Content note:

Collection contains a combination of correspondence, accounts, enrollment bonds, and personal compositions, representing the interest of those who made their living in the coastal trade in Fairfield County. Please also see the Knapp material located in the Bridgeport History Center's scrapbook and ledger collection, as it contains like material and journal entries by Marietta B. Knapp.

Arrangement Note:

Letters have been placed first, followed by accounts and then other material. All groups of material

are arranged chronologically.

Administrative information:

Provenance: 1978.84

Preferred Citation:

Papers of Burr Knapp (BHC-MSS 0134), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal names

Knapp, Burr

Hawley-Knapp, Marietta

Knapp, Marietta B.

Corporate names

Presbyterian Society

Subject tracings

Bridgeport, Conn.

Second Congregational Church (Bridgeport, Conn.)

Detailed box and folder listing

Box 1

1. Letters to Marietta Hawley, 1825-1929
2. Letters to Marietta Hawley, 1830-1835
3. Letters to Marietta Hawley, 1836-1939
4. Letters to Marietta Hawley, 1840-1845
5. Letters to Burr Knapp, 1854-1858
6. Letters to Maria Knapp, undated
7. Other Knapp correspondence, 1864-1888
8. Other Knapp correspondence, undated
9. Knapp accounts, 1831-1854
10. Knapp accounts, 1855
11. Knapp accounts, 1856-1883, undated
12. Deed to Presbyterian Society, 1854
13. Compositions, undated
14. Enrollment bond, 1843
15. Estate of Marietta Knapp, 1889