

**John Garibaldi Sargent (1860-1939)
Papers, 1878-1943
MSA 202-203**

Introduction

The papers consist of the correspondence that U.S. Attorney General John Garibaldi Sargent created while conducting his law practice in Ludlow, Vermont, from 1890-1919, as well as a scattering of family letters and ephemera. The Vermont Historical Society purchased the Sargent papers in 1998 in conjunction with the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation (ms.acc. no. 98.3). They are shelved in two Hollinger boxes and consume .66 linear foot of shelf space.

Biographical Sketch

John Garibaldi Sargent (October 13, 1860-March 5, 1939), son of John Henman and Ann Eliza Hanley Sargent, was born in Ludlow, Vermont. He was known by the nickname 'Gary.' Educated at Black River Academy and a 1887 graduate of Tufts University, Sargent studied law with William Wallace Stickney and was admitted to the Vermont bar in 1890. Sargent and Stickney became law partners in Ludlow; the firm eventually included Homer L. Skeels.

Sargent's distinguished career in Vermont public service included terms as State's Attorney for Windsor County, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, and Attorney General. From 1925 to 1929 he served as Attorney General of the United States in the administration of fellow Black River Academy graduate Calvin Coolidge.

In 1887, Sargent married Mary Loraine Gordon (b. November 23, 1864), daughter of Thomas Sumner Gordon (December 8, 1812-March 22, 1894) and Melissa Loraine Colburn (May 5, 1838-May 26, 1889). Mary Sargent studied art at the Cowles Art School in Boston in 1890 (Doc.203:1). She was a cousin (?) of Volney Sewall Fullam (1830-1912), formerly of Ludlow, whose papers are in the Vermont Historical Society Library (MSA 172). In his autobiography, *The Fullam Genealogy with index of names* (Burlington Free Press, 1910) (Vermont Historical Society Colonial Dames Collection), Volney Fullam writes: "I was born in the front room of the easterly tenement in the fifth house east from the Library on lower Main Street in Ludlow, now owned by Mary Loraine Gordon Sargent."

The Sargent's daughter, Gladys Gordon (b. January 15, 1895), married first Ralph Edward Pearsons (May 25, 1895-June 14, 1926), and second a Mr. Spaulding. An obituary for Ralph Edward Pearsons is located in MSA 203:3. In 1943, Gladys Gordon Sargent Pearsons Spaulding of Ludlow, signed a bill of sale for her father's law office and furnishings.(MSA 203:3).

Folder 0 contains photocopies of biographies and articles about John G. Sargent and William W. Stickney.

Scope and Content

The papers consist for the most part of John Garibaldi Sargent's correspondence from his law practice in Ludlow, Vermont, from 1890-1919. The greatest number of letters, 1916-1918, are typewritten and concern his law practice. Many of these letters were carbon copies typed on cheap yellow paper; photocopies of these have been made. The collection includes an inventory of Packard automobile accessories and tools kept by Sargent in 1918.

Sargent's earlier correspondence, 1887-1892, includes letters to him of a more personal nature. There are letters about his investments and from his Zeta Psi fraternity brothers as well as a few letters from his family.

Sargent's Ludlow law partner, William W. Stickney, Governor of Vermont from 1900-1902, served on the building committee for Vermont's Supreme Court and State Library building, completed in

1918. This collection of Sargent's papers include the committee's working documents: data sheets, the architects' and engineers' contracts, as well as a list of bidders and their proposals for electric wiring and steam fitting.

There are only a few family papers in the collection and these are associated with Sargent's wife, Mary Gordon, her parents, Melissa and Thomas Gordon, and the Sargent's daughter, Gladys Sargent Pearsons Spaulding. Melissa Gordon's 1889 will is one of the oldest items. Mary Gordon Sargent's papers include invoices from Cowles Art School in Boston for painting materials, and tuition, 1889 and 1890, and a letter from F.M. Cowles requesting "your drawings and paintings...for this annual exhibition". In an 1893 letter, Volney S. Fullam (see "Related Collections") writes his "Cousin" Mary to propose boarding for a few weeks at the Sargent's home.

An obituary for Ralph Edward Pearsons, Gladys Sargent's first husband, as well as a 1943 bill of sale for her father's "law library and office furniture" are included in the series for Gladys Sargent Pearsons Spaulding.

