

Guide to the Baldwin and Company Papers

MS 56



compiled by Marguerite S. Witkop

January 1980

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 56

CREATOR: Baldwin and Company

TITLE: Baldwin and Company papers

DATES: 1818-1876

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 49 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: A shipping firm based in New York trading with Europe, South America and various ports in the United States. The principal partner in the firm was Simeon Baldwin of New Haven. The records include account books, correspondence, papers dealing with the general business of the firm and papers dealing with the individual ships. The records for each of the 124 ships consist of bills of lading, manifests, freight lists, settlements of earnings, letters of instruction to captains, captain's accounts and other documents for each voyage. Two diaries are in the collection: Simeon Baldwin's business diary for 1821 and Charles Baldwin's diary of a voyage in the brig *Duroc*, 1830.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0056>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0056>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

A portion of the papers were purchased in 1940 and 1944; a portion were the gift of Charles M. Baldwin, 1937.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Baldwin and Company Papers (MS 56). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

History of Firm

Simeon Baldwin, 1801-1872, of New Haven, Conn., went to Philadelphia in 1818 to learn the business of a merchant. He worked for his uncle, Daniel Barnes, until 1821, when he came to New York and started out on his own. In March of 1822 he formed a partnership with Samuel A. Otis under the firm name of Otis & Baldwin. This arrangement was terminated in June of 1823, Baldwin continuing alone until October, when he formed with Francis J. Spooner the firm of Baldwin & Spooner. This partnership lasted until February of 1827, when Spooner was bought out. In the following month Baldwin joined with Horace D. Forbes to form the firm of Baldwin & Forbes. Baldwin bought out Forbes in October of 1830 and continued the business alone under the firm name until the end of October, 1831. At that time Baldwin admitted his cousin, Sherman Day, and changed the firm name to Baldwin & Co., which continued until it failed in March of 1841. The following October Baldwin became president of the Jackson Marine Insurance Co. and later of the Merchants' Exchange Co. of New York.

Nature of the Business

The business of the mercantile firm was very wide, but consisted primarily of acting as commission agents. Transactions were done with firms in the chief ports of the United States, Europe, and South America. In 1825 Baldwin & Spooner inaugurated the Regular Line between Philadelphia and New York, a semi-weekly freight service by schooners and sloops of approximately one hundred tons. Baldwin & Spooner were the New York agents, while Bailey & Bridges managed the Philadelphia end. The line continued until 1835. Another large share of the business derived from acting as agents for various vessels. In this capacity the firm arranged for the collection of freight, made disbursements, and gave advice on the profitableness of proposed voyages. The firm also owned shares in various vessels for which they provided the cargo despatched on trading voyages.

Character of the Papers

The collection is divided mainly into four parts consisting of account books, correspondence, papers directly relating to individual ships of which the firm was owner or agent, and miscellaneous papers.

Scope and Contents

BALDWIN & CO. COLLECTION

Bound Papers

Included in the account books are 3 day books and 5 journals, 1818-1831, lacking a few months in several years; 4 ledgers, 1820-1832, lacking July, 1823-March, 1827; 12 cash books, 1821-1838; lacking first six months of 1836; 3 sales books, 1820-1834, lacking 1822-April, 1827, and November, 1831-November, 1832; 4 sales memoranda books, 1823-1834; 2 accounts current, 1825-1832; Also included are 6 volumes of freight lists for the Regular Line, 1825-1834; 5 receipt books, 1827-1838; 1 storage ledger and 4 storage journals, 1825-1833; 3 volumes listing notes payable and receiveable, 1824-1831; and 1 volume listing bills payable and receiveable, 1831-1835; 9 volumes containing stubs of checks drawn on the Bank of New York, 1827-1840, and 3 volumes containing stubs of checks drawn on other banks, 1821-1839, lacking 1822-1832; 3 volumes containing stubs of notes drawn, 1825-1834; 9 volumes containing; stubs of freight receipts insured, 1824-1835; 2 volumes of the freight account of the Regular Line, 1825-1835. In addition there are several miscellaneous volumes viz: a small diary of business matters kept by S. Baldwin 1821; a small book containing Otis & Baldwin's account with the Merchants' Bank, New York, 1822-1823; a similar book with S. Baldwin's account, 1823; 4 small journal memoranda (3 of Baldwin & Spooner, 1825, and 1 of Baldwin & Forbes, 1831); a books containing amounts of freight lists for vessels on Regular Line and an account of disbursements for other vessels, 1825-1827; a small ledger and cash account of money spent on portage, 1827-1830; a book containing invoices of goods sent by or to Baldwin & Forbes, 1827-1830; a small book of freight and petty cash, 1828; a book containing a list of ships despatched from Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, with cargo, destination, and shipper, 1834-1836; and a small book containing S. Baldwin's account with the American Exchange Bank, 1847-1852.

