

Guide to the Thomas Turner Papers

MS 509



compiled by Joy Pitman

November 1970

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 509

CREATOR: Turner, Thomas, 1729-1793

TITLE: Thomas Turner papers

DATES: 1707-1949

BULK DATES: 1754-1765

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of the 111 volume diary, dating 1754-1765, of Thomas Turner, shopkeeper, school-master, and church warden in the village of East Hoathly in Sussex, England. There is also additional historical material relating to both Turner and his diary including some papers related to its proposed publication in the later 1940s.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0509>

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 <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0509>.

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

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

The diaries are available on microfilm. Patrons must use FILM HM 101 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Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain.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

Thomas Turner Papers (MS 509). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Existence and Location of Copies

The diaries are available on microfilm (4,811 frames on 4 reels, 35mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM101.

Biographical / Historical

Thomas Turner, 1729-1793, was a shop-keeper, and for a time the school-master, in the village of East Hoathly in Sussex, England. He also became church-warden in 1757. From 1754 to 1765 Turner wrote the diary which forms the major part of the papers.

Further biographical information may be found in *The Diary of Thomas Turner of East Hoathly (1754-1765)*, an abridged edition edited by Florence Maris Turner (Mrs. Charles Lamb), great-great-granddaughter of the diarist, with an introduction by J. B. Priestly, published in 1925 by John Lane, the Bodley Head Ltd., London.

Scope and Contents

The Thomas Turner Papers are divided into three Series: "Diary," "Worcester Material," and "Special Files." The diary consists of 111 volumes, arranged chronologically from 21 February 1754 to 31 July 1765. The diary portrays the day to day life in a small English rural community in the eighteenth century. In addition to his daily financial accounts, Turner reported what he ate and read; what sermons he heard at church; where he travelled; his attendance at the races at Lewes and, occasionally, how the news of battles with the French in the Seven Years' War gave these villagers cause for alarm or rejoicing. Turner also describes his own repeated failures to refrain from getting drunk. Of special interest is Turner's description of the visits of Thomas Pelham-Holles, Duke of Newcastle (1693-1768) to his country house at Halland.

The "Worcester Material" contains work pertaining to the proposed publication of the diary by D. K. Worcester and H. P. Melcher in the late 1940's.* The Series is arranged alphabetically by category and contains a typed introduction and postscript to the diary, which gives a good picture of the sociological and economic conditions in eighteenth century Sussex, as well as a more thorough description of the contents of the diary. There are two typed, annotated drafts of a manuscript of the diary, and one incomplete version. The dating and numbering indicate that five volumes of the diary are missing. In the first three cases, Worcester quotes some excerpts from those, printed by the *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, Vol. XI., and in the final two instances, he simply notes the volumes are missing. In addition, there are file cards on persons, places and subjects mentioned in the diary; genealogies of families mentioned in the diary; an index of books and periodicals mentioned in the diary; copies of maps of East Hoathly 1783, 1822 and 1947; notes on the baptism (?) and death of Turner; notes listing the landholdings in East Hoathly, Chiddingly and Waldron; notes on persons mentioned in the diary; and photographs of places mentioned in the diary, taken in 1948-1949.

*Correspondence concerning this proposal is in the administrative files (accession folder) of Manuscripts and Archives.

The "Special Files" contain material relating to Turner and the diary, arranged alphabetically by title. They consist of a bequest of the diary by Henry M. Turner to Thomas Holman in 1858; a census listing the population of East Hoathly in 1811 and 1821, including the household of Turner's son, Phillip; letters of Turner to his children, 1786-1790; medical prescriptions collected by Turner, mostly undated; parish accounts of East Hoathly, 1629-1722; a copy of a poem, "Virtue and Fame," by Lord Littleton, and a copy of the will of Thomas Turner, 1793.

Arrangement

Arranged in three series: I. Diary. II. Worchester material. III. Special Files.

Collection Contents

Series I: DIARY, 1754-1765

1 linear foot (3 boxes)

There are 111 volumes of the diary, arranged by date. A list of the dates covered by each volume is included in the first folder.

