

Gould Family (1729-1891) and Gould Homestead (1908-1977) Papers Ms 6

Summary Information

Repository

Fairfield Museum and History Center

Creators

Gould family
Gould Foundation (Fairfield, Conn.)
Gould, John, 1801-1871

Title

Gould Family (1729-1891) and Gould Homestead (1908-1977) Papers

ID

Ms 6

Date

1729-1891, 1908-1977

Extent

1.75 Linear feet (4 boxes; 4 oversize items; 1,000 items approx)

Language

English

Preferred Citation note

Item, Collection Title, Collection number (Box #, Folder #). Fairfield Museum and History Center, Fairfield, Connecticut.

Biographical/Historical note

Nathan Gold of St. Edmondsbury, England arrived in the new village of Fairfield in the year 1648, establishing within a short time his preeminence in the community as, among other things, constable, assistant judge of Connecticut's General Assembly, and the commander of Fairfield's militia. His descendents carried on this tradition of civic responsibility: his son, Nathan, Jr. (d. 1723), served as Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut for many years; his great-grandson, Colonel Abraham Gold (1732-1777) was killed fighting the British in Ridgefield, CT; and his descendant Captain John Gould (1801-1871) served as notary public, representative (and later

senator) in Connecticut's General Assembly, railroad commissioner, moderator of town meetings and United States Marshal by appointment of President Abraham Lincoln.

Captain John Gould was also a businessman, the owner of a fleet of schooners that over a period of approximately forty years (1826-1865) plied trade between New York City and Richmond, VA and later Liverpool, England. A measure of his success, both as a businessman and as a public official, was the stately mansion known as Gould Homestead which he had built in 1840. This Greek revival home stood at 172 Post Road in Fairfield until 1956, when it was torn down to be replaced by a Food Fair supermarket.

The Gould Homestead was the site of the Gould Homestead Summer Home for Women during the years 1910-1955. The Gould Homestead Summer Home for Women was established under the will of Captain Gould's daughter, Elizabeth Gould (1825-1908) to provide a free vacation home to working women of Fairfield County.

After the demolition of the original Homestead in 1956, the vacation home was run at 85 Post Rd., Fairfield. By 1967 however, the Homestead no longer attracted working women as a vacation home. The trustees of the Gould estate then established a scholarship fund for female residents of Fairfield County, initially under the auspices of the Gould Foundation (1968-1977) and later (1977 to present) under the management of Bridgeport University.

References:

Banks, Elizabeth V. H. *This is Fairfield: 1639-1940*. New Haven: The Walker-Rackliff Company, 1960.

Cutter, Richard, et al., ed. *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut., Vol. II*, pp.757-758. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1911.

Hurd, D. Hamilton. *History of Fairfield County, Connecticut, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. pp. 317-320. Philadelphia: L. W. Lewis and Company, 1881.

Scope and Contents note

This collection is composed of 4 boxes of documents and account books and 4 oversize items--an account book and three photographs. The bulk of the collection consists of the papers, both personal and business, of Captain John Gould. The personal papers of the Captain range from numerous bills for tailor-made clothes to poetry on small bits of paper. Equally diverse are his business papers, which include not only bills but also insurance and sales contracts for his schooners and a few letters regarding cargoes of the same.

Also in this collection are: (1) some older Gould family papers, chiefly legal documents (which are quite fragile); (2) legal documents, correspondence, reports and newspaper clippings of the

Gould Homestead Summer Home for Women (later the Gould Foundation); and (3) photographs of the Gould family members and their residence, the Homestead.

Within the folders, the arrangement is alphabetical according to subject matters where feasible, and within those categories, chronological. Otherwise, chronological order prevails.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Fairfield Museum and History Center
370 Beach Rd.
Fairfield, CT
203-259-1598

Conditions Governing Access note

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

Conditions Governing Use note

Use of the material requires compliance with the Fairfield Museum and History Center regulations.

Custodial History note

Items in this collection were donated by Eleanor S. Cathcart, Elbert S. Overbaugh and other unknown donors. Accession numbers L1983.July.1 and L1986.June.6 also make up the collection.

Processing Information note

This collection was processed by Angela Suter in March 1981.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Gould, Elizabeth B. (Elizabeth Burr), 1825-1908

Subject(s)

- Account books--Connecticut--Fairfield.
 - Correspondence.
 - Endowments
 - Houses--Connecticut--Fairfield
 - Photographs.
 - Receipts(financial records)
 - Ships
-

Collection Inventory

Box I

Folder A Bills, contracts, legal documents, miscellaneous 1729-1823 19 items

Contracts for sale of land 5 items

Writs 2 items

Inventory and distribution of estate of Abraham Gold 1778-1779

Account between Hezekiah Gold and Elizabeth Gold 1777-1783

Bills 2 items

Miscellaneous notes 2 items

Folder B Captain John Gould bills, personal 20 items

Coal

Cobbler

Doctor 1826-1844

Groceries 1827-1836

Hotel accommodations 1840-1848

Folder C Captain John Gould bills, personal 29 items

Housewares 1834-1835

Liquor 1835-1836

Postage 1834, 1841

State and town taxes

Folder D Captain John Gould bills, personal 25 items

Tailoring and fabrics 1834-1845

Folder E Captain John Gould bills, personal 24 items

Tuition 1832-1844

Folder F Captain John Gould bills, personal 19 items

Wages 1834-1844

Wagon repair 1835-1838

Miscellaneous

Folder G Captain John Gould bills, business 9 items

Allen and Paxson Co. 1832-1844

Gilbert Allen and Co. 1830-1832

Folder H Captain John Gould bills, business 12 items

John Pitts, Captain of the Schooner *Hornet* 1833-1835

Folder I Captain John Gould bills, business 14 items

John Pitts, Captain of the Schooner *Hornet* 1835-1837

Folder J Captain John Gould bills, business 25 items

Doane Sturges and Company 1833-1837

Folder K Captain John Gould bills, business 5 items

Schermerhorn Willis and Co. 1833-1834

Folder L Captain John Gould bills for schooners 36 items

Courier n.d.

