BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Reverend Wakefield Gale, a Congregational clergyman in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, was born in 1797. He was the eldest son of Joseph Gale (1768-1851) and Susannah Frye of Pembroke, New Hampshire, who were married November 4, 1794. Besides Wakefield, Joseph and Susannah had five other children: Sally, born in 1795; Susan, born in 1799 (married Calvin Ransom); Lucinda, born in 1803 (married Solomon Kitteridge); John Adams, born in 1807; and Joseph Worcester, Jr., born in 1809.

Wakefield was educated at Phillips Andover Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, between 1816 and 1818. He went on to study at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire between 1818 and 1822, and ultimately completed his studies at Andover Theological Seminary between 1822 and 1825.

In 1826 Wakefield began a missionary position in Eastport, Maine by appointment of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts Missionary Society. He later preached for short periods in North Yarmouth, Maine, Gloucester, Massachusetts, and Boston. Wakefield then maintained a more permanent position in Rockport, Massachusetts beginning in 1841.

On September 18, 1828 Wakefield married Miss Mary Louise Bigelow, daughter of Lydia Bigelow of Colchester, Connecticut. Mary Louise had four sisters (Mary Eliza, Mrs. Ann Eliza Safford, Mrs. Abby Jane Safford, Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Turner) and one brother (A.J. Bigelow). Wakefield and Mary Louise had eleven children themselves: Wilton Wakefield, born in 1832; Wilton Turner born in 1833; Ann Eliza Safford born in 1835 (married Lyman Williston); William Turner, born in 1837; Joseph Wakefield, born in 1838 (married Hattie Jewell); Edward, born in 1841; Justin Edwards, born in 1844; Jeremiah Evarts, twin of Justin; Mary Louisa, born in 1846; John Newton, born in 1848; and Newton Bigelow, born in 1850.

Mary Louise Gale died April 12, 1861, and Wakefield passed away in 1881.
COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Wakefield Gale collection of family papers consists of the correspondence of the Gale and related families, primarily to and from Reverend Wakefield Gale and his wife Mary Louise between 1816 and 1860. One folder of miscellaneous material is filed at the end of the collection.

In general, the Correspondence are arranged alphabetically by author. Miscellaneous letters received by Wakefield and May Louise, too numerous to warrant individual author identification, are filed after the letters authored by each of them and arranged chronologically. For the most part, the correspondence in this collection concerns the daily activities of the family members, including school, church, callers that may have stopped by, and the occasional excursion to Boston. Those letters to Wakefield from non-family members generally relate to his duties as a minister or missionary.

The single folder of Miscellaneous material contains Wakefield’s missionary instructions from the year 1827 that appoint him to a post in Eastport, Maine, a sheet of recommendations for the hymnal “Parish Hymns,” and two items regarding the American Temperance Society.

A separate folder containing Gale family genealogical notes can be found within the collection of biographical drop files.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 1998.11

CORRESPONDENCE

Baily, Lebbius, Jr.
   Folder 01) Letters to Wakefield Gale - 1827-1834
Bigelow, A., J.
   Folder 02) Letters to Wakefield Gale - 1832-1835
Bigelow, Mrs. Lydia
   Folder 03) Letters to her daughter, Mary Louisa Bigelow Gale - 1831
   Folder 04) Letter to Catherine Chester - 1826
Bigelow, Mary Eliza
   Folder 05) Letters to her sister, Mary Louisa Bigelow Gale - 1823-1830
Brooks, Caroline
   Folder 06) Letters to Mary Louisa Bigelow Gale - 1830-1846
Brown, Titus
   Folder 07) Letters to Wakefield Gale - 1836
Burley, Paulina R.
   Folder 08) Letters to Wakefield Gale -1825-1828
Burnham, Rev. Abraham
   Folder 09) Letters to Wakefield Gale - 1817-1849
BOX 1 - MC 1998.11 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Chester, S.M.
Folder 10) Letters to Mary Louisa Bigelow Gale - 1825-1826

