Guide to the Jonathan Humphrey Bissell Papers

MS 1442

compiled by Catherine Lawrence

January 1996

Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
mssa.assist@yale.edu
http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/
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Jonathan Humphrey Bissell papers  
MS 1442
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 1442

CREATOR: Bissell, Jonathan Humphrey, 1800-1845

TITLE: Jonathan Humphrey Bissell papers

DATES: 1815–1821

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist primarily of Jonathan Humphrey Bissell’s letters to his family in Hartford, written while he was a student at Yale. There are forty-five letters in all; thirty-eight were written to his brother, Titus L. Bissell, Jr. In the letters, Bissell describes his college activities, mentions schoolbooks and pictures that he has purchased for his younger brothers, requests that particular items of clothing be mended or sent from home, and details his academic expenses, since he relied on monetary support from his father and brother. There is also a single letter that Bissell wrote in 1821 from Hartford to his brother Titus, then in New York City.

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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.1442.

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

The papers were a gift to the Yale Library.
Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
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Preferred Citation
Jonathan Humphrey Bissell Papers (MS 1442). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical
Jonathan Humphrey Bissell, son of Titus Lucretius Bissell, Sr., and Eunice (Humphrey) Bissell, was born on June 9, 1800, in Windsor, Connecticut. The family moved to Hartford, Connecticut, during Bissell’s youth. He entered Yale College in 1815, received his B.A. in 1819, and returned to Hartford to study law. After beginning his law practice in New Orleans, Louisiana, he moved to Charleston, South Carolina in 1824. Around 1830 he gave up his legal career to become manager and agent for a North Carolina gold-mining company. Bissell never married; he died of pneumonia on March 18, 1845, in Philadelphia, while traveling to New York City on business.

Scope and Contents
The papers consist primarily of Jonathan Humphrey Bissell’s letters to his family in Hartford, written while he was a student at Yale. There are forty-five letters in all; thirty-eight were written to his brother, Titus L. Bissell, Jr. In the letters, Bissell describes his college activities, mentions schoolbooks and pictures that he has purchased for his younger brothers, requests that particular items of clothing be mended or sent from home, and details his academic expenses, since he relied on monetary support from his father and brother. There is also a single letter that Bissell wrote in 1821 from Hartford to his brother Titus, then in New York City.

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.
## Collection Contents

### Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correspondence</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1 - 2</td>
<td>1815-1818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td>1819, 1821, n.d.</td>
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</table>
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
Education -- History -- 19th century
Finance, Personal -- History -- 19th century
Students -- History -- 19th century

Geographic Names
Connecticut -- Social life and customs -- 19th century

Names
Bissell, Jonathan Humphrey, 1800-1845

Corporate Bodies
Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1819
Yale University -- Students