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Guide to the Dwight Family Papers

MS 187

compiled by Diane E. Kaplan and William E. Brown, Jr.

April 1986

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview 3
Requesting Instructions 3
Administrative Information 4
  Immediate Source of Acquisition 4
  Conditions Governing Access 4
  Conditions Governing Use 4
  Preferred Citation 4
Biographical / Historical 4
Scope and Contents 4
Arrangement 6
Collection Contents 7
  Series I: Correspondence and Papers, 1713-1937 7
  Series II: Family Papers, 1788-1929 8
  Accession 1990-M-033: Additional Material, 1726-1948, undated 9
Selected Search Terms 18

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 187

CREATOR: Dwight family

TITLE: Dwight family papers

DATES: 1713-1937

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 5.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, financial records, addresses, sermons, writings, photographs, and other memorabilia of Yale President Timothy Dwight (1752-1817) and his family. Relatives in the Edwards, Hooker, Lyman, Strong, Woodbridge, and Woolsey families are represented. The largest quantity of correspondence documents the family life of John William Dwight, a fertilizer manufacturer. Papers of Timothy Dwight (1752-1817) and Timothy Dwight (1828-1916) concern Yale University. The travels of various family members are highlighted.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0187

Requesting Instructions

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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

Gifts and purchases, 1932-1989. Gift of Eunice Trowbridge, 2005.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Dwight Family Papers (MS 187). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Timothy Dwight was born on May 14, 1752 in Northampton, Massachusetts. He graduated from Yale College in 1769 (B.A.) and 1772 (M.A.). He served Yale as tutor (1771-1777), Livingston Professor of Divinity (1795-1817), and President (1795-1817). He died on January 11, 1817 in New Haven, Connecticut.

Scope and Contents

The Dwight Family Papers consist of correspondence, financial records, writings, and other memorabilia of Yale President Timothy Dwight (1752-1817), his ancestors, descendants, and other relations. Relatives in the Edwards, Hooker, Strong, Woodbridge, and Woolsey families are represented. The largest quantity of correspondence documents the family life of John Williams Dwight (President Dwight's grandson), his wife Sophia Dwight Dwight, and children Mary Clarissa, Edward Strong, and Emily Cecilia Dwight. The papers also include courtship letters of Mary Alsop Dwight Patrick and professional papers of President Dwight and his grandson, President Timothy Dwight (1828-1916). Though the papers date from 1713 to 1937, most of the papers were produced in the nineteenth century.

The library received the Dwight Family Papers from numerous donors between the 1940s and 1985, and additional materials have been purchased from other sources. Additional Dwight family material is housed in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. The two and one-half linear feet of papers are arranged in two series: I. Correspondence and Papers, 1713-1937 and II. Family Papers, 1788-1929.

Series I includes letters, financial and legal papers, and memorabilia arranged in chronological order, while Series II consists of other types of material arranged by individual. An index to selected correspondents is included at the end of this register.

Series I begins with legal and financial documents of the Dwight family in eighteenth century Northampton, Massachusetts, including deeds, accounts, and probate records (folder 1). There are also a 1748 account of W. B. Dwight's death and letters for Timothy Dwight (1694-1771) to the Rev. Dr. Thomas Foxcroft describing religious activities in the Northampton area. A 1795 letter invites Timothy Dwight to assume the presidency of Yale College, and several letters in folders 1-3 concern Yale matters. Other letters in these folders focus on family affairs and include exchanges between parents and children and husband and wife.

Folder 3 includes medical advice to Timothy Dwight (1816 Dec. 7) on treating a stricture of the urethra and a copy of the original minutes recorded by Benjamin Silliman at President Dwight's bedside on January 10, 1817, the day before his death. These minutes concern directions for the publication of Dwight's writings. Folder 3 also contains remarks by Dwight on the "comparative value" of his sermons and correspondence of his son Timothy Dwight (1778-1844) concerning the posthumous publication of his father's "System of Divinity". The folder also includes correspondence of Benjamin Dwight, Sereno Dwight, Mary Woolsey Dwight, and Theodore Dwight.

