



Cooke Family Papers 1731-1857
SCHS 1008.00
Containers 11/78-79

Creator: Cooke Family

Description: 0.75 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical Note: Boston, Massachusetts family. Susannah Bowen (1783-1835) married John Cooke (1775-1840) of Cambridge, Massachusetts. She was the daughter of Penuel Bowen (1742-1788), an Episcopal minister of South Carolina. A native of New England, Penuel Bowen was also the father of Nathaniel Bowen (1779-1839), an Episcopal minister who served churches in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, South Carolina, and elsewhere. Nathaniel Bowen became the rector of St. Michael's Church (Charleston, S.C.) and was consecrated as a bishop in 1818. Nathaniel Bowen Cooke (1816-1871), a Massachusetts physician and schoolmaster, was the son of Susannah Bowen Cooke and John Cooke.

Scope and Content: Papers consist of correspondence and other items. Included is the family correspondence (1772-1795) of Penuel Bowen.

Family correspondence (1795-1833) of Nathaniel Bowen includes many letters from him in Charleston (S.C.), Providence (R.I.), and elsewhere to his sister Susannah Bowen (later Cooke) in Boston (Mass.) concerning her education, family matters, his visit (1801) to the Capers family plantation (St. Helena Island, S.C.), and other matters, as well as letters from Margaret W. Bowen (Mrs. Nathaniel Bowen) to Susannah Bowen Cooke which discuss, among other things, Charleston social life and family matters.

Cooke family correspondence (1811-1839) chiefly consists of the letters of Susan Bowen Cooke and John Cooke and their children Nathaniel Bowen Cooke, John H. Cooke, and Frances Cooke Town. Letters from Boston (Mass.), Brooklyn (N.Y.) and elsewhere concern family matters, Christian faith and living, education, travel, and other matters. Included are letters (1827-1830) of John H. Cooke regarding his travels throughout Europe in the merchant marine.

Other Cooke family correspondence (1837-1857) includes letters of Frances Cooke Town (Syracuse, N.Y.), Anna H. Bowen Stock (a cousin), Lucy Barrett (Montreal, Canada), S. Elizabeth Hovey, Susan Bowen Cooke, and others. Included are many letters to Nathaniel Bowen Cooke while at Brown University, in Providence (R.I.), Bristol (R.I.), Clappville (Mass.), Webster (Mass.), and elsewhere. Correspondence mainly concerns family matters and includes letters of John H. Cooke, Frederick W. Cooke, and George B. Cooke describing their lives and travels as seamen.

A small bound volume (1731-1737) contains receipts and accounts for the sales of groceries and other items to Samuel Oxx, Nathaniel Pearse (an ancestor of the Cooke family) and others, probably in Bristol (R.I.). Other items include a printed folder about the Female Humane Society of Cambridge (Mass.); copies of poems; and writings (1836-1850) of Nathaniel Bowen Cooke including essays and speeches about philosophy, literature, and other subjects.

Preferred Citation: Cooke family. Cooke family papers, 1731-1857. (1008.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Provenance: Miss M. Cooke; gift.

Search terms:

Bowen, Nathaniel, 1779-1839.
Cooke, John, 1775-1840.
Cooke, John Henry, d. 1839.
Cooke, Nathaniel Bowen, 1816-1871.
Cooke, Susannah Bowen, 1783-1835.
Bowen family.
Cook family.
Cooke family.
Episcopal Church -- South Carolina -- Clergy.
Charleston (S.C.)
Massachusetts.
New York (State)
Rhode Island.
South Carolina -- History.
Folders (printed matter)
Letters (correspondence)
Poems.
Writings.
Clergy.
Seamen.

Container listing:

11/78/1

Receipt book, 1731-1737. 1 vol.

Receipt book (1731-1737) for grocery accounts of unknown merchant or farmer, probably in Bristol, RI. Items bought include corn, cider, feed, butter, cheese, beef, pork, and other purchases. Accounts included are of Samuel Ox, John Gibbes, William Pearse (an ancestor to the Cooke family) and others.

11/78/2-4 Bowen, Penuel, 1741-1788

Letters, 1772-1788. 5 items.

Boston MA, John's Island Episcopal minister. Letters and letter book (1772-1788). Resolution of New South Church, Boston, accepting Penuel Bowen's resignation (1772). Letters from Providence, RI (1783) regarding business prospects after the Revolution. Letter of Joseph Ward regarding the US Constitution, business, and other matters (1787) and family letters of Penuel Bowen. Letter book (1786-1788) of Penuel Bowen with copies of Penuel Bowen's letters from Charleston and Savannah to his wife Susannah Bowen, his children, Joseph Ward in Boston, and various clergymen in Charleston, Savannah GA, and Augusta GA. Letters regarding Penuel

Bowen's attempt to obtain a post as an Episcopal minister, education of his children and his philosophy of education, complaints of the reception he received from Charlestonians and Charleston ministers, some material regarding the accusation that he wasn't an Episcopal minister but a priest in the Church of England, and his comparisons between the North and South. Many letters regarding difficulties of raising children while separated from his family. Typescript of letter book available.