Correspondence

The correspondence includes 10 letter books, 1822-1831, and 33 boxes of loose letters, 1818-1841 and undated, mainly from other mercantile firms located on the eastern and southern coasts of the United States, Western Europe and the Mediterranean, the West Indies, and ports in South America from Rio de Janiero north to Panama. A large share of the letters deal with the state of the produce market and include prices current for the various places. Others relate to bills of exchange, sales of goods, invoices, orders, and other business matters. There are also some letters from and (in the last box) to the captains of various vessels. There is in addition some correspondence in the papers dealing with individual ships.

Ships' Papers

The papers relating to ships (arranged alphabetically by names of vessels) consist of 19 boxes and deal with voyages to all the ports with which the firm traded. The papers consist of bills of lading, manifests, freight lists, shipping articles, settlements of earnings, consuls' clearances, port charges, disbursements, charter parties, bills of sale, letters of instruction to captains, bills for expenses, portage bills, protests, in cases where the cargo or ship was damaged, invoices and sales of cargoes, crew's releases and wage settlements, captains' accounts with the firm and the firm's accounts with the owners of the vessels and with agents in the various ports, and insurance policies. Following is a list of the ships:

[Ships listed in inventory, boxes 35-44]

Among the partially sorted miscellaneous papers are 6 more boxes, viz: one box of bills of lading for goods shipped by or to S. Baldwin, Baldwin & Spooner, Baldwin & Forbes or Baldwin & Co., 1821-1841, on vessels not included in the above list; of notes, drafts, bonds, acceptances, 1821-1839 and cancelled checks; 1826-1831; box of bills 1818-1841; of miscellaneous papers 1818-1841, consisting of memoranda, orders, receipts, account sales trial balances, accounts current, etc.; and one box marked A, containing insurance policies for cargoes and vessels, 1827-1831, not included in the previous list of ships; regimental orders, etc., 1827-1828, of 14th regiment New York State Artillery, the Governor's Guard, in which S. Baldwin was a captain; the

accounts of Thornton & Treadway, 1825-1826; papers relating to the case of Higgins and Henshaw, for which S. Baldwin was one of the arbitrators, 1828; numerous miscellaneous legal papers; the Articles of Agreement to form the Regular Line of packets between New York and Philadelphia, 1824; a memorandum for the lease of a house, 1825; an agreement for the lease of a store, 1828; a list of American vessels loaded at Messina with cargoes of lemons and oranges, 1828-1830; a list of the value of foreign coins in U. S. money; a price current of "several articles for the present use...", ca. 1822; and a copy of the constitution and by-laws of the Independent Literary Society, 1819.

Biographical information compiled by Robert Randolph Greene, 1947.

[For more information, see also Mr. Greene's essay, "The American Merchant in 1830," in box 55.]

Summary of "Diary of a voyage made in the Brig *Duroc*, 1830-1831" [See box 20]

Diary of a voyage made in the Brig *Duroc*, August 1830 - April 1831, by Charles Baldwin. The vessel had left New York in March of 1830 and gone to Gibraltar and Malaga before arriving at Rio de Janiero in August, at which point the diary commences. The voyage continued on to Trieste, Messina, Palermo, and back to New York. Also included are two pages describing the harbor and entrance procedure at Rio de Janiero, a list of duties on imports there, a description of the Royal Family of Brazil and a few notes on recent laws. Several pages are written on the quarantine regulations at Trieste, a description of the city, and an account of the weights and measures in use there. Also included are descriptions of Messina and Palermo, the weights and measures in use there, and the duties on imports.