The majority of the correspondence in folders 4 and 5 relates to the courtship of Mary Alsop Dwight by Matthew A. Patrick, a career army officer serving in 1832 in South Carolina. His letters include comments on the nullification crisis, which delayed his wedding furlough. A few letters from Mary Alsop (Dwight) Patrick to her father Theodore Dwight describe her life as an officer's wife. Folder 5 also contains correspondence of Theodore Dwight, Jr., concerning the publication of his textbooks, and of Timothy Dwight's (1752-1817) heirs, concerning their claim for a Revolutionary War veteran's pension.

Correspondence between John W. Dwight and his future wife Sophia Dwight of Clinton, New York, begins in folder 5. There are numerous letters to "Sophy" in folders 6 and 7, and folders 8-12 are almost exclusively concerned with this branch of the Dwight family. For a period of a year and a half (1862-1863) John Dwight lived in New Haven, working at a saltpeter business, while his wife and family lived in Clinton, near her family. The almost daily letters between husband and wife concern family finances, weather, the eating habits and behavior of the children (Mary, "Minnie" or "Molly"; Edward, "Ned"; and Emily, "Cecily"), the death of son Louis, John's draft status, and the deteriorating nature of Sophia's health. Following Sophia's death in 1863 there are far fewer letters, but the correspondence through folder 25 is predominantly that of Mary and Edward with their father, now the president of the New Haven Fertilizer Company, uncle Benjamin W. Dwight, and other relations and school friends. Edward graduated from the Yale Medical School in 1886, and several letters concern attempts to establish his medical practice. From folder 17 on there are occasional letters from Timothy Dwight (1828-1916) to non-family members. The majority of these letters are dated after 1888 and concern Yale University business.

Folders 24 and 25 contain additional undated letters of John W. Dwight's family, while folders 26-29 include memorabilia, writings, and financial and legal papers of this same branch of the Dwight family. Folder 28 includes photographs of the Dwight family ancestoral property in Dudley, Massachusetts.

Series II includes papers of Margaret Dwight Bell, Benjamin W. Dwight, Henry Dwight, Timothy Dwight (1752-1817), Susan Edwards Daggett Dwight, and Timothy Dwight (1828-1916). The largest quantity of material relates to Timothy Dwight (1752-1817) and includes sermons and other writings, as well as notes of his sermons and discourses recorded by his son Benjamin W. Dwight, Alexander Phoenix, and an unidentified student in the Yale College seniors' recitation room. Folders 43 and 44 contain Dwight's journals of travels to Cape Cod, Newport, Portsmouth, and Vermont. These were later edited and form a small portion of the published version of Dwight's *Travels in New England and New York*. (A few additional journals are found in the Humphreys-Marvin-Olmsted Papers, MS 857.) The series includes both printed and manuscript sermons, many of which were delivered at Yale College, and Dwight's poetry.

Benjamin Dwight is represented through biographical writings on his father, some travel observations, and his account of a storm in the Catskills, which he copied and sent to Benjamin Silliman in 1820. Margaret Dwight Bell's papers relate to her 1810 journey from New England to Warren, Ohio. The handwritten copy of her original journal describes the bad roads, inns, and travelling companions she encountered. For Henry Dwight there is a notebook, in German, from studies abroad and a book of hand colored flower engravings. Susan Dwight's papers consist of an autograph album, and for Timothy Dwight (1828-1916) there is a copy of his address at the dedication of Osborn Hall and inscriptions from books presented by him to Battell

Chapel. The series concludes with a box containing six pairs of eyeglasses which belonged to Dwight Family relatives.

Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Correspondence and Papers, 1713-1937. II. Family Papers, 1788-1929.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence and Papers, 1713-1937

1.25 linear feet (4 boxes)

This series contains material arranged in chronological order.

b. 1, f. 1-11	1713-1862 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.	1713-1862
b. 2, f. 12-23	1863-1937 February	1863-1937 February
b. 3, f. 24-26	undated	undated
b. 4, f. 27-28	undated	undated
b. 4, f. 29	Financial and legal papers	1875-1897

Series II: Family Papers, 1788-1929

1.25 linear feet (4 boxes)

This series contains material arranged alphabetically by the name of the individual. Items for each individual are arranged alphabetically by record type.

b. 5, f. 30	Bell, Margaret Van Horn Dwight: journal	[ca. 1810]
	Dwight, Benjamin W.	
b. 5, f. 31	"Biographical Hints & facts respecting the late Revd. Timothy Dwight," English	1817
b. 5, f. 32	"Observations on the City of New York," English	1811
b. 5	"An account of a remarkable storm," English	1819
	Dwight, Henry	
b. 5, f. 33	German notebook 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.	undated
b. 5, f. 34	Flower book	undated
	Dwight, Timothy (1752-1817)	
b. 5, f. 35	"Discourse ... On the character of George Washington, Esq.," English	1800
b. 5, f. 36	Notebook	1798-1801
b. 6, f. 37-38	Poetry	1792-1817
b. 6, f. 39-42	Sermons Folder 40 (1799-1804?) was reported missing in 2006.	Circa 1788-1815
b. 6, f. 43-44	Travel journals	1800, 1807, undated
b. 7, f. 45	Writings	undated
b. 7, f. 46	Notes by others	1806–1807, 1826, undated
b. 7, f. 47	Dwight, Susan Edwards Daggett: autograph album	1825-1836
b. 7, f. 48	Dwight, Timothy (1828-1916): address; book inscriptions	1881-1904
b. 7, f. 49	Family coat of arms	undated
b. 7, f. 50	Family history See also: CF12	[ca. 1929]
b. 8	Eyeglasses	undated

Accession 1990-M-033: Additional Material, 1726-1948, undated

3.75 linear feet (9 boxes)

Addition inventory by Carol King and Randall Law, 1993 Aug

Received from: Elizabeth Cole Hamill and Katharine Cole Esty, 1989 Dec 20

	[Anthony], Elizabeth Dwight	
b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence	undated
	Buckingham, William A.	
b. 1, f. 2	Correspondence	1871
	Cole, Bertha Woolsey Dwight	
b. 1, f. 3	Correspondence	1881–1905, 1923, 1938, undated
b. 1, f. 4	Photographs	1870, 1872, 1891, undated
	Cole, Charles Buckingham	
b. 1, f. 5	Correspondence	1885, 1887, 1901–1906, 1925, undated
b. 1, f. 6	Photograph	1900
	Writings	
b. 1, f. 7	"The Legend of the Holy Grail," *The Fort Orange Monthly* English 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.	1886 September
b. 1, f. 8	"Twenty Years After": letter English 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.	1907
b. 1, f. 9	"Fifty Years After": biography English 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.	1937
	Cole, Charles Wadsworth	
b. 1, f. 10	Bound book of copies of typed letters	1890s-1900s
	Cole, Charles Woolsey	

	Cole, Charles Woolsey (continued)	
b. 1, f. 11	Memorabilia	1922-1927, 1946, 1948
b. 1, f. 12	Photograph	undated
	Cole, Edward H.	
b. 1, f. 13	Stock shares	1902
	Dewey, Lillian (Eliza) Dwight	
	Correspondence	
b. 1, f. 14	1869 English	1869
b. 1, f. 15	1878-1880	1878-1880
b. 1, f. 16	Photograph	undated
	Dewey, Richard S.	
b. 1, f. 17	Correspondence	1874-1879
b. 1, f. 18	Photograph	undated
	Dwight, Benjamin Woodbridge	
	Contracts and documents	
b. 2, f. 19	1845-1856	1845-1856
b. 2, f. 20	1857-1872	1857-1872
b. 2, f. 21	1881-1896	1881-1896
b. 2, f. 22	Copy books	1825, 1829
	Correspondence	
b. 2, f. 23	1828-1829	1828-1829
b. 2, f. 24	1830-1836	1830-1836
b. 2, f. 25	1837-1839	1837-1839
b. 2, f. 26	1840-1842	1840-1842
b. 2, f. 27	1843-1844	1843-1844
b. 2, f. 28	1845-1847	1845-1847
b. 2, f. 29	1848-1851	1848-1851
b. 2, f. 30	1861-1869	1861-1869
b. 2, f. 31	1872-1878	1872-1878
b. 2, f. 32	1880-1881	1880-1881

