Guide to the Gibbs Family Papers

MS 236

compiled by Bruce P. Stark
April 1982

Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
mssa.assist@yale.edu
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview .................................................................................................................. 3
Requesting Instructions ........................................................................................................... 3
Administrative Information .................................................................................................... 3
  Conditions Governing Access ............................................................................................. 3
  Conditions Governing Use ................................................................................................. 4
Preferred Citation .................................................................................................................. 4
Biographical / Historical ........................................................................................................ 4
Scope and Contents ............................................................................................................... 4
Collection Contents ............................................................................................................. 5
  Inventory ............................................................................................................................. 5
Selected Search Terms .......................................................................................................... 6
Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 236

CREATOR: Gibbs family

TITLE: Gibbs family papers

DATES: 1718–1893

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet (1 box, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, financial papers and memorabilia of members of the Gibbs family. Of principal interest are thirteen letters (1783-1796) from Roger Sherman to his brother-in-law, Henry Gibbs, of which five (1789-1790) discuss the deliberations of the first Congress of the United States. Other figures represented in the papers are two Josiah Willard Gibbses (father and son) and Addison Van Name.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0236

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.0236.

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.
Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Gibbs Family Papers (MS 236). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical


For a chart outlining the genealogical relations of the Gibbs family, please consult the Genealogical Chart.

Scope and Contents

The Gibbs Family Papers are housed in a single box (15 folders) and one folio and span the dates 1718 to 1893. The papers contain a variety of materials from legal documents and correspondence to tax papers and a poem.

The most interesting letters are found in folders 3 and 4, thirteen letters from Connecticut statesman Roger Sherman to his brother-in-law Henry Gibbs, a Salem, Massachusetts merchant. Many of the letters concern business matters. Five, however, written by Sherman between 1789 Jun 1 and 1790 Jun 10 discuss the activities of the first Congress of the United States. The papers also contain three letters written by Roger Sherman, Jr. to his uncle and aunt.

Other items of possible interest include a letter from Yale Professor of Sacred Literature Josiah W. Gibbs to the Reverend Isaac N. Tarbox (1815-1888) recommending William C. Shipman; an 1852 agreement between Gibbs and William C. Fowler (1793-1881), author of a well known three volume series of English grammers, on Gibbs' participation in this project; and a poem, "The Storm," written in 1893 by the famous scientist J. Willard Gibbs. See the Genealogical Chart for an outline of the relationships among the persons represented in this collection.

The eighteenth century material in the Gibbs Family Papers, folders 1-4, was donated to Yale University in 1942 by Theodora, Ralph Gibbs, and Willard Gibbs Van Name, "The Storm" was given by A. Guyot Cameron, and the remaining items were purchased.

Note: Mary (Shrimpton) Gibbs, Henry Gibbs, and Mary (Gibbs) Cotton do not belong to the Gibbs family line of the Reverend Henry Gibbs (1668-1723) and Henry Gibbs (1709-1759).
### Collection Contents

**Inventory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td>Legal papers</td>
<td>1721, 1747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2</td>
<td>Legal papers</td>
<td>1761, 1765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1783-1789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1790–1796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 5</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1851, 1860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 6</td>
<td>Agreement</td>
<td>1852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 7</td>
<td>Estate papers of Josiah W. Gibbs</td>
<td>1861–1862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 8</td>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>1861–1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 9</td>
<td>Treasury certificates</td>
<td>1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 10</td>
<td>Josiah W. Gibbs: notes</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 11</td>
<td>J. Willard Gibbs: notes</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 12</td>
<td>“The Storm” by J. Willard Gibbs</td>
<td>1893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 13</td>
<td>Addison Van Name: valedictory address</td>
<td>1858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 14</td>
<td>Addison Van Name: printed material and memorabilia from German universities</td>
<td>1859–1860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 15</td>
<td>Addison Van Name: subscription</td>
<td>1873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. CF15</td>
<td>Gibbs, Mary (Shrimpton). Deed signed and sealed by her son Henry Gibbs (1694-1761), “braisier” of Boston, for land in Boston</td>
<td>1718 February 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. CF15</td>
<td>Gibbs, Henry (1668-1723). Articles of division and partition of property with Henry Gibbs (1694-1761)</td>
<td>1721 May 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. CF15</td>
<td>Gibbs, Mary (Shrimpton). Deed signed and sealed from Mary Gibbs and her son-in-law and daughter, John and Mary (Gibbs) Cotton, to her son Henry Gibbs (1694-1761) for land in Boston</td>
<td>1721 May 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. CF15</td>
<td>Van Name, Addison. Certificate from University of Halle, 1859 Nov 11.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. CF15</td>
<td>Van Name, Addison. Certificate from University of Tübingen, 1860 May 20</td>
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</tbody>
</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
Educators
Families
Science

Geographic Names
United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775

Genres / Formats
Deeds

Occupations
Legislators
Politicians

Names
Fowler, William Chauncey, 1793-1881
Gibbs, Henry, 1668-1723
Gibbs, Henry, 1749-1794
Gibbs, J. Willard (Josiah Willard), 1839-1903
Gibbs, Josiah W. (Josiah Willard), 1790-1861
Sherman, Roger, 1721-1793
Sherman, Roger, 1768-1856
Tarbox, Increase N. (Increase Niles), 1815-1888
Van Name, Addison, 1835-1922

Families
Gibbs family

Corporate Body
United States. Congress