Guide to the Jonathan Lee Papers

MS 958

compiled by William E. Brown, Jr. and Isabelle McDonnell

October 1984

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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Collection Overview

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

CALL NUMBER: MS 958

CREATOR: Lee, Jonathan, 1786-1866

TITLE: Jonathan Lee papers

DATES: 1781–1857

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.25 linear feet (10 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, notebooks, journals and sermons of Jonathan Lee, which document his professional and personal life in Massachusetts, Vermont, and Connecticut.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0958

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.0958.

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
Gift of William Todd, with supplemental purchases, 1941.

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.
Biographical / Historical

Jonathan Lee was born on July 19, 1786, in Salisbury, Connecticut, the son of Deacon Milo and Ruth Camp Lee. He fitted for college with Rev. Ammi R. Robbins, of Norfolk, and entered the Freshman Class in Sept., 1804, but was compelled by poor health to relinquish study for an entire year during his college course. He graduated from Yale in 1809 and from Andover Theological Seminary in 1812.

Lee was ordained and installed pastor of the Congregational Church in Otis, Massachusetts in 1815. He was dismissed from this charge, July 10, 1831, at his own request. He subsequently was the pastor of the Congregational Church in Weybridge, Vermont from 1834-1837. He published an “Address, designed to be presented to a Mutual Council,” called for his dismission, (pp. 23, 8°, Middlebury, Vt., 1837.) Two sermons preached at Otis were also published. In 1838 Lee returned to Salisbury to teach and resided there until his death in 1866.

He was twice married. His first wife, who died Nov. 14, 1826, was Harriet Dewey, daughter of Col. J. Danforth, of Pittsfield, Mass. He married, Nov. 25, 1827, Mary, daughter of Col. Adonijah Strong, of Salisbury. She died Dec. 24, 1863, aged 76.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, sermons, journals, notebooks, and other papers relating to the personal life and professional career of Jonathan Lee, a graduate of Yale University (B.A., 1809) and Congregational Minister in Otis, Massachusetts; Weybridge, Vermont; and Salisbury, Connecticut.

The Lee Papers are arranged in ten (10) boxes and total four and one-quarter (4.25) linear feet. The papers are arranged in three series: I. Correspondence, 1781-1805, II. Sermons, 1812-1836, III. Volumes, 1804-1844.

SERIES I, CORRESPONDENCE, 1781-1805, consists primarily of letters exchanged between members of the Lee family. Jonathan Lee maintained a regular correspondence with family members, including his parents, brothers, sisters, and his wife. Early letters consist of messages from Jonathan Lee to family members as he studied at Yale College and Andover Theological Seminary. Lee wrote regularly and in great detail of his studies and life at school. Lee also corresponded with family members while in the Michigan Territory during the 1820s and 1830s. He ventured there as a representative of the American Home Missionary Society, and engaged in religious work in the area of Tecumseh, Michigan. Lee exchanged religious views and family information from the Midwest, and he continued this correspondence upon his return to New England in the 1830s, after which he assumed positions in Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. During the 1840s he corresponded with his offspring quite regularly, including several letters to and from his daughter Harriet, as she recuperated from an illness in an Utica, New York asylum.

SERIES II, SERMONS, 1812-1836, consists of several handwritten sermons which Lee delivered in the course of his religious training and practice. These sermons, as indicated on the text, were often delivered several times in a variety of locations in and around New England.
SERIES III, VOLUMES, 1804-1844, consists of a commonplace book, a journal (1804-1844), and several notebooks which Lee compiled in the course of his academic work at Yale College (1808-1809).

The Lee Papers were donated by William Todd and supplemented by purchases, in 1941.

**Arrangement**

**Collection Contents**

**Series I. Correspondence**

*1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)*

This series is arranged in chronological order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1-19</td>
<td>1781 – 1835 March</td>
<td>1781 – 1835 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 20-42</td>
<td>1835 April – 1857</td>
<td>1835 April – 1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 43-47</td>
<td>Undated</td>
<td>Undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series II. Sermons

2 linear feet (5 boxes)
This series is arranged in chronological order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 48-60</td>
<td></td>
<td>1812 Feb - 1817 Aug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 61-76</td>
<td></td>
<td>1817 Sep - 1820 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 77-90,</td>
<td></td>
<td>1821 Jan - 1824 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7, f. 91-106</td>
<td></td>
<td>1824 Mar - 1828 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 107-120</td>
<td></td>
<td>1828 Mar - 1836</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series III. Volumes

1 linear foot (2 boxes)

This series is arranged in alphabetical order by record type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 121</td>
<td>Commonplace Book</td>
<td>1809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 122-125</td>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>1804–1844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 126-127</td>
<td>Disputes</td>
<td>1808–1809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 128</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 129</td>
<td>Logic</td>
<td>1809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 130</td>
<td>Manuscript</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 131</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>1808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 132</td>
<td>Rhetoric</td>
<td>1808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 133</td>
<td>Theology</td>
<td>1809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10, f. 134</td>
<td>Miscellanea</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
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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
Clergy
Clergy -- Correspondence
Clergy -- Massachusetts
Religion
Theology

Geographic Names
Connecticut
Michigan
Middle West
Salisbury (Conn.) -- History
Vermont

Genres / Formats
Account books
Diaries
Sermons

Names
Lee, Jonathan, 1786-1866

Corporate Bodies
Andover Theological Seminary
Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1809
Yale University -- Students

Families
Lee family