Dwight, Benjamin Woodbridge > Correspondence (continued)

b. 2, f. 33	1882 English	1882
b. 2, f. 34	1883 English	1883
b. 2, f. 35	1884-1887	1884-1887
b. 2, f. 36-37	undated	undated
	Dewey family genealogy: material	
b. 3, f. 38	1867-1880	1867-1880
b. 3, f. 39	1882-1883, undated	1882-1883, undated
b. 3, f. 40	Diary	1835-1836
b. 3, f. 41	Engravings	undated
b. 3, f. 42	"Ingham University Synopsis," English	1858
b. 3, f. 43	Memorials	1889
b. 3, f. 44	Photographs	1866, undated
b. 3, f. 45	School catalogs	1847, 1850, 1861-1863, 1866
	Writings	
	Sermons and manuscripts	
b. 3, f. 46	1830-1836	1830-1836
b. 3, f. 47	1837-1838	1837-1838
b. 3, f. 48	Bound book	1838-1841
b. 4, f. 49	1839 January 20	1839 January 20
b. 4, f. 50	1839 April-May	1839 April-May
b. 4, f. 51	1840-1841	1840-1841
b. 4, f. 52	1842, 1845	1842, 1845
b. 4, f. 53	Bound book	1870
b. 4, f. 54-55	undated	undated
	The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record	
	"Descendants of Rev. Benjamin Woolsey"	
b. 4, f. 56	1873 July	1873 July
b. 4, f. 57	1874 April	1874 April

Dwight, Benjamin Woodbridge > Writings > The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record > "Descendants of Rev. Benjamin Woolsey" (continued)

b. 4, f. 58	1874 July	1874 July
b. 5, f. 59	"Last Additions to the History of the Woolsey Family," English	1875 January
b. 5, f. 60	"Notes on the History of the Dewey Family in America," English	1875 July
b. 5, f. 61	"Further Additions to Dewey Family History," English	1877 July-October
	"Rogers' Lineage"	
b. 5, f. 62	1885 January	1885 January
b. 5, f. 63	1885 Apr, October	1885 Apr, October
b. 5, f. 64	"Traces of the Dwight Family in Early English History," English	1886 January
	Assorted writings Volume also contains "Reminiscences of the Life and Character of Mrs. Sophia Woodbridge Dwight" by Rev. E. Y. Swift	
b. 5, f. 65	*A Book of Original Poetry* English	1837
b. 5, f. 66	"Notes of My Life," English	1842
b. 5, f. 67	"Reminiscences of the Life and Character of Benjamin Woolsey Dwight, M.D.," English	1862
b. 5, f. 68	"The Doctrine of God's Providence," English	1869 April
b. 6, f. 69	*The Descendants of John Dwight of Dedham, Mass.*	1874
b. 6, f. 70	"Intercollegiate College Regattas, Hurdle-Races, and Prize Contests," *The New Englander* English	1876 April
b. 6, f. 71	"Woman's Right to Public Forms of Usefulness in the Church," English	1877 April
b. 6, f. 72	"Address Before the Rural Art Association of Clinton N. Y.," English	1881 June 28
b. 6, f. 73	"American Genealogies," English	undated
b. 6, f. 74	"Autobiography," English	undated