b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Vol. A: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1754 February 21 - April 13
b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Vol. C: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1754 July 26 - August 25
b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Vol. 1-4: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1755 January 1 - September 14
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Vol. 5-10: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1755 September 15 - 1756 April 13
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	Vol. 11-16: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1756 April 14 - September 21
b. 1, f. 4reel 1U	Vol. 17-22: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1756 September 22 - 1757 March 18
b. 1, f. 5reel 1U	Vol. 23-28: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1757 March 19 - September 23
b. 1, f. 6reel 2U	Vol. 29-34: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1757 September 24 - 1758 February 19
b. 1, f. 7reel 2U	Vol. 35-39: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1758 February 19 - July 22
b. 1, f. 8reel 2U	Vol. 41-46: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1758 August 25 - 1759 April 1
b. 2, f. 9reel 2U	Vol. 47-49, 51-52: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1759 April 2 - August 1; September 3 - November 6

b. 2, f. 10reel 3U	Vol. 53-58: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1759 November 7 - 1760 May 25
b. 2, f. 11reel 3U	Vol. 59-64: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1760 May 26 - 1761 January 14
b. 2, f. 12reel 3U	Vol. 65-70: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1761 January 15 - August 30
b. 2, f. 13reel 3U	Vol. 71-76: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1761 August 31 - 1762 April 9
b. 2, f. 14reel 3U reel 4U	Vol. 77-82: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1762 April 10 - November 23
b. 2, f. 15reel 4U	Vol. 83-88: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1762 November 24 - 1763 July 28
b. 3, f. 16reel 4U	Vol. 90: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1763 September 2 - October 13
b. 3, f. 16reel 4U	Vol. 92-94: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1763 October 30 - 1764 February 25
b. 3, f. 17reel 4U	Vol. 95-100: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1764 February 26 - September 2
b. 3, f. 18reel 4U	Vol. 101-106: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1764 September 3 - 1765 January 10
b. 3, f. 19reel 4U	Vol. 107-113: This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 101 instead of the originals.	1765 January 11 - July 31

**Series II: WORCESTER MATERIAL, 1707-1786; 1754-1765; 1783; 1822; 1947;
1948-1949***2.25 linear feet (5 boxes)*

The material is arranged alphabetically by category and consists of three drafts of a typewritten transcript of the diary, together with an introduction and postscript, and materials, collected by Worcester pertaining to his proposed publication of the diary.

b. 4, f. 1	Diary: Introduction and postscript	
	<u>Diary: transcript (first draft?)</u>	
b. 4, f. 2	Vol. 1 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1754 February 21 - 1756 February 8
b. 4, f. 3	Vol. 2 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1756 February 8 - September 12
b. 4, f. 4	Vol. 3 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1756 September 12 - 1757 March 29
b. 4, f. 5	Vol. 4 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1757 March 29 - November 5
b. 4, f. 6	Vol. 5 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1757 November 5 - 1758 June 20
b. 4, f. 7	Vol. 6 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1758 June 20 - 1759 May 18
b. 4, f. 8	Vol. 7 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1759 May 18 - 1760 March 29
b. 4, f. 9	Vol. 8 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1760 March 29 - 1761 February 11

Diary: transcript (first draft?) (continued)

b. 4, f. 10	Vol. 9 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1761 February 11 - November 1
b. 5, f. 11	Vol. 10 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1761 November 1 - 1762 August 17
b. 5, f. 12	Vol. 11 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1762 August 17 - 1763 June 27
b. 5, f. 13	Vol. 12 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1763 June 27 - 1764 May 22
b. 5, f. 14	Vol. 13 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1764 May 23 - 1765 January 3
b. 5, f. 15	Vol. 14 A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1765 January 3 - July 31
<u>Diary: transcript (second draft?)</u>		
b. 5, f. 16	Pp. 1-190	1754 February 21 - 1756 April 5
b. 5, f. 17	Pp. 191-370	1756 April 6 - December 27
b. 5, f. 18	Pp. 371-560	1756 December 27 - 1757 October 13
b. 6, f. 19	Pp. 561-745	1757 October 13 - 1758 June 21
b. 6, f. 20	Pp. 601-780	1758 June 22 - 1760 February 5
b. 6, f. 21	Pp. 781-960	1760 February 5 - 1761 September 9
b. 6, f. 22	Pp. 961-1140	1761 September 10 - 1763 January 28

Diary: transcript (second draft?) (continued)

