

EPHRAIM HUTCHINS (1803-1872)

FAMILY PAPERS, 1777-1919

3 boxes (ca. 1000 items)

Gift of Robert Hutchins Schutz, Hartford, Conn.

INTRODUCTION

Ephraim Hutchins was a successful business man in Concord, N.H. The papers which have been preserved by the family include many interesting items over a long period of years, chiefly in the nineteenth century. Box I contains probate papers of Ephraim's father Abel and his brother Hamilton with deeds, commissions, and other papers which Ephraim, executor of the estates, considered worth keeping. Box II contains Ephraim's own papers, his real estate transactions, stage line and U.S. mail contracts and communications, and other miscellaneous papers. Box III contains the correspondence of Ephraim's wife and children.

Abel Hutchins who, with his brother Levi, was well known as a clockmaker was born in Harvard, Mass., March 16, 1763. His indenture of apprenticeship to Simon Willard, clockmaker, December 6, 1777, is the most interesting document in the collection. In 1786 Abel married Elizabeth Partridge of Roxbury, Mass. and came to Concord, N.H. to go into partnership with his brother Levi. They had a house and shop on the East side of Main Street and here he brought up a family of thirteen children, five boys and eight girls. In 1807 Abel bought out his brother's interest in the business and continued making clocks alone for the next ten years until house and shop burned to the ground November 25, 1817. The house that rose from the ashes was large enough to take in guests and was called the Phenix Hotel. Abel Hutchins prospered as an innkeeper and was interested in many other business enterprises as well. He retired from hotel management in 1832, age 69, and two years later moved to the other side of Main Street where he lived to be 90 years old. He died in Concord April 6, 1853.¹

Hamilton Hutchins (1805-1851) was the youngest son of Abel Hutchins so that his father could afford to give him advantages which the older sons did not have, as his father pointed out in a letter disapproving of his attitude at Dartmouth. Hamilton reconsidered and graduated from Dartmouth in 1827. He then studied law with Samuel Fletcher of Concord and Richard Fletcher of Boston and practiced in Concord as the partner of George Kent. For the last ten years of his life he was treasurer of the New Hampshire Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He married, October 30, 1835, Mary Chandler of Lexington, Mass. They had no children and Hamilton's father was his only heir.²

1. See the Autobiography of Levi Hutchins (1845). Abel's family and their children are listed pp. 62-65.

2. C.H. Bell, The Bench and Bar of New Hampshire (1894), p. 454.

Lewis Hutchins (1801-1839), the third son, also predeceased his father, dying in Alabama. Hamilton Hutchins received a power of attorney from their father to wind up his affairs there. The two oldest sons, Charles (1787-1867) and George (1797-1868) were merchants in Concord and both of them had stores on the East side of Main Street. The Concord Directory for 1853 has an advertisement for Hutchins and Co., dry goods, the "Old Cheap Store" two doors north of the Phenix Hotel. The deeds show land transactions between all the brothers and their father.

Ephraim Hutchins was the fourth son, the ninth child, in the Hutchins family. He tells his story himself: "At the time Father's house was burnt I left the school [Norwich Academy], was 16 years of age. From this time I work for Father Day and Night." He worked at the Phenix Hotel and on various staging lines. Abel and Ephraim Hutchins were associated with Samuel Blodgett, a hotel keeper in Royalton, Vermont, in some staging enterprises centered there where Ephraim met and married Caroline Elizabeth, the daughter of Samuel Blodgett. "When I was married in 1832, my father gave me a note for \$2000 which was for 14 years hard labor. On the 20 day of May 1832, I took the Phenix Hotel. The Furniture and other things was appraised off to be by Charles and George Hutchins and everything was appraised too high. At the end of 2 years, 20 May 1834, I settled with Father or rather the business was done by Charles Hutchins." 3

In addition to managing the Phenix Hotel, which he leased from his father, Ephraim bought up real estate adjoining and behind the hotel. He maintained a stable where the old distillery stood, near the railroad with access to Main Street. In 1832 he bid on a contract to carry the U.S. mail from Boston to Burlington. James Barker and Co. got the contract but Hutchins sub-contracted for the route from Concord to Boston. This was the period when staging was at his height, before the railroads took over, and the collection provides an interesting glimpse of the complicated system of contracts and agreements between owners of different lines, contracts to carry the U.S. mail, instructions and complaints from the postoffice department, accounts and stage line tickets. In 1842 Hutchins gave up the management of the Phenix Hotel and took over mail contracts in Vermont, running from 1843 to 1845, which were held by his father-in-law. He was interested, at least to the extent of owning 400 shares, in the Green Mountain Iron Company, near Brandon, Vermont. Royal Blake, who had married Eleanor Blodgett, another daughter of Samuel Blodgett, was president of the company and owner of a store and stove factory there. Samuel Blodgett moved to Brandon and the family of Ephraim Hutchins often visited there. 4