Greenway 1844-1845

Hornet 1833-1837

Folder M Captain John Gould bills for Schooner *Hornet* 22 items

Provisions 1833-1837

Sails and sail making 1833-1836

Commissions, procuring, advertising 1834-1837

Harbor Master's fees 1833, 1837

Folder N Captain John Gould bills and letter for schooners 27 items

Hornet miscellaneous bills 1833-1837

Hornet letter, signature illegible 1832

Lynchburg bills 1843-1847

Folder O Captain John Gould letters, legal documents and bills for schooners 25 items

Lynchburg letters 1838-1839 3 items

Richmond bills 1839-1844

Virginia bill, letter and statement of foundering 1848, 1854, n.d.

Contract to build ships 1836, 1845

Receipt for payment on ships being built 1844-1845

Folder P Captain John Gould schooners' sales and insurance contracts 18 items

Contracts for sale of ships 1831, 1843, 1850

Statement of ownership of ships 1831, 1844

Insurance contracts 1826, 1856-1865

Folder Q Captain John Gould bills of lading, account with Walter Thorp and miscellaneous business letters 19 items

Bills of lading 1832-1845

Letter from Schermerhorn Willis and Co. 1834

Letter from R. Hoyt 1839

Letter from James Stubs 1849

Letter from James Piker 1852

Account with Walter Thorp 1836-1837

Bills and account re: Gould's role as administrator of Walter Thorp's estate 1836-1844

Folder R Captain John Gould miscellaneous business papers and bills, cancelled checks 63 items

Papers re: Gould's role as school commissioner 1835

Papers re: Gould's role as railroad commissioner 1859

Papers re: Gould's role as United States Marshall 186?
Papers re: Gould's role as delegate to state conventions 1848, 1855
Bills paid by Gould for Samuel A. Nichols 1832, 1838
Cancelled checks 1859-1870

Folder S Captain John Gould miscellaneous 31 items

Poems
Receipts 1835, 1836
Promissory notes 1858, 1866
Notes (undated arithmetic figuring)

Folder T Captain John Gould undated papers found in account books II, III, IV, and V 15 items

Folder U Bills, contracts, miscellaneous 1872-1891 18 items

Bills 1872-1886
Contract for sale of land 1885
Letters 1872, 1875, 1888
Miscellaneous 1876-1891
Letters to Jeremiah Gould re: cow's death on railroad tracks 1851-1853
Calling cards-E. Gould and Mrs. J. Gould

Folder V Gould Homestead: Papers relating to Management of Elizabeth R. Gould's trust 18 items

Legal documents re: assets of trust 1914, 1955
Minutes of trustees' meetings 1951-1956
Treasurer's report 1955
Correspondence among trustees (see box for full list) 1949-1956

Folder W Gould Homestead: Documents relating to sites and contents 16 items

Legal documents (contracts for sale of property, etc.) 1951-1955
Correspondence (see box for full list) 1941-1956
Inventory 1932

Folder X Gould Homestead: Its management as vacation home 67 items

Leaflet 1910
Notes for speech 1923
Receipts of expenses 1835
Autobiography of Katherine M. Spaulding 1935
Letter, list and pamphlet for donation 1941
Thank-you notes from guests 1951, 1966
Monthly reports of expenses 1955, 1965-1967
"The American's Creed" DAR publication
"The Gould Homestead: A Memorial" pamphlet

Gould Homestead leaflet

Note

Folder Y Gould Homestead: Newspaper clippings 25 items

Folder Z Gould Foundation 5 items

Newspaper clippings 1968-1977

University of Bridgeport report to donors 1968-1969

Box II

Folder A Captain John Gould account books 2 items

Mechanics Bank 1838-1854

Schooner *Hornet* 1828-1837

Folder B Captain John Gould account books 2 items

Miscellaneous figures 1822-1854

Schooners *Lynchburg* and *Richmond* 1834-1846

Folder C Books 2 items

Julia Gould's friendship book 1854-1858

Gould Homestead reunions 1941, 1947, 1959

Folder D Gould Homestead Guestbook 1910-1914

Folder E Gould Homestead Guestbook 1914-1919

Folder F Gould Homestead Guestbook 1919-1923

Folder G Gould Homestead Guestbook 1941-1966

Box III

Gould Homestead record books

Minutes of trustees' meetings and annual reports 1909-1914

Minutes of trustees' meetings and annual reports 1913-1966

Folder A Loose papers from record books 14 items

Folder B Gould family photographs 13 items

Folder C Gould Homestead photographs and negatives, exterior 68 items

Folder D Gould Homestead photographs, interior 12 items

Box IV

Folder A Gould Homestead Photographs, miscellaneous people and pets 45 items

Folder B Miscellaneous acquisitions 5 items

Folder C Gould Homestead financial reports 1946-1951 48 items

Folder D Gould Homestead financial reports 1952-1955 36 items

Folder E Gould Homestead financial reports 1956-1958 36 items

Folder F Gould Homestead financial reports 1959-1963 48

Folder G Gould Homestead application

Oversize Item A Captain John Gould account book V 1840-1843

Three photographs of Gould Homestead

Map-case
drawer