Starting with Page 114 there follows an assortment of miscellaneous items including: Port Charges at Gibraltar, Malaga, Rio de Janiero, Trieste, Messina, Palermo, Port au Prince, Marseilles, Antwerp; a list of standard values of foreign currencies in 1821; "Remarks and useful hints relative to the Marseilles trade; Proformae for some goods purchased at Marseilles and sold at New York, 1828 and 1831; extracts from the Law of the State of New York relative to the inspection of Staves and Heading, and of Spirits; Harbor Regulations at Marseilles; an extract from a letter telling of the availability of brandies at Cette, France; Proformae of sales at Trieste and Marseilles, September to October 1831; copy of a letter from P. Eynaud, U.S. Consul at Malta, concerning the trade there, 1831; also a description of weights, measures, and duties there; Proformae of purchases at Malta, Marseilles and Cette, 1832-1833; a Rule for Compound Equations; quotations from Palermo, 1838; Statistics of importations of almonds, currants, muscatel raisins, and figs into U.S., October 1834 to September 1835; list of vessels sold at auction in New York, 1831; Statistics of importation and exportation of opium into and from U.S., October 1834 to September 1835; list of vessels on hand, 1831, and those for sale or charter, with the price asked; a list of vessels chartered in New York; a description of the Grotto of Adlersberg, Garniola, Austria, written in 1833; three letters to C. T. Ralli from C. Baldwin, 1831-1832; copy of the form of a letter of Abandonment [of a vessel]; and a Table of Contents. [Several additional pages have been torn out]

Collection Contents
Inventory, (1818–1841)–1846, 1860–1876
49' (14 flat gray, 40 paige, 1 black oversize, 1 folio)

Folio

	Letterbooks	
b. 1	1822-1828	1822-1828
b. 2	1828-1831	1828-1831
	Cashbooks	
b. 3	1821-1833	1821-1833
b. 4	1833-1838	1833-1838
	Accounts Current	
b. 4	1825-1832	1825-1832
	Journals	
b. 5	1823-1827	1823-1827
b. 6	1827-1829	1827-1829
b. 7	1829-1831	1829-1831
b. 8	1831-1832	1831-1832
	Journal memos	
b. 8	1825, 1831	1825, 1831
	Journal of receipts and deliveries	
b. 8	1828-1833	1828-1833
b. 8	Journal memo	1834
	Ledgers	
b. 9	1820-1823	1820-1823
b. 10	1827-1829	1827-1829
b. 11	1829-1832	1829-1832
	Sales books	
b. 12	1820-1821	1820-1821
b. 12	1832-1834	1832-1834
	Memos of sales	

Memos of sales (continued)

b. 12	1826-1834	1826-1834
	Check books	
b. 12	1828-1833	1828-1833
b. 12	1832-1836	1832-1836
b. 12	1821-1822	1821-1822
b. 12	Journal	1823
b. 12	Memo of sales and receipts	1823-1826
b. 13	Sales book	1827-1831
	Check books	
b. 13	1821-1822, 1827-1828	1821-1822, 1827-1828
b. 14	1833-1839	1833-1839
b. 14	1838-1840, undated	1838-1840, undated
	Bank books	
b. 14	1822-1823, 1847-1852	1822-1823, 1847-1852
	Freight lists	
b. 15	1825-1826	1825-1826
b. 15	1826 December	1826 December
b. 15	1826-1828; Sailing register, 1826-1829	
b. 15	1828-1830; Sailing register, 1829-1841	
b. 16	1830-1834	1830-1834
	Freight receipts stubs	
b. 17	1826-1833	1826-1833
b. 18	1833-1835	1833-1835
b. 18	Freight lists and disbursements	1825-1829
b. 18	Freight account	1826-1835
b. 18	Cash received for freight Regular Line	1825-1826
b. 18	Freight and petty cash	1828
b. 18	Bills of lading stubs	1824-1825
b. 18	Bills of lading stubs	1825

b. 18	Invoice of goods shipped	1827-1830
b. 18	Storage book	1825-1829
	List of notes payable and receivable	
b. 19	1824-1835	1824-1835
	Note stubs	
b. 19	1825-1834	1825-1834
	Receipt books	
b. 20	1818, 1827-1838	1818, 1827-1838
b. 20	Journal of receipts and deliveries	1826-1828
	Day books	
b. 20	1818-1823	1818-1823
b. 20	Account of postage money	1827-1828
b. 20	S. Baldwin diary of business matters	1821
b. 20	List of ships dispatched	1834-1836
b. 20	Chas. Baldwin diary of a voyage in the Brig Duroc	1830
	Domestic correspondence	
b. 21	1818-1823	1818-1823
b. 22	1824 - 1826 June	1824 - 1826 June
b. 23	1826 July - 1828 January	1826 July - 1828 January
b. 24	1828 February - 1829 September	1828 February - 1829 September
b. 25	1829 October - 1830	1829 October - 1830
b. 26	1831 - 1833	1831 - 1833
b. 27	1834 - 1838 May	1834 - 1838 May
b. 28	1838 June - 1841 September	1838 June - 1841 September
	Foreign correspondence	
b. 28	1826 English	1826
b. 29	1827 - 1829 July	1827 - 1829 July