From 1849 until 1853, Ephraim Hutchins was postmaster in Concord. He was a Whig and President Franklin Pierce replaced him with a good

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3. See Thompson, Bradley Deforest and Franklin Condit, "Blodgett-Blodgett, Descendants of Thomas of Cambridge". Typewritten genealogy, six volumes with index volume in New Hampshire Historical Society. Pages 259, 481-482.
 4. See Lovejoy, Evelyn M. Wood, History of Royalton, Vermont (1911), page 386 and chapter XXV "Post-offices and Post-Roads."

Democrat. In 1854 he ran for mayor but was defeated by Joseph Low, a Democrat. He applied for the postmastership again under President Lincoln but another candidate obtained the office. He was a member of the Governor's Horse Guards in 1860. He was a major in the 3d brigade of the New Hampshire Militia. By 1868 he was an agent for the Equitable Life Assurance Co. of New York and made some contracts with the Granite Railway Co. to furnish Concord granite for the new building in New York. Ephraim Hutchins died in Concord, December 11, 1872.⁵

Ephraim and Caroline Hutchins had five children, all born in Concord: Robert, Elizabeth, Gordon, Hamilton and Carroll. The daughter, Elizabeth, married Augustus Schutz, December 29, 1863, and went with him to Coquimbo, Chile, where he had been appointed U.S. Consul. She wrote to her mother frequently, 1864-1871, describing the country and her life there. Her mother wrote to her about family affairs and the social life of Concord.

The collection contains some very interesting letters from the son, Gordon, written from the San Carlos Agency, Arizona Territory, 1880-1884. These describe the country and the troubles with the Apache Indians which ended in their defeat at Cibicu and Fort Apache by Gen. Eugene A. Carr. They are also concerned with a law case at the Metropolitan Museum in New York where Gordon Hutchins had been director. He was a witness for the prosecution in a case for fraud brought against General di Cesnola relating to the collection of antiquities which the latter had brought back from Cyprus. The letters mention the death of Robert Hutchins in Los Angeles, California, and enclose a last check for services in the army from the Quartermaster's Office, Whipple Barracks, Prescott, Arizona Territory, October 8, 1883.

Hamilton died when a child. The Hamilton Hutchins who became a Captain in the Navy and commanded the battleship Kearsarge was the son of George Hutchins, Ephraim's brother.

There is one letter from Carroll describing a family wedding in Hartford, Conn. It is written on stationery of the New York, Ontario & Western Railway Co., Middleton, N.Y., October 21, 1880. And finally there is a letter from William Howard Taft, June 13, 1919, commending Mr. Carroll Hutchins who had been tour manager for the "League to Enforce Peace" trip.

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5. Ellis, William Arba, ed. Norwich University, 1819-1911, Her History, Her Graduates, Her Roll of Honor (1911), vol. II, p. 146; Lyford, James O., ed. History of Concord, New Hampshire (1903), passim.

INVENTORY

BOX I

ABEL HUTCHINS (1763-1853)

Folder

A

Inventory, Notes, Newspaper clippings, copy of engraving of Phenix Hotel.

1. Papers, 1777-1832. 9 items.
Includes indenture of apprenticeship to Simon Willard, clock-maker, 1777; commission as adjutant of 2nd regiment of light horse, signed by President John Sullivan 1787; letter concerning debt of Levi and Abel Hutchins, 1791; building contract for the Phenix Hotel, 1818; deed to half a pew in the meeting house, 1789; promissory note to building committee of First Baptist Society, 1823; request from War Department for Revolutionary War Roll of Capt. Gordon Hutchins, 1832.
2. Deeds, 1790-1852. 11 items.
Deeds of Levi and Abel Hutchins to land in Concord; includes a deed to the Northern Railroad, 1846; two deeds to land in Rumney.
- 3-8. Probate Papers, 1853.
Includes inventory of estate, sale at auction and various schedules. (These are recorded in a volume, entry 16) Ephraim Hutchins account with the estate, 1838-1853, includes a statement of Ephraim's early life and the rent of the Phenix Hotel. Charles Hutchins agreements with Abel Hutchins about the house on West Main St., 1844; his receipts from estate. Accounts with Mrs. Sarah G. Lovejoy, Mary Ann and Martha Hutchins, Lewis Hutchins, Mrs. Robert Ambrose. Miscellaneous bills and receipts.

