Guide to the Bronson Family Papers

MS 103

compiled by Susan Grigg

November 1979

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
mssa.assist@yale.edu
http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/

CALL NUMBER: MS 103

CREATOR: Bronson family

TITLE: Bronson Family papers

DATES: 1753–1898

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, legal and financial papers, a diary and miscellaneous items of the Bronson family of Washington, Connecticut. The largest part of the papers are those of Moseley Virgil Bronson (1806-1890), documenting his career as an officer of the Connecticut militia and as a teacher in New York and Connecticut. Of particular interest are the letters of Edna Moseley Todd, who moved to Virginia in 1821, and whose letters to various members of the family describe her life as a mother and school teacher, as well as offering comments on slavery and abolitionism. Also in the papers is the diary of Maria N. Fowler Ford, recording her experience as a physician’s wife in Hawaii (1854-1858) and in New York and Connecticut (1858-1861). There are also miscellaneous papers of the Hollister family.

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

b. box
f. folder
Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Clarence W. Bronson between 1943 and 1949.

Conditions Governing Access
The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
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Preferred Citation
Bronson Family Papers (MS 103). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Scope and Contents
The Bronson Family Papers, 1753-1902, consist of ten inches of correspondence, legal and financial papers, a diary, and miscellaneous items related mainly to the Bronson family of Washington, Conn. The largest segment of the papers concerns Moseley Virgil Bronson (1806-1890), son of Dr. Ira Virgil Bronson (1788-1866) and Sarah Ann (Moseley) Bronson (1775-1862).¹ There are also papers of his father, his father’s parents, his mother’s Moseley relations, and his brothers and sisters. Finally, there are a few non-family papers of the Hollister family and Maria N. (Fowler) Ford.

All the correspondence is in a single chronological sequence consisting mainly of these components (the principal place of residence being Washington, Conn., unless otherwise stated): › Ephraim and Bethiah Bronson of Locke, N.Y., and Groton, Conn., to their son and daughter-in-law, Ira V. and Sarah A. (Moseley) Bronson, 1813-1819 › Edna (Moseley) Todd of Richmond and Prince Edward County, Va., to various members of the Bronson family, 1821-1833, 1838-1846 › Family (mainly Ira V. and William C. Bronson) to Moseley V. Bronson, living in various places in N.Y. and Conn., 1827-1869 › Martha Bronson, at the State Normal School in New Britain, Conn., to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Moseley V. Bronson, 1857-1858 › Miscellaneous family and non-family, 1871-1902

The rest of the papers are filed alphabetically under the names of the persons to whom they belonged. Increase Moseley (1712-1795) is represented by a volume of his proceedings as justice of the peace in Woodbury, Conn., between 1753 and 1781. The papers of Moseley V. Bronson document his career as an officer of the Connecticut militia (12th Infantry Regt., Co. 5) and a teacher in New York and Connecticut. Ira V. Bronson, Lucy Ann (Whittlesey) Bronson, Susan M. Bronson, Walter W. Bronson, and William C. Bronson are represented by small quantities of miscellaneous material including legal and financial papers, records of teaching, and memorabilia. The diary of Maria N. (Fowler) Ford is a record of her experience as a physician’s wife in Hawaii, 1854-1858, and in New York and Connecticut, 1858-1861. The unidentified papers include legal and financial papers, farm accounts, and some religious music.
¹Dr. Bronson was born in Locke, N.Y., studied medicine with Dr. Everest in Simsbury, Conn., and settled in Washington, Conn., in 1804. The following year he married Sarah Ann Moseley (1775-1862), daughter of Abner Moseley and grand-daughter of Increase Moseley (1712-1795), justice of the peace in Woodbury, Conn.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by Bronson family members.
## Collection Contents

### Inventory

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<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>b. 1, f. 1-10</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1813–1890</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 11</td>
<td>Bronson, Ira Virgil (1778-1866): lease</td>
<td>1809</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 12</td>
<td>Funeral sermon for Deacon Whittlesey</td>
<td>1855</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 13</td>
<td>Legal and financial papers</td>
<td>1864–1899</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 14</td>
<td>School essays</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 15</td>
<td>Mementoes from friends, photograph</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 16</td>
<td>Military papers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 17</td>
<td>Rosters, inspection returns, and enlistment certificates</td>
<td>1824–1837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 18</td>
<td>Commissions</td>
<td>1832–1838</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 19</td>
<td>Regimental orders</td>
<td>1835–1837</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 20</td>
<td>Orders to non-commissioned officers</td>
<td>1835–1837</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 21</td>
<td>School papers</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 22</td>
<td>Tuition records</td>
<td>1831–1850</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 23</td>
<td>Teaching certificates</td>
<td>1827–1853</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 24</td>
<td>Accounts for board and other financial papers</td>
<td>1834–1854</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 25</td>
<td>Students’ attendance records</td>
<td>1839–1859</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 26</td>
<td>Legal and financial papers</td>
<td>1835–1877</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 27</td>
<td>Bronson, Susan M. (1814-): inventory of household goods</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 28</td>
<td>Military papers</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 26</td>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>1865, 1870</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 26</td>
<td>Teaching certificates</td>
<td>1865</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 26</td>
<td>Records of students’ attendance</td>
<td>1866</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 27</td>
<td>Bronson, William C. (1811-1877)</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 27</td>
<td>Notes re: religious experience</td>
<td>1831, 1834, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 28</td>
<td>Account book</td>
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Bronson, William C. (1811-1877) (continued)