b. 6, f. 23	Pp. 1141-1330	1763 January 28 - 1764 May 30
b. 6, f. 24	Pp. 1331-1522	1764 May 30 - 1765 July 31
<u>Diary: ribbon copy of transcript (second draft?)</u>		
b. 7, f. 25	Pp. 1-500	1754 February 21 - 1757 July 4
b. 7, f. 26	Pp. 501-605	1757 July 5 - 1758 June 30
b. 8, f. 27	Pp. 606-1105	1758 July 1 - 1762 October 21
b. 8, f. 28	Pp. 1106-1522	1762 October 22 - 1765 July 31
b. 9, f. 30	Genealogies: families mentioned in the diary A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 9, f. 31	Index: books and periodicals mentioned in the diary	
b. 9, f. 32	Maps: copies of maps of East Hoathly area: 1783, 1822, 1947	
<u>Notes:</u>		
b. 9, f. 33	Baptism (?) and death of Turner (Thomas)	
b. 9, f. 34	Landholdings in East Hoathly, Chiddingly and Waldron: 1707-1786	
b. 9, f. 35	Landholdings in East Hoathly, Chiddingly and Waldron: 1707-1786, notebooks 1 and 2	
b. 9, f. 36	Landholdings in East Hoathly, Chiddingly and Waldron: 1707-1786, notebooks 3 and 4	
b. 9, f. 37	Landholdings in East Hoathly, Chiddingly and Waldron: 1707-1786, notebooks 5 and 6	
b. 9, f. 38-39	Persons and events mentioned in the diary, etc. A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 9, f. 40	Photographs of places mentioned in the diary: 1948-1949	
b. 11	File cards: persons, places, and subjects mentioned in the diary. A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	

**Series III: SPECIAL FILES, 1629-1722; 1760-1766; 1785; 1786; 1789-1790; 1793;
1811; 1821; 1858***0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

"Special Files" is arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 10, f. 1	Bequest of diary by H. M. Turner to Thomas Holman	1858
b. 10, f. 1	Notes on diary	undated
b. 10, f. 2	Census of East Hoathly	1811, 1821
b. 10, f. 3	Letters of Thomas Turner to his children	1786, 1789-1790
b. 10, f. 4	Medical Prescriptions	1760-1766, 1785, undated
b. 10, f. 5	Medical Prescriptions	undated
b. 10, f. 6	Parish Accounts of East Hoathly	1629-1722, undated
b. 10, f. 7	"Virtue and Fame," poem by Lord Littleton English	undated
b. 10, f. 8	Will of Thomas Turner	1793 January 14

MICROFILM INVENTORY

Diaries, 1754-1765 111 V.

Microfilmed. New Haven, Yale University Library, 1980 from the originals in the Thomas Turner Papers, Mss 509.

4 reels

Negative available.

b.1	Vol. A:	1754 February 21 - April 13
b.1	Vol. C:	1754 July 26 - August 25
b.1	Vol. 1:	1755 January 1 - February 26
b.1	Vol. 2:	1755 February 27 - May 10
b.1	Vol. 3:	1755 May 11 - July 23
b.1	Vol. 4:	1755 July 23 - September 14
b.1	Vol. 5:	1755 September 15 - November 10
b.1	Vol. 6:	1755 November 11 - December 26
b.1	Vol. 7:	1755 December 27 - 1756 January 26
b.1	Vol. 8:	1756 January 26 - February 15
b.1	Vol. 9:	1756 February 17 - March 9
b.1	Vol. 10:	1756 March 10 - April 13
b.1	Vol. 11:	1756 April 14 - May 17
b.1	Vol. 12:	1756 May 17 - June 14
b.1	Vol. 13:	1756 June 15 - July 12
b.1	Vol. 14:	1756 July 12 - July 28

b.1	Vol. 15:	1756 July 29 - August 19
b.1	Vol. 16:	1756 August 20 - September 21
b.1	Vol. 17:	1756 September 22 - October 21
b.1	Vol. 18:	1756 October 22 - November 23
b.1	Vol. 19:	1756 November 24 - December 30
b.1	Vol. 20:	1756 December 31 - 1757 January 31
b.1	Vol. 21:	1757 February 1 - February 21
b.1	Vol. 22:	1757 February 22 - March 18
b.1	Vol. 23:	1757 March 19 - April 18
b.1	Vol. 24:	1757 April 19 - May 20
b.1	Vol. 25:	1757 May 21 - June 24
b.1	Vol. 26:	1757 June 25 - July 21
b.1	Vol. 27:	1757 July 23 - August 23
b.1	Vol. 28:	1757 August 24 - September 23
reel 2	Vol. 29:	1757 September 24 - October 21
reel 2	Vol. 30:	1757 October 22 - November 9
reel 2	Vol. 31:	1757 November 10 - November 30
reel 2	Vol. 32:	1757 December 1 - December 31
reel 2	Vol. 33:	1758 January 1 - January 23

