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## **GEN MS 41 Gorham Academy Archives**

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**Gorham Academy Archives  
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**By  
Chris Bianchi**

**Portland, Maine  
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## **Administrative Information**

Provenance: These records were formerly part of the University Archives, known as Historical Group 5. The majority of the material was likely located on the Gorham campus until about 1970. The inventory for HG5 listed 5 trophy cups that were not found during processing in 2022.

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## **Administrative History**

Gorham Academy was formed in 1803 after Massachusetts granted land to the town of Gorham, Maine, in order for them to raise money to build the academy. William Gorham was chosen as president. In 1804, the board of trustees put together a building committee to erect the first academy structure. In 1804, after William Gorham passed away, Stephen Longfellow was chosen as president. In 1805, the trustees met in the new building and put together a committee to select a teacher and vote on the admission cost for students. The Academy had its inauguration and opened on September 9, 1806. Mr. Reuben Nason was chosen as the teacher and opened the school with 33 boys that fall. After the school was underway, the trustees wanted to expand to around 70 students and possibly add an assistant teacher. The trustees discussed adding female students to the academy. In the spring, the academy admitted 12 girls to the academy. Continuing with the success of the academy, they continued to grow and buy more land on the surrounding parcels surrounding the academy building. The girls' school was separated in 1834 from the boys'. The academy decided in 1835 to raise money to erect an additional building for a female seminary, dormitory, and boarding house. The building opened in September of 1837. In 1847, the school was renamed Gorham Academy and Teachers' Institute, and the male and female schools were still separated. In 1850, the Maine Female Seminary was established on what was then the Gorham Academy campus. It was stated that it would only be used for female students and that the male school would cease to exist. In 1854, the Gorham Male Academy was reestablished. In 1861, the two schools were combined again to form what is now called Gorham Seminary. With the rise of public education and the opening of new high schools, Gorham Seminary closed its doors in 1877. In 1878, the state decided to open the State Normal School on the former Gorham Academy campus. It would later go through several name changes to become the University of Southern Maine.

## **Description of the Archives**

The Gorham Academy collection includes many documents from its beginning in 1803 to its closing in 1877, as well as a few . The collection covers aspects of students' lives, administrative meetings, and many records of the academies' financial records. The bulk of the collection is administrative records that include founding documents, Board of Trustees meetings and minutes, Treasurer's reports, Bonds, Deeds, and much administrative correspondence. There is also a wide range of catalog publications from 1849 to 1874, providing a glimpse into what courses students might be taking and who was attending the school. The collection also includes a number of documents related to associations or societies students could join, as well as a few student newspapers from 1849 to 1852. Notable materials include correspondence between the secretary and many students' parents in Series 1.4, and catalogs that document the attendance of Cuban students, beginning in the 1850s, in Series 2.6.

## **Series 1: Board of Trustees**

Date Range: 1803-1993

This series is comprised of five sub-series. Subseries 1.1, Founding Material (1803) includes founding documents on the academy in the State of Massachusetts and its first members of the board of trustees.

Subseries 1.2, Committee Reports (1803–1847), includes scattered reports from the board of trustee meetings as well as a number of search meetings for appointing new teachers to the academy. Lastly, it contains a number of financial reports for the institution.

Subseries 1.3, Board of Trustees Meetings (1803-1993), includes a number of summons to meetings and detailed minutes from other trustee meetings, as well as a plan for the education of the students at the school with courses related to English composition, grammar, geometry, and algebra. A Ledger Book is included in this series, which has detailed minutes from 1850 to 1837. Some pages in the ledger book also have papers that were put in relating to events that took place at the academy. Lastly, there are minutes (1969-1989) and a list of members from the board of trustees members in 1993.

Subseries 1.4, Correspondence (1815–1880), includes correspondence from principals, secretaries, students, teachers, parents, and potential new Board of Trustees members and teachers, as well as a letter from a young Joshua L. Chamberlain.

Subseries 1.5, Financial Records (1804–1879), includes Invoices, Receipts, Promissory Notes, Insurance Papers, Statements of Income, Bonds, and Deeds. Included in the sub-series are Josiah McLellan's papers relating to Gorham Academy's buying land. Josiah McLellan owned much of the land surrounding Gorham Academy.