HAMILTON HUTCHINS (1805-1851)

9. Papers, 1830-1850. 10 items.
Includes copartnership agreement to practice law made by Hamilton Hutchins and George Kent, 1830; appointment as Justice of Peace for Merrimack County, 1833; appointment as Notary Public, 1846; appointment as Commissioner in Bankruptcy, 1843; power of attorney to sell a pew in the South Congregational Church, 1839; receipt from Sewell's Falls Locks and Canal Corporation, 1836; certificate of share in the Concord Bridge, Abel Hutchins Director, 1840; deed to interest in Bow Canal, 1844; copy of will of Jeremiah Mills, 1850.
10. Correspondence, 1824-1849. 5 items.
Letter from Abel Hutchins to son at Dartmouth, 1824; power of attorney from Abel Hutchins to administer estate of Lewis Hutchins in Alabama with draft of a letter to Andrew Poor regarding it; 1839; two letters to Ephraim Hutchins, from Baltimore and from Mobile, 1849.

- 11. Letters from Charles Hopkins, 1825-1829. 47 items. A college friend who also became a lawyer. Most letters written from Thetford, Vermont. They concern Dartmouth gossip; plans for a career; thoughts and nonsense.
- 12. Deeds, 1835-1849. 37 items. Deeds to land in Concord; many mortgage deeds.
- 13. Writs of Execution, 1832-1841. 10 items. Collections for debt; Hutchins law business.
- 14. Promissory notes, receipts, etc., 1836-1842. For collection; Hutchins law business.
- 15. Probate Papers, 1851. Inventory of estate with various schedules. (Recorded in volume, entry 16).
- 16. Record of Probate Papers of Hamilton Hutchins, 1851, and Abel Hutchins, 1853. 1 vol. Kept by Ephraim Hutchins, executor of estates.

Box II folder

EPHRAIM HUTCHINS (1803-1872)

- 1. Deeds, Concord, N.H. East Side of Main St., 1830-1864. 34 items. Land transactions relating to Phenix Hotel and adjoining properties; sketch of hotel and two stores, passageway leading to stable and railroad; lease of hotel from George and Ephraim Hutchins to Robert N. Corning and Samuel Clark for 5 years, 1858; sale of hotel to William Blodgett, 1864.
- 2. Deeds, Concord, N.H., 1833-1857. 29 items.
- 3. Deeds, outside of Concord, 1833-1865. 10 items. Land transactions; various persons and places.
- 4. Stage Lines. Vermont Contracts, 1830-1831. 7 items. Contract between Ira Day and Samuel Blodgett dividing stage routes and mail contracts around Royalton, 1830; bill of sale, bonds and agreement fro line from Rutland to Stock-bridge, Rufus Richardson to John Cook, John Cook to Samuel Blodgett and Sumner French, 1831.
- 5. Stage Lines. Blodgett & Barker, 1832-1843. Mail Contracts with the U.S. Ephraim Hutchins statement of his interest in staging, 1832-1833. His purchase of Samuel Blodgett's interest in Concord, Salisbury & Andover Stage Co., 1834; one half of route from Woodstock to Windsor purchased by Samuel Blodgett from Robert Barker and Homer Webster, 1838; Contract between Samuel Blodgett and Robert Barker and the U.S. Post Office to carry mail between Montpelier, Royalton and Claremont daily, printed form signed by Amos Kendall, Postmaster General, 1838; other contracts and accounts.

Box II (cont.)

- 6. Stage Lines. Blodgett & Barker (Ephraim Hutchins), 1843-1846. Bond, Ephraim Hutchins to Samuel Blodgett, September 3, 1843, takes over mail contracts Windsor to Montpelier, Wethersfield to Woodstock, Lebanon to Royalton; bond Hutchins from George B. Pierce and Charles Paine, Sept. 30, 1843, obtains mail stage Royalton to Montpelier. Notices from Post Office Inspection Department sent to Concord, N.H. Accounts.
- 7. Stage Lines. Tickets, 1834-1839. Receipts for fare paid on various lines, many on forms of the General Stage Office, Boston.
- 8. Miscellaneous Papers, 1852-1868. 14 items. Letters to President Abraham Lincoln recommending Ephraim Hutchins for Concord Postmaster from Gov. Ichabod Goodwin and George W. Nesmith, March 1861. Certificate of 400 shares in the Green Mountain Iron Co., Vermont, 1854; deed to a cemetery lot, 1855; Equitable Mutual Fire-Insurance Co. policy of Mary Ann Hutchins and Marthy C. Pierce, 1856; a chattel mortgage of James Tallant, 1844; certificates of hay weighed, 1852, 1853; contracts for the Granite Railway Co. to furnish granite for a new building of the Equitable Life Assurance Co. of New York, Ephraim Hutchins, Agent, 1868.
- 9. Tax Returns, 1864-1869. 5 items. U.S. Internal Revenue forms made out for income tax.
- 10. Currency and Counterfeit. Union Bank of Concord (1856-1868) one, two and three dollar bills; fractional currency, three, ten and fifty cents; well worn notes from various banks and an envelope of "Bad, counterfeit, money".
- 11. Hutchins & Clark. Bills and Receipts, 1857. Goods purchased wholesale for store, bedding, furniture, etc.
- 12-13 William Tilden Blodgett. Papers, 1858-1866. Nephew of Ephraim Hutchins. Correspondence and accounts concerning the estate of Royal Blake of Brandon, Vermont, and family news.
- 14. Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1854-1864. 12 items.