Dwight, Benjamin Woolsey

Contracts and documents

Dwight, Benjamin Woolsey > Contracts and documents (continued)

b. 7, f. 75	1812-1830	1812-1830
b. 7, f. 76	1831-1835, 1850, 1858-1859	1831-1835, 1850, 1858-1859
	Correspondence	
b. 7, f. 77	1804, 1823-1828	1804, 1823-1828
b. 7, f. 78	1829-1834	1829-1834
b. 7, f. 79	1835-1836	1835-1836
b. 7, f. 80	1837-1838	1837-1838
b. 7, f. 81	1841-1844	1841-1844
b. 7, f. 82	1845 English	1845
b. 7, f. 83	1846 English	1846
b. 7, f. 84	1847 English	1847
b. 7, f. 85	1848 English	1848
b. 7, f. 86	1849 February-June	1849 February-June
b. 7, f. 87	1849 July-1850	1849 July-1850
b. 7, f. 88	undated	undated
	Writings	
b. 8, f. 89	"A Dissertation On Chronic Debility of the Stomach," *Memoirs of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences* English	1811
b. 8, f. 90	"Supplementary Observations on Chronic Debility of the Stomach, Book 1," English	1811 March
	Dwight, Charlotte Sophia Parish	
b. 8, f. 91	Contracts and documents	1891
	Correspondence	
b. 8, f. 92	1869, 1873, 1880 June–August	1869, 1873, 1880 June–August
b. 8, f. 93	1880 September-October	1880 September-October

Dwight, Charlotte Sophia Parish > Correspondence (continued)

b. 8, f. 94	1885-1898, undated	1885-1898, undated
b. 8, f. 95	Photographs	1846, 1876, undated
	Dwight, Clarissa Strong	
b. 8, f. 96	Correspondence	1807
	Dwight, Edmund	
b. 8, f. 97	Contracts and documents	1817
	Dwight, Edward F.	
b. 8, f. 98	Correspondence and contract	1900
	Dwight, Edward S.	
b. 8, f. 99	Correspondence	1877-1880, undated
	Dwight, Emily C.	
b. 8, f. 100	Correspondence	1877-1881
	Dwight, Francis Edwin	
	Correspondence	
b. 8, f. 101	1883-1884 November	1883-1884 November
b. 8, f. 102	1884 Dec, undated	1884 Dec, undated
b. 8, f. 103	Photographs	1863-1871, 1878-1879, 1885
	Dwight, John M.	
b. 8, f. 104	Correspondence, contracts, documents	1825, 1854-1863
	Dwight, Mary	
b. 8, f. 105	Correspondence	1848–1849, 1889, undated
	Dwight, Mary (Molly) Bond Olmstead	
b. 8, f. 106	Correspondence	1847, 1850, 1899, undated
b. 8, f. 107	Photograph	undated
	Dwight, Mary Woolsey	
	Most of the correspondence is addressed to Benjamin W. and Timothy Dwight, sons of Mary Dwight.	

Dwight, Mary Woolsey (continued)

b. 8, f. 108	Contracts and documents pertaining to the execution of Mary Dwight's will	1844-1846
b. 8, f. 109	Correspondence	1831, 1833, 1841, 1844
	Dwight, Minnie C.	
b. 8, f. 110	Correspondence	1872-1885, undated
	Dwight, Sophia	
f. 9, f. 111	Correspondence and will	1835, 1843, 1880
f. 9, f. 112	Photograph	undated
	Dwight, Sophia Edwards	
f. 9, f. 113	Correspondence	1884, 1902–1903, undated
f. 9, f. 114	Photograph	undated
	Dwight, Sophia Woodbridge Strong	
f. 9, f. 115	Contracts and documents	1822-1832
f. 9, f. 116	Correspondence	1814–1817, 1825–1837, 1851, undated
f. 9, f. 117	Photograph	undated
	Dwight, Theodore William	
f. 9, f. 118	Correspondence, contract, clipping	1837, 1844–1862, 1872, 1884–1892, undated
f. 9, f. 119	"The Hamiltonian," English	1879
f. 9, f. 120	"The Dwight Tribute," English	1891
f. 9, f. 121	"Funeral of Hon. Theodore W. Dwight," *The Clinton Courier* English	1892 July 6
f. 9, f. 122	*In Memoriam, Theodore William Dwight* English	1892
f. 9, f. 123	Photograph	undated
	Dwight, Timothy (b. 1811)	
f. 9, f. 124	Correspondence	1874
	Dwight, Wealthy Jane Dewey	