## **Series 2: Administrative Records**

Date Range: 1803-1880

This series is comprised of six sub-series. Subseries 2.1, Bills (1836-1871) includes documents related to student bills, unpaid tuition bills, regular tuition bills, and demands for payments for attending the academy.

Subseries 2.2, Supplies purchases (1838-1874) includes a list of supplies with mostly food purchases as well as some school-related items.

Subseries 2.3, Donations and Subscriptions (1803–1853), includes a number of lists with subscribers' names who have subscribed to the school and have put forth a certain amount of money to give to the school to help repair or keep the

academy running. Also included in the subseries are donations made to the Academy from a number of different people.

Subseries 2.4, Employment Records (1845), is one document related to a principal (Julia Spaulding) contract for the female department at the seminary.

Subseries 2.5, Bids for Work on Buildings (1822–1852), includes a number of documents relating to the academy building and the repairs that were planned to be done on it, as well as the cost of supplies.

Subseries 2.6, Publications (1822–1880), includes school catalogs that show the students who attended the academy, tuition, and courses. The catalog includes many students from the Northeast, predominately Maine, as well as some students from Cuba who attended the academy. There are also a number of flyers advertising the start of different terms throughout the years. Also within the publications are some documents relating to graduation events and the programs that were prepared for the ceremonies. Lastly, the sub-series includes advertisements for different associations and societies at the academy.

### **Series 3: Student Life**

Date Range: 1824-1876

The series contains numerous documents related to students' experiences at the academy. There are a number of correspondences, report cards, and the student newspaper called the Crystal. Other documents in the series include one Maine Temperance Gazette newspaper and one student petition to keep the principal, Mr. Brown (Amos Brown), at Gorham Academy.

### **Series 4: Photographs**

Date Range: Undated

The photograph series is just one undated photograph of the Academy Building at Gorham Academy.

### **Series 5: Property Research**

Date range: 1807-1981

This series includes modern documents and photocopies pertaining to the history of the Gorham Academy property, including a title search conducted for the Trustees of Gorham Academy in 1981.

**Keywords:** Secondary education, Private schools, Teacher training, Female seminaries

## Inventory

### Series 1: Board of Trustees, 1803-1993

#### Subseries 1.1: Founding Material, 1803

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date Range
1	1	Charter from Massachusetts to Gorham Academy	1803
1	2	First Notices for Subscribers to Meet	1803

#### Subseries 1.2: Committee Reports, 1803-1847

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date Range
1	3	Scattered Reports	1803-1847
1	4	Teacher Search	1806-1815
1	5	Financial Matters	1831-1843

#### Subseries 1.3: Meetings, 1803-1993

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date Range
1	6	Summons For Meetings	1803-1969
1	7	Minutes of Meetings	1805-1876
1	8	Plan of Education	1821
1	9	Ledger Book Minutes of Meetings	1850-1937
1	10	Minutes of Meetings	1969-1989
1	11	List of Gorham Academy Trustees	1993

#### Subseries 1.4: Correspondence, 1815-1880

Box	Folder	Folder Title	Date Range
2	12	J. Nichols	1815
2	13	David Elder	1820
2	14	James Codman and Reuben Nason	1822-1833
2	15	Josiah Pierce	1824-1842
2	16	A. M. Morton	1829
2	17	Tim Hillard	1829
2	18	Titus Hatch, James Irish, and Aaron Young Jr.	1829
2	19	Elijah Kellogg	1830
2	20	Thaddeus Pomeroy	1830-1840
2	21	Thomas Tenney	1833
2	22	Levi Loring	1836
2	23	Stephan Chase	1836
2	24	D. S. Oliphant	1836
2	25	Williams Emmons	1837
2	26	Joseph M. Gerrish	1837
2	27	A. M. Smith	1837
2	28	A. S. Packard	1837
2	29	William Peabody	1837
2	30	John Eveleth	1837