Foreign correspondence (continued)

b. 30	1829 August - 1831	1829 August - 1831
b. 31	1832 - 1833 October	1832 - 1833 October
b. 32	1833 November - 1835 July	1833 November - 1835 July
b. 33	1835 August - 1837 May	1835 August - 1837 May
b. 34	1837 June - 1839	1837 June - 1839
Shipping papers		
b. 35	Sch. Abigil	1826-1827
b. 35	Brig Agenoria	1827, 1829, 1831
b. 35	Sch. Alfred	1831, 1835-1836
b. 35	Barque Amalia	1841
b. 35	Brig Ames	1828-1829
b. 35	Sl. Ann Hyndman	1834
b. 35	Sl. Ann Maria	1824
b. 35	Sl. Ann Strong	1828
b. 35	Brig Arial	1830-1831
b. 35	Sch. Bellona	1825-1827, 1830-1832
b. 35	Brig Benj. Franklin	1827
b. 35	Brig Benj. Valentine	1830
b. 35	Brig Bogota	1826-1828
b. 35	Sl. Boston Packet	1824-1828
b. 35	Sch. Brandywine	1828-1829
b. 35	Sch. Brilliant	1834
b. 35	Sl. Brutus	1824
b. 35	Brig Bunker Hill	1825-1827, 1833
b. 36	Sch. Cadet	1824
b. 36	Sch. Caravan	1827
b. 36	Sch. Carpenter	1832
b. 36	Brig Centurion	1841

Shipping papers (continued)

b. 36	Barque Chancellor	1837-1839, 1841
b. 36	Ship Chancellor	1827-1830, 1833-1836
b. 36	Sch. Chili	1823
b. 36	Ship Clematis	1831
b. 36	Brig Cuba	1827, 1830
b. 36	Sch. Denny McCobb	1831-1832
b. 36	Brig Delos	1829
b. 36	Brig Duroc with Corres	1829-1833
b. 37	Brig Eagle	1830-1831
b. 37	Brig Ellida	1835-1836
b. 37	Brig Empire, 1	1840-1841
b. 37	Sch. Excel	1826-1829
b. 37	Sl. Express	1830-1831
b. 37	Sch. Frances	1824, 1829, 1831
b. 37	Brig Frances	1831-1833
b. 37	Brig Francia	1827-1830
b. 37	Sch. Franklin	1828-1834
b. 37	Sch. Gen. Elmer	1830
b. 37	Sch. Gen. Warren	1825-1827
b. 37	Sch. Geor. Gardiner	1829-1830
b. 37	Brig Geo. Washington	1831, 1834
b. 37	Ship Georges	1832-1834?, 1835-1840
b. 37	Sch. Good Hope	1829-1830
b. 37	Brig Hanford	1835-1837
b. 37	Sl. Hannah Ann	1824
b. 38	Brig Harriet	1835-1836
b. 38	Sch. Harriet	1829, 1833-1834
b. 38	Ship Henry	1827
b. 38	Sch. Herald	1823-1824

Shipping papers (continued)

b. 39	Brig Hercules	1827-1832
b. 39	Sl. Heroine	1829
b. 39	Sl. Hiram	1835
b. 39	Brig Hope Petriene	1831-1836
b. 40	Sch. Horatio	1830
b. 40	Sl. Hunter	1832
b. 40	Sl. Intrepid	1824-1825
b. 40	Sl. Iris	1835
b. 40	Sl. Jane	1827
b. 40	Sch. John	1823
b. 40	Sch. Julia & Laura	1830
b. 40	Sch. Lagrange	1826-1827
b. 40	Brig Larch	1828
b. 40	Brig Laurel	1830, 1832
b. 40	Brig Leader	1825
b. 40	Sch. Leaper	1824-1827
b. 40	Barque Louise	1832
b. 40	Sch. Lucinda	1826
b. 40	Sl. Majestic	1824-1825
b. 40	Brig Marion	1828
b. 40	Brig Marshall	1837-1838
b. 40	Brig Martha Ann	1830-1831
b. 40	Sch. Mary Ann	1826, 1830-1831
b. 40	Sch. Meddle Not	1830-1831
b. 40	Sch. Mirror	1827-1828
b. 40	Sch. Morgiana	1829
b. 40	Sch. Mt. Vernon	1827
b. 40	Sch. Nestor	1829-1831
b. 40	Sch. New England	1834
b. 40	Sch. New York	1827-1834