reel 2	Vol. 34:	1758 January 24 - February 19
reel 2	Vol. 35:	1758 February 19 - March 18
reel 2	Vol. 36:	1758 March 19 - April 15
reel 2	Vol. 37:	1758 April 16 - May 21
reel 2	Vol. 38:	1758 May 22 - June 22
reel 2	Vol. 39:	1758 June 23 - July 22
reel 2	Vol. 40:	1758 July 23 - August 24
reel 2	Vol. 41:	1758 August 25 - September 27
reel 2	Vol. 42:	1758 September 27 - October 31
reel 2	Vol. 43:	1758 November 1 - December 14
reel 2	Vol. 44:	1758 December 15 - 1759 January 21
reel 2	Vol. 45:	1759 January 22 - February 28
reel 2	Vol. 46:	1759 March 1 - April 1
reel 2	Vol. 47:	1759 April 2 - May 6
reel 2	Vol. 48:	1759 May 7 - June 19
reel 2	Vol. 49:	1759 June 20 - August 1
reel 2	Vol. 50:	1759 August 2 - May 6
reel 2	Vol. 51:	1759 September 13 - October 6
reel 2	Vol. 52:	1759 October 7 - November 6

reel 3	Vol. 53:	1759 November 7 - December 7
reel 3	Vol. 54:	1759 December 8 - 1760 January 10
reel 3	Vol. 55:	1760 January 11 - January 31
reel 3	Vol. 56:	1760 February 1 - March 2
reel 3	Vol. 57:	1760 March 3 - April 10
reel 3	Vol. 58:	1760 April 11 - May 25
reel 3	Vol. 59:	1760 May 26 - July 6
reel 3	Vol. 60:	1760 July 7 - August 15
reel 3	Vol. 61:	1760 August 16 - September 27
reel 3	Vol. 62:	1760 September 28 - October 30
reel 3	Vol. 63:	1760 October 31 - December 12
reel 3	Vol. 64:	1760 December 13 - 1761 January 14
reel 3	Vol. 65:	1761 January 15 - February 22
reel 3	Vol. 66:	1761 February 23 - April 3
reel 3	Vol. 67:	1761 April 4 - May 7
reel 3	Vol. 68:	1761 May 8 - June 14
reel 3	Vol. 69:	1761 June 15 - July 18
reel 3	Vol. 70:	1761 July 19 - August 30
reel 3	Vol. 71:	1761 August 31 - October 5

reel 3	Vol. 72:	1761 October 6 - November 10
reel 3	Vol. 73:	1761 November 11 - December 16
reel 3	Vol. 74:	1761 December 17 - 1762 January 17
reel 3	Vol. 75:	1762 January 18 - February 28
reel 3	Vol. 76:	1762 March 1 - April 9
reel 3	Vol. 77:	1762 April 10 - May 20
reel 3	Vol. 78:	1762 May 21 - July 4
reel 3	Vol. 79:	1762 July 5 - August 17
reel 4	Vol. 80:	1762 August 18 - September 25
reel 4	Vol. 81:	1762 September 26 - October 11
reel 4	Vol. 82:	1762 October 12 - November 23
reel 4	Vol. 83:	1762 November 24 - 1763 January 7
reel 4	Vol. 84:	1763 January 8 - February 16
reel 4	Vol. 85:	1763 February 17 - April 1
reel 4	Vol. 86:	1763 April 2 - May 16
reel 4	Vol. 87:	1763 May 17 - June 23
reel 4	Vol. 88:	1763 June 24 - July 28
reel 4	Vol. 89:	1763 July 29 - September 1
reel 4	Vol. 90:	1763 September 2 - October 13

reel 4	Vol. 91:	1763 October 14 - October 29
reel 4	Vol. 92:	1763 October 30 - December 13
reel 4	Vol. 93:	1763 December 14 - 1764 January 17
reel 4	Vol. 94:	1764 January 18 - February 25
reel 4	Vol. 95:	1764 February 26 - April 3
reel 4	Vol. 96:	1764 April 4 - May 7
reel 4	Vol. 97:	1764 May 8 - June 1
reel 4	Vol. 98:	1764 June 2 - July 1
reel 4	Vol. 99:	1764 July 2 - August 10
reel 4	Vol. 100:	1764 August 11 - September 2
reel 4	Vol. 101:	1764 September 3 - September 26
reel 4	Vol. 102:	1764 September 27 - October 14
reel 4	Vol. 103:	1764 October 15 - November 5
reel 4	Vol. 104:	1764 November 6 - November 23
reel 4	Vol. 105:	1764 November 24 - December 20
reel 4	Vol. 106:	1764 December 21 - 1765 January 10
reel 4	Vol. 107:	1765 January 11 - February 2
reel 4	Vol. 108:	1765 February 3 - February 20
reel 4	Vol. 109:	1765 February 21 - March 18

reel 4	Vol. 110:	1765 March 19 - April 8
reel 4	Vol. 111:	1765 April 9 - April 25
reel 4	Vol. 112:	1765 April 26 - May 23
reel 4	Vol. 113:	1765 May 24 - July 31

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.

Geographic Names

England -- Social life and customs
Europe
Great Britain

Genres / Formats

Diaries

Names

Turner, Thomas, 1729-1793