2	31	Joseph Searle	1837
2	32	E. F. Adams	1837
2	33	Timothy Boutelle	1838
2	34	Cyril Pearl	1838-1843
2	35	Henry Smith	1838
2	36	Joseph Vaill	1838
2	37	Jason Whitman	1838
2	38	Daniel A. Poor	1839
2	39	Simon W. Gregg	1839-1842
2	40	Woodbury Stover	1839-1843
2	41	Nancy P. Barrows	1841
2	42	Ann Wilbur	1841
2	43	Phebe (Marsh) Hill	1841-1843
2	44	R. Russell	1841-1843
2	45	Amos Brown	1841-1849
2	46	M. B. Goodwin	1842
2	47	Hervey Wilbur	1842
2	48	Sarah Hale	1842
2	49	J. E. Webster	1842
2	50	William Bradbury	1842
2	51	George Bacon	1842
2	52	Franklin Yeaton	1842
2	53	Eurech Hale	1842
2	54	J. Waterman	1842-1853
2	55	Martin K. Bridges	1843
2	56	J. P. Keith	1843
2	57	Pamela Cole	1843
2	58	Lyndon Oak	1843
2	59	E. L. Tappan	1843
2	60	W. Wood	1843
2	61	Johnathan Edwards	1843-1844
2	62	Theodore Clark	1844
2	63	James Goodwin	1844
2	64	Otis Nelson	1844
2	65	Joseph P. Drummond	1844-1846
2	66	William Warner	1845
2	67	John R. Adams	1847
2	68	Edward E. Weston	1847-1849
3	69	Nancy Bradbury	1851-1852
3	70	C. L. House	1852
3	71	J. Wales	1853
3	72	John A. Peters	1853
3	73	T. R. Beaney	1853



3	74	Luther Puffer	1853
3	75	M. D. L. Lane	1853
3	76	Joseph D. Howard	1853
3	77	J. L. Chamberlain	1853
3	78	J. M. Stone	1853
3	79	E. G. Little	1853
3	80	James A. Dockray	1853
3	81	B. L. Washburn	1853
3	82	E. Cummings	1853
3	83	Daniel J. Poor	1853-1859
3	84	John A. Waterman	1853-1880
3	85	Stephen Holmes Jr.	1854
3	86	Samuel S. Drake	1854
3	87	James Hovey	1854
3	88	J. B. Webb	1856-1859
3	89	Noah Barker and Samuel L. Duelly	1857
3	90	E. S. Coe	1857-1858
3	91	George Woods	1858
3	92	B. F. Perkins	1859
3	93	N. Ford	1859
3	94	John Hanson	1859
3	95	C. P. Wyman	1859
3	96	E. B. Frost	1859
3	97	C. E. Hilton	1859
3	98	Roger Howard	1859
3	99	Alvin Libbey	1859
3	100	Fred Davis	1859
3	101	Abner Coburn	1860-1880
3	102	John S. Crosby	1860
3	103	Mary E. Wilson	1860
3	104	Isaiah Dole	1860
3	105	Emma C. Allen	1860
3	106	Ann L. Hathaway	1860
3	107	Roscoe E. Farnham	1860
3	108	C. H. Howard	1860
3	109	David Wass	1860
3	110	Marie L. Brown	1860
3	111	William H. Hunt	1860
3	112	Simeon Ryarsen	1860
3	113	Emma Holmes	1860
3	114	E. B. Keith	1860
3	115	C. A. Lord	1860
3	116	Cynthia Bates	1860

3	117	Charles K. Hutchins	1860
3	118	J. W. Chickering	1860
3	119	Henry Goddard	1860-1861
3	120	T. J. Southard	1860-1861
3	121	Isaac R. Clark	1860-1868
3	122	J. B. Webber	1861
3	123	Margaret Hathaway	1861
3	124	Daniel M. Cook	1861
3	125	James H. Davis	1861
3	126	J. G. Leavitt	1861
3	127	R. T. Blazo	1861
3	128	M. E. Scammon	1861
3	129	N. Rice	1861
3	130	A. E. Morse	1861
3	131	Ephraim Flint Jr.	1865
3	132	C. Johnson	1867
3	133	George W. Bodge	1871
3	134	F. M. Ray	1872
3	135	George W. Hammond	1872
3	136	Thomas Mason	1880
3	137	John Adams	undated
3	138	Moses Brown	undated
3	139	Nathaniel Hatch	undated