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<td>Financial and legal papers</td>
<td>1836–1864</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 30</td>
<td>Essay, “Upon Politics”</td>
<td>[pre–1837]</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 31</td>
<td>Sunday school reports and lists of pupils</td>
<td>1861–1862, undated</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 32</td>
<td>Proprietors’ accounts for the District 5 school</td>
<td>1861–1863</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 33</td>
<td>List of apple trees</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 34</td>
<td>Ford, Maria N. (Fowler): diary</td>
<td>1854–1861</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 35</td>
<td>Hollister family: legal and financial papers</td>
<td>1803–1876</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 36</td>
<td>Moseley, Increase (1712-1795): records of the Justice’s Court of Woodbury, Connecticut</td>
<td>1753–1781</td>
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**Miscellaneous and unidentified**

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<td>b. 2, f. 37</td>
<td>Connecticut census (printed, with unrelated annotations)</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 39</td>
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<td>Records of early-morning frost</td>
<td>1835 June-August</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 42</td>
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<td>1835–1836, undated</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 43</td>
<td>Draft vote of church members to censure Augustus Smith</td>
<td>1864</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 43</td>
<td>Diary</td>
<td>1898</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 44</td>
<td>Genealogical notes</td>
<td>undated</td>
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Index of Correspondents

Allen, F. L., 1877 Sep 6
Andrews, John P., 1853 Apr 15-1863 Oct 14, undated
Baldwin, H., 1851 Mar 25
Beach, S. Y., 1843 Aug 18
Beeman, Oscar E., 1891 Dec 7-1902 Jan 8
Bronson, Bethiah (Virgil), 1813 Oct 4-1819 Feb 19
Bronson, Edwin, 1868 Dec 5-1874 Nov 9
Bronson, Ephraim, 1813 Jan 20-1819 Jan 29
Bronson, Harriett E., Undated
Bronson, Ira Virgil, 1829 Dec 25-1851 Jun 8
Bronson, Jacob, 1819 Jul 2
Bronson, Martha A., 1857 Dec 4-1858 Dec 4, undated
Bronson, Moseley Virgil, 1838 Apr 10-1851 Mar 31
Bronson, Susan M., 1831 Jun 26
Bronson, Walter Whittlesey, 1871 Mar 8-1902 Jun 12
Bronson, William Clark, 1832 Jan 21-1839 Dec 30
Brooks, George, 1838 Sep 3
Calhoun, Sarah, Undated
Calhoun, Seth, 1834 Feb 11
Cogshall, William S., 1838 Feb 15
Cooper, Daniel S., 1865 Apr 18-1879 Jan 8
Curtis, Eli, 1838 Jul 2
Dimock, Marvin W., 1852 Jan 13/14
Doughty, Joseph C., [1840?] Aug 31-1850 Feb 21
Hammond, Charles, 1837 Mar 21
Hayes, Gordon, 1842 Oct 15
Hemingway, Merrit, 1838 Jun 8
Hickox, Ithiel, 1838 Oct 30
Leavitt, William W., 1827 Dec 17-1838 Jun 12
Moseley, W. G., 1877 May 23
Peck, D. A., 1839 Feb 18
Phelps, General, 1838 Apr 23
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Smith, A[ugustus], 1869 Feb 15
Smith, Ebenezer C., 1828 Apr 17
Smith, J. Homer, 1839 Feb 16
Sperry, H G, 1835 May 28
Sunbury, Mrs. James B., 1853 Apr 12
Todd, Edna (Moseley), 1821 Nov 1-1846 Dec 19
Wheaton, J. B., 1845 May 22
Whittlesey, Gould Camp, 1898 Jan 28
Whittlesey, Sarah Deming, 1870 Mar 26
Wood, Morgan L., 1834 Nov 30-1835 Jan 10
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
Agriculture -- Connecticut
Armed Forces
Clergy
Education
Educators
Families
House furnishings
Law
Missionaries -- United States
Music
Physicians
Schools -- Connecticut
Schools -- New York (State)
Slavery -- United States
Women -- Education

Cooper, Daniel S.
Dimock, Marvin W.
Moseley, Increase, 1712-1795
Nettleton, Martha Augusta Bronson, 1841-1890
Smith, J. Augustus
Todd, Edna Moseley, 1796-1848

Families
Bronson family
Hollis family
Mosley family

Corporate Bodies
First Church (Washington, Conn.)
United States. Army. Connecticut Infantry, 12th Regiment

Geographic Names
Asia
Connecticut
Hawaii -- Description and travel
Virginia -- History
Washington (Conn.)

Genres / Formats
Diaries

Occupations
Soldiers

Names
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Bronson, Ephraim
Bronson, Ira Virgil, 1778-1866
Bronson, Lucy Ann Whittlesey, 1820-1898
Bronson, Moseley Virgil, 1806-1890
Bronson, Sarah Ann Moseley, 1775-1862
Bronson, Susan M., 1814-1869
Bronson, Walter Whittlesey, 1848-1898
Bronson, William Clark, 1811-1877
Calhoun, Sarah
Calhoun, Seth