Dwight, Wealthy Jane Dewey (continued)

f. 9, f. 125	Correspondence	1847, 1859, undated
	Hopkins, Mary Delia	
f. 9, f. 126	Memorial	1937
	Jana, Joseph	
f. 9, f. 127	Correspondence	[1720]
	Ripley, Joshua, Jr.	
f. 9, f. 128	Deed	1726
	Williams, Othniel Samuel	
f. 9, f. 129	Deed	1857
	Woodbridge, Jahleel	
f. 9, f. 130	Will	undated
f. 9, f. 131	Dwight family Engravings	1846, undated
	Dwight family Photographs	
f. 9, f. 132	1867/1868, 1869, undated	1867/1868, 1869, undated
f. 9, f. 133	1920, undated	1920, undated
	Other papers	
f. 9, f. 134	*The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*	1887 July
f. 9, f. 135	*A Genealogical Register of the Descendants in the Male Line of Robert Day*, by George E. Day English	1848
f. 9, f. 136	Clippings	1816, 1938
f. 9, f. 137	Contracts and documents	1770, 1864, 1886, 1887
f. 9, f. 138	Correspondence	1841, 1878, 1893, 1910, 1912, undated
f. 9, f. 139	Miscellaneous	1840, 1887–1888, undated
f. 9	Oversize	
f. 10	Timothy Dwight family tree (photostat)	
f. 10	*The American Boy*. October, 1906	
f. 10	*Once A Week: an Illustrated Weekly Newspaper*	

f. 10	Vol. V, No. 2, 1890 Apr 29

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

Clergy
College presidents
Courtship
Educators
Eyeglasses
Families
Voyages and travels

Geographic Names

New England -- Description and travel
New Haven (Conn.)

Genres / Formats

Diaries
Sermons

Names

Anthony, Elizabeth Dwight, 1831-1870
Anthony, Mary Dwight, 1824-1864
Boudinot, Elias, 1740-1821
Dwight, Agnes Lucy, 1855-
Dwight, Annie Waterman, 1851-
Dwight, Benjamin W. (Benjamin Woodbridge), 1816-1889
Dwight, Benjamin Woolsey, 1780-1850
Dwight, Clarissa Strong, 1783-1855
Dwight, Edward S., 1853-1940
Dwight, Emily Cecilia, 1859-
Dwight, Henry E. (Henry Edwin), 1832-1908
Dwight, John William, 1817-1887
Dwight, Mary Clarissa, 1849-
Dwight, Sophia Dwight, 1818-1863
Dwight, Theodore, 1764-1846
Dwight, Theodore, 1796-1866
Dwight, Timothy, 1694-1771
Dwight, Timothy, 1752-1817
Dwight, Timothy, 1778-1844
Dwight, Timothy, 1811-1842
Dwight, Timothy, 1828-1916
Foxcroft, Thomas, 1697-1769
Lyman, Julia Strong Dwight, 1824-1853
Patrick, Mary Alsop Dwight, 1793-
Patrick, Mathew Alexander, d. 1834
Peck, Julia E.
Strong, Caleb, 1745-1819
Strong, Lewis, 1785-1863
Whitney, Eli, 1765-1825

Families

Dwight family
Edwards family
Hook family
Lyman family
Strong family
Woodbridge family
Woolsey family

Corporate Bodies

Yale University -- Officals and employees
Yale University -- Religion