BOX III
FOLDER 1

FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. Gordon Hutchins. Letters, 1880-1884. 26 items. Letters to his mother written from San Carlos Agency, Arizona Territory, describing the country and the troubles with the Apache Indians that led to their defeat at Cibicu and Fort Apache. Letters also concern a law case, Feuardent vs. di Cesnola, relating to the genuineness of the Cypriote antiquities at the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

Box III (cont.)

Folder

2. Elizabeth (Hutchins) Schutz. Letters, 1864-1871, 1881. Letters from Mrs. Augustus Schutz, wife of the U.S. consul in Coquimbo, Chile, to her mother describing the country and her domestic affairs; mentions war with Spain. A letter to her in 1881 from a friend in Coquimbo.
- 3-4. Mrs. Ephraim Hutchins. Letters, 1870-1873, 1880-1883. "Letters from Dear Mother" to her daughter Mrs. Augustus Schutz, with a few to other children, describing family affairs and and social life in Concord.
5. Family Correspondence, 1863-1880. Miscellaneous letters. Includes a letter from Augustus Schutz to his wife, Concord, 1872, telling of the funeral of her father Ephraim Hutchins; a copy of a poem "Links with Heaven" by Edna Dean Proctor, reminding Mrs. Schutz of her child who had died; letter from Carroll Hutchins to his mother, 1880, describing the family wedding in Hartford, Conn. [Will Skinner's]
6. William Howard Taft. Letter, 1919. 1 L.S. Letter from William H. Taft to C.H. Wilson, Washington, D.C. June 13, 1919, commending Mr. Carroll Hutchins as tour manager for the "League to Enforce Peace" trip.
7. Caroline E. Hutchins. Record of estate, 1886-1898. 1 vol. September 1894. Bonds and papers deposited in bank by Elizabeth P. Schutz.

Two photograph albums of the Hutchins Family and places in Concord, N.H. filed with Museum.

A broadside: "Uniform for the Army of the United States", War Office of U nited States, Philadelphia, 9 January 1799. James McHenry, Secretary of War. Filed with broadsides, Library.

Probate papers of Samuel Blodgett (1777-1859), the father-in-law of Ephraim Hutchins, and of Royal Blake, another son-in-law of Samuel Blodgett, were included in the collection since Ephraim Hutchins acted as administrator of the estates. The Blake papers include a ledger of Royal Blake's store in Brandon, Vermont, and some interesting papers of the Green Mountain Iron Company of which he was president. These will be transferred to the Vermont Historical Society.

Cards made for catalogue

Baker, Nathaniel B.
Blaisdell, Daniel *Blanchard, David*
Blodgett, Samuel
Cesnola, Luigi Palma di
Dinsmoor, Samuel (Sig.)
Goodwin, Ichabod
Hill, Isaac- estate
Hopkins, Charles
Hutchins, Abel (3)
 Carroll (2)
 Ephraim
 Mrs. Ephraim
 Gordon
 Hamilton
 Levi
 Lewis
 Robert A.
Kelly, Israel W.
Kendall, Amos (sig.)
Kent, George
Leach, John
Lincoln, Abraham (2)
Mills, Jeremiah
Nesmith, George W.
Proctor, Edna Dean
Schutz, Mrs. Augustus
Taft, William Howard
Tewksbury, James
Sullivan, John (Sig.)
Wilson, C.H.

Architecture - 19th century
Arizona Territory - San Carlos Agency
Banks - Union Bank, Concord
Currency
Dartmouth College
Granite Railway Co.
Household goods
Indenture of apprenticeship
Indians - Apache
Insurance - Equitable Mutual Fire-
 Insurance Co., Concord.
Lawyers
Metropolitan Museum of Art, N.Y.
Occupation - clockmaker
Phenix Hotel
Railroads - Northern
Revolutionary War - Rolls
Roads - Grafton Turnpike
South America - Chile
Stage Lines
U.S. Post Office
Vermont - Green Mountain Iron Co.
Vermont - Stage Lines

Concord, N.H.