**Subseries 1.5: Financial Records, 1804–1879**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
4	140	Treasure Reports	1806-1838
4	141	Invoices	1840-1849
4	142	Invoices	1852-1853
4	143	Invoices	undated
4	144	Promissory Notes	1839-1857
4	145	Samuel Elder Receipt to the Board of Trustees	1806
4	146	Receipts	1805-1822
4	147	Receipts	1837-1839
4	148	Receipts	1840-1843
4	149	Receipts	1844-1846
4	150	Receipts	1852-1878
4	151	Receipts	undated
5	152	Newspaper Receipts	1834-1845
5	153	Book of Cash Receipts	1847-1855
5	154	Miscellaneous Receipts & Figures	1843-1879
5	155	Schedule of Articles and Cost	1851-1852
5	156	Fire Insurance Papers	1851

5	157	Fire Insurance Papers	1869-1875
5	158	Bond for Treasurer of First Parish of Gorham	1804
5	159	Bond for Treasurers	1825-1858
5	160	Bonds for Deeds	1851-1860
5	161	Deeds: Maine Female Seminary Selling to Others	1851-1860
5	162	Deeds: Grants of Land from the State of Maine	1851-1876
5	163	Deeds: Gorham Academy & Seminary Selling to Others	1843-1877
5	164	Deeds: Land Bought by Gorham Academy & Seminary	1811-1878
5	165	Deeds: Land Bought by Maine Female Seminary	1850
5	166	Deeds & Bonds: Summary of land amounts given	1851-1868
5	167	Josiah McLellan's Papers	1877-1878
5	168	Bank Stock	1825-1879
5	169	Bank Figures	1842-1861
5	170	Statements of Income & Expenses	1840-1844

## **Series 2: Administrative Records, 1803-1880**

### **Subseries 2.1: Bills, 1836-1871**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
5	171	Delinquent Student Bills	Winter 1836-Summer 1841
5	172	Delinquent Student Bills	Fall 1842-Fall 1845
5	173	Tuition Bills	Fall 1838-Fall 1844
5	174	Tuition Bills	Fall 1840-Summer 1846
5	175	Tuitions Bills for Bangor Students	1840-1845
5	176	Blank Tuition Bill Receipts	1840s
5	177	List of Students Names and Tuition Bills	1853-1871
5	178	Tuition for Mr. Lewis M. Jackson	1869-1870
6	179	Demands for Payments	1842-1849

### **Subseries 2.2: Supplies Purchases, 1838-1874**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
6	180	Supplies Purchases	1838-1874

### **Subseries 2.3: Donations and Subscriptions, 1803-1853**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
6	181	List of Subscribers & Amounts	1803-1853

6	182	Fund Notes (Donations)	1803-1841
6	183	Subscriptions (Donations)	1838-1845

**Subseries 2.4: Employment Records, 1845**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
6	184	Principal Contract-Julia Spaulding	1845

**Subseries 2.5: Bids for Work on Buildings, 1822–1852**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
6	185	Bid for work on Building	1822-1852

**Subseries 2.6: Publications, 1822–1880**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
6	186	School Catalogs	1849-1875
6	187	Admission Flyers	1853-1871
6	188	Promotional	1850-1875
6	189	Event Programs	1849-1880
6	190	Library Association	1855
6	191	Literary Association	1862
6	192	Establish a Classical School in Maine	1870
6	193	Demostheni-Ciceronian Society Certificate	1822
6	194	Stationery	undated

**Series 3: Student Life, 1824-1876**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
6	195	Student's Correspondence	1824-1839
6	196	List of Student Names	undated
6	197	Report Cards	Winter 1823- Winter 1876
6	198	Student Petition to keep Mr. Brown	undated
6	199	Student Newspaper (The Crystal)	1849-1852
6	200	Maine Temperance Gazette	1842

**Series 4: Photographs, undated**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
6	201	Photograph of the Academy Building	undated

**Series 5: Property Research, 1807-1988**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
6	202	Letter and photocopy from Norman Perham to Marjorie Duval regarding original land grant	1807, 1985
6	203	Photocopy of deed from Trustees of Gorham Academy to Gorham Normal School	1909
6	204	Photocopy of property map	after 1961

6	205	Photocopy of quit-claim deed from Trustees of Gorham Academy to State of Maine	1972
6	206	Title search conducted by Pierce, Atwood, Scribner, Allen, Smith & Lancaster	1981
6	207	"Samuel Elder, 1748-1819" by Joyce K. Bibber	1988