

Gabriel Furman Papers
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Biographical Note

Gabriel Furman (1800-1854) was a Brooklyn lawyer, justice, and state senator. Aside from his legal career, Furman was also an avid collector and antiquarian who, throughout his life, meticulously compiled notes of historical research relating to the New York area. Much of his research was posthumously edited and published in 1874 bearing the title *Antiquities of Long Island*. Furman's work was also published during his lifetime, however. His *Notes, Geographical and Historical Relative to the Town of Brooklyn*, for example, was published in 1824. Furman also composed an introduction and notes to the 1670 work *A Brief Description of New York* by Daniel Denton, and his edition of Denton's work was included in publisher William Gowans's 1845 edition of the *Bibliotheca Americana* series. *Bibliotheca Americana* was a collection "of works, relating to the history, literature, biography, antiquities and curiosities of the Continent of America. ... brought out in the best style, both as to the type, press work, and paper, and in such a manner as to make them well worthy a place in any gentleman's library."¹ While Furman had met with success in both the legal and antiquarian trades, he had also reputedly developed an addiction to opium, and he died in poverty in the Brooklyn City hospital.

Contents List

Box 1

Commonplace Book vol. 2 — Miscellaneous notes, lists and cures. Diary while at Columbia Academy (NJ), 1815-16; journal of local and national events, 1819-1821; and a chronology of Brooklyn events, 1820-22.

Notes and Memorandum vol 3 — Miscellaneous notes and a journal for the years 1821-25. Partial index.

Notes and Memorandum vol 4 — Miscellaneous notes, Brooklyn curiosities (p.45-8), and Revolutionary War incidents from a letter of Brig. General G.S. Silliman (p.269).

Notes and Memorandum vol. 5 — Miscellaneous notes; Long Island antiquities (p.65); diary, 1827—29 (p. 67—72 and 95—9): laws of the province of New York, 1683-5 (173-295).

Notes and Memorandum vol 6 — Miscellaneous notes, common cures, and notes on unusual meteorological events of the past. There is an index to the cures.

¹ <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libraryscience/23/>

Notes and Memorandum vol 7 - Cholera epidemic of 1832-33 (p. 1-162); events for 1833 (p.174-235): and diary, 1832—1840 (p.227— 653).

(Moved to box #2) Notes and Memorandum vol. 8 — Miscellaneous notes.

(Moved to box #2) Miscellanies, one volume — events and notes on the weather, 1859+; notes on old Brooklynites(p. 150-161), Clover Hill, and Germans. There is also a letter from S.K. Furman regarding G. Furman's manuscripts, 1896.

Box 2

Notes and Memorandum vol. 9 - Miscellaneous notes.

Notes and Memorandum vol. 10 — Miscellaneous notes; events of 1835—6 (p. 637—95); and lists of the shad catch at New Utrecht, 1789—1824 (p.696—8).

Notes and Memorandum vol. 12 — Miscellaneous notes.

Notes and Memorandum vol. 15 — Miscellaneous notes and record of the weather 1841+ (p.121-152).

Notes and Memorandum vol. 16 — Miscellaneous notes.

Box 3

Notes and Memorandum vol. 17 — This blank volume was presented by J. Carson Brevoort.

Notes and Memorandum vol. 18 - This volume is blank except for four pages which contain two notes written by William Smith Pelletreau, Southampton Town Clerk, regarding local town records, 1862.

Legal drafts, 1823, copies of legal drafts written by Furman, 2 pages.

Letters, copies of letters written by G. Furman 1823-25, 26 pages.

Box D

Notes Geographical and Historical Relating to the Town of Brooklyn ..., ten pages of manuscript notes for Furman's book, probably written in 1847. Now in a scrapbook.