Shipping papers (continued)

b. 41	Brig Orion	1828-1830
b. 41	Brig Otis	1829-1830
b. 41	Ship Pacific	1827-1829
b. 41	Brig Panthea	1826-1828
b. 41	Brig Paul Jones	1831-1834, 1838-1841
b. 41	Sch. Peacemaker	1831
b. 41	Brig Pheasant	1827-1829
b. 41	Brig Planter	1830-1831
b. 41	Sch. Potomac	1830-1831
b. 41	Ship Queen Mab	1828-1829
b. 41	Sl. Reaper	1824-1827
b. 41	Brig Richard	1829-1830
b. 41	Sch. Robert Staunton	1829
b. 41	Sch. St. Croix	1827
b. 41	St. Thomas	1828
b. 41	Sch. Saluda	1827-1835
b. 42	Brig Sicily	1830-1832
b. 42	Ship Six Brothers	1831-1832
b. 42	Sch. Socrates	1825-1831
b. 42	Sch. Solar	1831
b. 42	Brig Spartan	1823, 1826-1828
b. 42	Brig Splendid	1827-1830
b. 42	Brig Stranger	1831
b. 42	Sch. Superior	1828-1830, 1832, 1837
b. 42	Sl. Superior	1824
b. 43	Brig Tampico	1824-1827
b. 43	Sch. Thorn	1826-1834 (lacks 1832)
b. 43	Sl. Tiger	1824
b. 43	Sch. Tobacco Plant	1824-1825

Shipping papers (continued)

b. 43	Sch. Torch	1833-1835
b. 43	Sch. Traffic	1831
b. 44	Sch. Triton	1826-1834 (lacks 1832)
b. 44	Sch. Two Sisters	1829
b. 44	Sl. Union	1829
b. 44	Sl. Venus	1829
b. 44	Brig Vermont	1829-1831
b. 44	Sch. Vernon	1829-1830
b. 44	Sch. Volant	1825
b. 44	Brig Washington	1835, 1838
b. 44	Sch. Wm. Dawson	1826-1828
b. 44	Brig Wm. Jones	1833-1837
b. 44	Brig William & Thomas	1831
b. 44	Brig Yellow Bird	1828-1831
b. 45	Miscellaneous [shipping]	
b. 46	Miscellaneous [shipping], 1818-1840	
b. 47	Miscellaneous papers, 1829-1841	
Bills and receipts		
b. 48	1818 - 1829	
b. 49	1830 - 1841	
Notes, drafts, and bonds paid		
b. 50	1821 - 1834	
b. 51	1835 - 1838	
b. 51	Cancelled checks	
ADD I		
b. 52	Correspondence	1820-1845, [1861-1876]
b. 52	Financial papers	1824-1879
ADD II		
b. 53	Correspondence	1819-1841, [1846, 1860]

ADD II (continued)

b. 53	Financial papers	1822-1841
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ADD III

b. 54	Correspondence	1820-1841
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b. 54	Financial papers	1824-1827
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b. 55	Financial papers	1828-1841
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ADDS IV - X

b. 55	Correspondence and financial papers	
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Note: ADD X is Robert Randolph Greene, "The American Merchant in 1830" (senior essay, Yale University, 1947). Mr. Greene also arranged the papers and wrote the introductory description.

b. 56	Miscellaneous oversize shipping papers	
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Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Business
Marine insurance
Merchants
Merchant ships
Merchants -- New York (State) -- New York
Shipping
Shipping -- New York (State) -- New York
Ships -- Cargo

Geographic Names

New York (N.Y.) -- Commerce

Genres / Formats

Account books
Bills of lading
Diaries
Manifests

Names

Baldwin, Charles, 1810-1870
Baldwin, Simeon, 1801-1873
Day, Sherman, 1806-1884
Forbes, Horace D.
Otis, Samuel Allyne, 1740-1814
Spooner, Francis J.

Corporate Bodies

Bailey and Bridges
Baldwin and Company