Guide to the Asa Fitch Papers

MS 215

compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

July 1982

Yale University Library
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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New Haven, CT 06520-8240
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http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/

CALL NUMBER: MS 215

CREATOR: Fitch, Asa, 1809-1879

TITLE: Asa Fitch papers

DATES: 1807–1969

BULK DATES: 1807–1922

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Twenty-one diaries, 1821-1879, of Asa Fitch, scientist and entomologist. The diaries reflect in considerable detail Fitch's life and thoughts from early adolescence through his education at the Rensselaer School in Troy, New York and the Vermont Academy of Medicine in Castleton, his career as a scientist and state entomologist in New York, and his retirement. Also included are papers and genealogical materials relating to other members of the Fitch family.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0215

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 http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0215.

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
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.
The entire collection is available on microfilm. Patrons must use FILM HM 141 instead of the originals.

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Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain.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
Asa Fitch Papers (MS 215). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Existence and Location of Copies
The entire collection is available on microfilm (2,802 frames on 4 reels, 35mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM141.

Biographical / Historical
Practiced medicine, 1831-1838; studied economic entomology and agriculture, and began publishing articles on the subject in 1845; in 1854 appointed state entomologist of New York, remaining until 1871.

Scope and Contents
The Asa Fitch Papers consist of fifty items. Twenty-one of these are diaries kept by Asa Fitch from 1821 through 1879 in various places in New York State and elsewhere. Notations for several years are lacking. Six volumes, 1821-1828, were lettered A through G, with B missing. To the remaining fifteen volumes numbers have arbitrarily been assigned, although entries are not always consecutive by date.

The remainder of the collection is made up of Fitch family genealogical material copied from the notes of the father of Abbie M. (Fitch) Andrews (1840-) and notes taken from her own research.

A detailed description of the contents of the diaries and other papers follows.
## Collection Contents

### Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diaries of Asa Fitch</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Volume &quot;B&quot;</strong> [no volume]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Volume &quot;C&quot;:</strong> An account of a scientific tour to Lake Erie under the direction of Prof. Amos Eaton. The entire company is listed in entry for May 2, 1826. For another account of this trip, see written description (April 26, 1826), box 3.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Volume &quot;D&quot;:</strong> Diary of his first term at Rensselaer School (later Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) in Troy; also 6 p. of expense accounts.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Volume &quot;E&quot;:</strong> School life in Troy and sojourns in Salem, Greenwich, Albany, Watervliet, Whitecreek, and places in VT, including Bennington; also 2 p. of expense accounts.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Volume &quot;F&quot;:</strong> Diary of his first year at Castleton Medical School, Castleton, N.Y.; and sojourn in Salem, Greenwich, Granville, and Troy; also 6 p. of expense accounts.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Volume &quot;G&quot;:</strong> Kept in Whitecreek, Hoosick, Lanesboro, Williamstown, Salem, Greenwich and New York City; also 6 p. of expense accounts.</td>
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<td><strong>Volume 1:</strong> Kept in New York City, Harlem, Manhattanville, Fort Washington, Tarrytown, Singsing, Peekskill, Poughkeepsie, Albany, Whitecreek, Salem, Greenwich, etc.; also 5 p. of expense accounts.</td>
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<td><strong>Volume 2:</strong> Kept in Salem, Greenwich, Albany, Troy, Castleton, VT, etc.; also 6 p. of expense accounts.</td>
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<td><strong>Volume 3:</strong> Kept in Castleton, Vt., Salem, Granville, Hebron, Cambridge, Albany, Troy, Jackson.</td>
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<td><strong>Volume 4:</strong> Kept in Bennington, VT, and Salem, but mostly a scientific expedition with Rensselaer students, a list of whom is given, under Prof. Amos Eaton up the Hudson from New York to Troy, on the Mohawk to Rome, thence to New Boston and Green Lake; meeting with Daniel Cady Eaton in New York, 1830 Jun 23.</td>
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<td><strong>Volume 5:</strong> Kept in Jordan. Remainder cut out.</td>
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<td><strong>Volume 6:</strong> Kept in Greenville and Vandalia, IL.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Volume 7:</strong> Kept in Salem, Jackson, Point Penninsula, Union, Whitecreek, Cambridge, places in VT (particularly Brandon) and Argyle and Ft. Miller, NY.</td>
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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
Abolitionists
Entomology
Genealogy
Science
Scientific expeditions -- New York (State)

Corporate Bodies
Castleton Medical College (Castleton, Vt.)
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Geographic Names
Illinois -- Description and travel
New York (State) -- Description and travel
New York (State) -- History
Vermont -- Description and travel

Genres / Formats
Autographs
Commonplace books
Diaries

Occupations
Entomologists
Zoologists

Names
Andrews, Abbie M. Fitch, b. 1840
Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887
Bleecher, Henry
Eaton, Amos, 1776-1842
Eaton, Daniel Cady, 1834-1895
Fitch, Asa, 1809-1879
Fitch, Elizabeth McNeil, b. 1812
Horton, Geo. F. (George Firman), 1806-1886
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865
Rider, Benjamin W., 1844-1871
Robertson, W. S. (William Schenck), 1820-1881
Skinner, Anna Olivia Fitch Rider, 1844-1925

Families
Fitch family