

# NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## LIBRARY

Manuscripts  
No. #62B

Date processed: June 1977

- I. Title Staples & Hitchcock Papers, 1794-1855.
- II. The papers of Seth P. Staples, Sam. J. Hitchcock & Leonard E. Wales deposited in the Library ~~xxx~~ with the White Papers by D.L.Jacobus in 1945 as ~~converted the deposit to~~ a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1 & 1/4 ft.  
Approximate number of items: 1155
- IV. Restrictions: none
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on
- VII. Biographical note:  
See page 2.
- VIII. Analysis: The collection consists of loose documents--correspondence, bills, accounts, legal notes, cases, etc.--arranged by major headings: S.P.Staples, Staples & Hitchcock, S.J.Hitchcock, L.E.Wales. Within each heading the material is arranged according to type--correspondence bills, legal cases, etc.--and within this, either alphabetically and or chronologically. L.E.Wales material is included, since he was Staples' brother-in-law and a lawyer.  
It is possible that the legal cases in the Dyer White Papers could be related to either or both Staples and Hitchcock.

STAPLES & HITCHCOCK

Biographical notes

Samuel Johnson Hitchcock (Feb. 4, 1786-Aug. 31, 1845), the eldest son of Benjamin (1760-1816) and Mary(Johnson)Hitchcock, was born in Bethlehem, CT. He attended Yale (1809), taught at Fairfield Academy and later was Tutor at Yale (1811-1815), simultaneously studying law under S.P.Staples. He was admitted to the bar in 1815 and practiced in New Haven. In 1820 he joined the practice and Law School of S.P.Staples and was associated with the School after it became part of Yale. He served as Judge of New Haven County Court (1838-1842), as Mayor (1839-1842), and as Chief Judge of the City Court (1842-1844). He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Hartford & New Haven Rail Road and its president from 1837-1840. On May 18, 1818 he married Laura Coan (1797?-1832) with whom he had five children. On Dec. 25, 1834 he married the widow Narcissa Perry (1796-1854) with whom he had one son.

Seth Perkin Staples (Aug. 31, 1776-Nov. 6, 1861) was the son of Rev. John and Susanna (Perkin) Staples of Canterbury CT. He attended Yale College (1797), prepared for law under David Daggett and was admitted to the Litchfield Bar in 1799. He practiced law in New Haven and imported a large law library which attracted many students and enabled him to start a private Law School. In 1820 he took on Samuel J. Hitchcock as a partner both in the office and the School. The School, together with the Litchfield Law School, was incorporated by Yale to form the Yale Law School. Staples was a member of the State Legislature in 1814-1816. In 1824 he moved to New York City where he died; he was buried in New Haven. He was one of the attorneys for the African captives in the Amisted case. On Nov. 25, 1799 he married Catharine Wales (1778/79?-1856), daughter of Rev. Prof. Samuel (1747/48?-1794) Wales of Yale, with whom he had six children.

Leonard Eugene Wales (1788-Sep. 14, 1823), youngest son of Rev. Prof. Samuel Wales, was born in New Haven and attended Yale. He studied and later practiced law in New Haven and was City Attorney (1819-1821). He died of typhus fever at the age of 35. His sister was married to Seth P. Staples.

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Staples & Hitchcock

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Staples & Hitchcock

Box III (cont)

folder N. Leonard Eugene Wales--Corr. to, 1807-1813

- 1--3. E. Baldwin
- 4. S.W.Cander
- 5. J.M.Ely
- 6-18. J.Howard
- 19-28. S.Lockwood
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O. L.E.Wales--Corr., 1807-1815

- 1-17. S.Root
- 18. E. Spencer
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- 21. To Dickinson, 1811

P. Wales--Cases

- Wales vs. Bull
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Q. Wales--legal

- 1--2. Wales accounts, 1810,1815
- 3-11. N.B.Fisher's bills, 1816
- 12-23. L.E.Wales & Isaac Taintor's Estate, 1820-1926

R. History of Yale Law School by Fred. L. Perry

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- Seth Perkins Staples: Founder of Yale Law School
- Wallace Family Tree from Miles Standish (to Staples to Cashdollar)

(4)  
(1)

Photograph (of portrait or engraving?) Seth Staples

(1)