Related Collections

1. John Garibaldi Sargent, 1860-1939

VHS card catalog under his name:

- Addresses by the Atty. Gen. of the U.S. before the American Law Institute, May 2, 1925 X Folio 340 Sa73am*
- Address ... before the Carnegie Institute at Pittsburgh, Pa. April 30, 1925 X Folio 172.4 Sa77cp*
- Address ... D.A.R., Washington, D.C. April 25, 1925 X 369.135 D265s*
- Early History of Vermont ...address delivered in Montpelier, Jan.5, 1927, Vt. Sesqui-centennial Commission "Note: Written by young law student from Ludlow. Sargent never saw address before he read it. - D.B. Kent" 974.3 V5923s*
- U.S. Attorney General Annual report for the fiscal year 1925 *353.5*

VHS card catalog under "Vermont—Biography":

- Coblantz, Catherine C , "Vermonters in Washington; John G. Sargent, Attorney General of the U. S." (in *The Vermonter*, 1925, v. 30, p. 63). Portrait p. 62. X974.30 V598 v.30. Photocopy in Folder 0.
- Taylor, Jessie P., "The old house on Mount Moses and its charm" (in *The Vermonter*, Feb.1930, v. 35, p. 36-37). Photocopy in Folder 0.

Brigham Manuscript index:

- Miscellaneous file 1220. 14 letters on legal matters to John H. Hazeltine in New York City, 1917, 1918, 1920, 1926, 1930.
- Coolidge Family Papers, Doc 391:26. Graduation program at Black River Academy (1883) when John Garibaldi Sargent gave valedictory address.

2. Stickney, William Wallace, 1853-1932

VHS card catalog under "Vermont--Biography," many references including:

- Kent, Dorman B.E., "William Wallace Stickney". This memorial was read by Mr. Kent at the annual meeting of the Society, Jan. 9, 1933. (in *Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society*, 1936, v. 4, p.17-20). 974.30 V591p n.s. v.4. Photocopy in Folder 0.

VHS card catalog under his name as an author, several references.

VHS card catalog under: "Vermont State Library, Supreme Court, etc."

- Crockett, Walter Hill, "New state building" (in *The Vermonter* , 1918, v.23, p.235-6) X974.30 V598 v.23. Photocopy in folder 0.

3. Volney, Sewall Fullam, 1830-1912

Brigham Manuscript Index:

- MSA 172:12. Civil War Papers.
- MSA 193:5. Fullam-Spaulling Papers, 1776-1928.

Organization

The papers are organized in seven series.

- I. Melissa and Thomas Gordon, 1878-1893
- II. John Garibaldi Sargent, 1887-1919
- III. Mary Gordon Sargent, 1888-1892
- IV. Gladys Sargent Pearsons Spaulding, 1926-1943
- V. William W. Stickney, 1915-16
- VI. Stickney, Sargent, Skeels law office, 1890-1917
- VII. Miscellaneous

InventoryI. Melissa and Thomas Gordon

MSA 202:1 Miscellaneous, 1878-1893

II. John Garibaldi Sargent

- 2 Letters, 1887-1889
- 3 _____, 1890-1892
- 4 _____, March 29, 1916
- 5 _____, Jan.-Feb. 1917
- 6 _____, March-May 1917
- 7 _____, June-Nov. 1917
- 8 _____, Jan.-Feb. 1918
- 9 _____, March-Dec. 1918
- 10 _____, Jan. 6, 1919
- 11 _____, undated
- 12 Telegrams, 1881-1918 (?)
- 13 Receipts, 1887-1918
- 14 Zeta Psi, Kappa Chapter, 1890 and 1912
- 15 Ephemera, education, 1917-18
- 16 _____, U.S., 1917-1919
- 17 _____, State of Vermont, 1917-1918
- 18 _____, Vermont, 1915-1919
- 19 _____, World War I., 1918
- 20 _____, Miscellaneous, 1917
- 21 Subscriptions, 1917-1918
- 22 Fragments
- 23 Miscellaneous, undated and 1918

III. Mary Gordon Sargent

MSA 203:1 Letters, 1888-1893
 2 Miscellaneous, undated

IV. Gladys Sargent Pearsons Spaulding

3 Miscellaneous, 1926-1943

V. William W. Stickney

4 State of Vermont Supreme Court and State Library building, data sheets, 1915

- 5 _____, building contract 1915
- 6 _____, building contract, granite facing, 1915
- MSA 203:7 _____, Lists of bidders, 1916

VI. Stickney, Sargent and Skeels law office

- 8 Miscellaneous letters, 1890-1917
- 9 Financial statement, Jan.-Dec. 1914

VII. Miscellaneous

- 10 Letters, 1883 and undated
- 11 Ephemera, 1890-1917

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