11/78/5-6 Susannah Bowen, d. 1797

Letters, 1788-1795. 10 items.

Wife of Penuel Bowen on John's Island and in Boston MA. Correspondence (1788-1795) of SB with her brother, Samuel Barrett, Boston and other relatives regarding the death of SB's husband; Katherine Henshaw, Boston, regarding religious matters; Nathaniel Russell, Charleston, regarding aid for SB from the Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of the Protestant Episcopal Clergy. Letter (1795) from Bishop Robert Smith regarding SB's son Nathaniel Bowen.

11/78/7-13 Nathaniel Bowen, d. 1839

Family letters, 1795-1833. Approx 75 items.

SC Episcopal Bishop and Charleston minister at St. Michael's Church. Letters (1795-1833) of Nathaniel Bowen, his wife Margaret W. Bowen, and his daughters Jane W. Bowen and Anne Bowen to Susannah Bowen Cooke. Also letters (1795-1797) of Nathaniel Bowen to his mother, Mrs. Susannah Bowen regarding family matters, a fire in Charleston (6/17/1796), and his education under Bishop Robert Smith. But letters mostly from Nathaniel Bowen to SBC in Boston MA regarding his education, family matters, scattered mentions of SBC's bad grammar and letters (early 1801) regarding Nathaniel Bowen's visit to the Papers family plantation on St. Helena's Island. Letters of MWB to SBC (1805-1833) regarding family matters, bachelors in Charleston, Charleston gossip and other matters. Letters (1823-1832) to SBC from Nathaniel Bowen's daughters regarding family matters. Also other letters to SBC from various Bowen family members. Chronologically arranged.

11/79/1-7 Cooke family, 1811-1839

Family papers, 1811-1839. Approx 40 items.

Boston, MA family. Letters (1817-1839) of Susan B. Cooke and John Cooke, their children, Nathaniel Bowen Cooke, John H. Cooke, Frances Cooke Town, and others. Letters from Boston, Worcester MA, Brooklyn NY and elsewhere regarding family matters, religious devotions, education and travel. Included are letters of John H. Cooke regarding his travels throughout Europe (1827-1830) while in the Merchant Marine. Also letter (1830) of Nathaniel Bowen Cooke regarding voyage from Boston to Charleston in which one of the ships crashed near Body's Island NC, 60 miles north of Cape Hatteras, with description of crash and subsequent travel. Letter of Nathaniel Bowen Cooke regarding the last days of his mother Susan B. Cooke's life (12/7/1835) Also long ms. poem and broadside regarding the Female Humane Society of Cambridge, MA and Samuel C. Thatcher's argument before the Church Society, Boston (1811) regarding the Ministry.

11/79/8-23 Cooke, Nathaniel Bowen, 1816-1871

Family letters, 1837-1857. Approx 200 items.

Massachusetts physician and school master. Letters (1837-1857) of Nathaniel Bowen Cooke. Letters mostly from family members including Frances C. Town, Syracuse NY, John H. Cooke, Frederick W. Cooke, George B. Cooke, Cousin Anna H. (Bowen) Stock, daughter of Bishop Nathaniel Bowen, Charleston; Lucy Barrett, Montreal, Canada; S. Elizabeth Hovey, sister, Susan B. Cooke, friends AP Stone, Southbridge MA and James L. Scott, Marbledale MA; and many others. Letters to Nathaniel Bowen while he was at Brown University, Providence RI and in Bristol RI, Clappville MA, Webster MA, and elsewhere. Family letters from brothers, sister, nieces, cousins, etc. regarding family matters. Many scattered letters regarding life in the Merchant Marine (1837-1850s). Included are John H. Cooke's description of life on board a ship bound for and in port at Manila, in the Philippines and Southeast Asia, and travels of Frederick W. Cooke around the world until he was lost in a typhoon near Hong Kong China (1847). But also including letters of George B. Cooke, who shipping to Australia and elsewhere until settling in Alameda CA to farm. Much material regarding deaths, births, and marriages of Cooke family members. Chronologically arranged.

11/79/24-26 Cooke, Nathaniel Bowen, 1816-1871

Writings, 1836-1850. 25 items.

Massachusetts, Rhode Island student, schoolmaster, and doctor. Essays, speeches, etc. Essays or orations regarding "the pleasures of Intellectual Action" (1836) for Phillips Academy, Andover MA; essays (1838-1839) regarding classical and English literature, intellectual theory; speech (1840) regarding "The Absurdity and Tendencies of Skepticism" (1840), essay (1841) on genius; (1842) culture of the mind; on fashion (1843); letter (1843) regarding the punishment of a student; speech on singleness of purpose (1843), delivered at Bristol RI; commencement exercise plans (1843); essay on the immortality of the soul (1850) and other writings.