Crossett, Rev. R. & Dorothea F.
Folder 11) Letters to Wakefield & Mary Louisa Bigelow Gale - 1831-1837

Cummings, Asa
Folder 12) Letters to Wakefield Gale - 1827

Frye, Jonathan
Folder 13) Letters to Wakefield Gale - 1860

Gale, John A.
Folder 14) Letters to his brother, Wakefield Gale - 1824-1860

Gale, Joseph, Sr.
Folder 15) Letters to his son, Wakefield Gale - 1817-1847

Gale, Joseph, Jr.
Folder 16) Letters to his brother, Wakefield Gale - 1829-1838

Gale, Joseph & Susannah
Folder 17) Letters to their son, Wakefield Gale - 1834-1847

Gale, Lucinda
Folder 18) Letters to her brother, Wakefield Gale - 1816-1832

Gale, Mrs. Mary Louisa Bigelow
Folder 19) Letters to her sister, Mrs. Abby Jane Bigelow Safford - 1820-1830
Folder 20) Letters received - 1825-1829
Folder 21) Letters received - 1830-1835
Folder 22) Letters received - 1836-1854 & no date

Gale, Susan
Folder 23) Letters to her brother, Wakefield Gale - 1816-1827

Gale, Susannah
Folder 24) Letters to her son, Wakefield Gale - 1817-1834

Gale, Wakefield
Folder 25) Letter to his brother, John A. Gale - 1824
Folder 26) Letters to his father, Joseph Gale, Sr. - 1817-1825
Folder 27) Letters to his brother, Joseph Gale, Jr. - 1819-1837
Folder 28) Letters to his sister, Mary L. Gale - 1831-1847
Folder 29) Letters to his mother, Susannah Gale - 1816-1837
Folder 30) Letters to parents, Joseph & Susannah Gale - 1816-1827
Folder 31) Letters to parents, Joseph & Susannah Gale - 1828-1848
CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

Gale, Wakefield
   Folder 01) Letter to Mrs. Mosely Mayhew - 1824
   Folder 02) Letters received - 1817-1826
   Folder 03) Letters received - 1827-1836
   Folder 04) Letters received - 1837-1852 & no date

Green, Hannah C.
   Folder 05) Letters to Mary Louisa Bigelow Gale - 1835-1851

Ives, Maria
   Folder 06) Letters to Mary Louisa Bigelow Gale - 1825-1827

Kimball, Otis
   Folder 07) Letters to his mother - 1834

Mayhew, Mrs. Mosely
   Folder 08) Letters to Wakefield Gale - 1824

Mitchell, Mary A.
   Folder 09) Letters to Mary Louisa Bigelow Gale - 1835-1838

Noyes, Julia Ann
   Folder 10) Letters to Mary Louisa Bigelow Gale - 1833

Prince, Ez
   Folder 11) Letters to Wakefield Gale - 1836-1842

Reid, Joseph & Sara
   Folder 12) Letter to Anne E. Safford - 1835

Safford, Mrs. Anne Elizabeth
   Folder 13) Letter to her mother, Lydia Bigelow - 1833
   Folder 14) Letters to her sister, Mary Louisa Bigelow Gale - 1832-1842
   Folder 15) Letter to Wakefield Gale - 1841

Turner, Mrs. Ann Eliza
   Folder 16) Letters to her sister, Mary Louisa Bigelow Gale - 1825-1833

White, Mrs. Mary A. Dodge
   Folder 17) Letters to Mary Louisa Bigelow Gale - 1825-1829
   Folder 18) Letters to Mary Louisa Bigelow Gale - 1830-1840
   Folder 19) Letters to Mary Louisa Bigelow Gale - 1841-1858 & no date

MISCELLANEOUS
   Folder 20) Miscellaneous material

This collection register was prepared by Sarah W. Dunham, December 1998.