Guide to the Winthrop-Weston Family Papers

MS 549

compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

September 1981

Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
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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 549

CREATOR: Winthrop family

TITLE: Winthrop-Weston family papers

DATES: 1845–1911

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers primarily contain the family correspondence of William Woolsey Winthrop (1831-1899), his sister Sarah Chauncey Winthrop Weston, and their mother, Elizabeth Dwight Woolsey Winthrop. Several letters were written by William Winthrop from St. Anthony, Minnesota and others concern his Civil War military experiences.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0549

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.0549.

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 Mary S. Weston Dominick, 1938.
Biographical / Historical

William [Woolsey] Winthrop, youngest son of Francis B. Winthrop (Y. C. 1804) and Elizabeth (Woolsey) Winthrop, was born in New Haven on August 3, 1831.

He studied law in the Yale Law School, receiving the degree of LL.B. in 1853, and supplementing his course by another year in the Harvard Law School. In 1855 he entered on practice in Boston, in partnership with Hon. William J. Hubbard, and in 1860 removed to New York City and formed a partnership with his classmate Little.

In April, 1861, he enlisted in the 7th Regiment, N. Y. Militia, and served through the war, attaining the rank of Colonel. In February, 1867, he was transferred to the regular army as Major and Judge Advocate, and in July 1884, was promoted to be Deputy Judge-Advocate General with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. His final promotion to the position of Assistant Judge-Advocate General, with the grade of Colonel, was in January, 1895. From 1882 to 1886 he was Judge-Advocate of the Division of the Pacific, and from 1886 to 1890 Professor of Law at West Point. In his later years he was on duty in the War Department at Washington, until his retirement in August 1895.

He died suddenly, from an acute attack of heart-disease, while at Atlantic City, N. J., during the night of April 8, 1899, in his 68th year.

He published in 1886 a work in two volumes on Military Law, which has become a standard authority. He also prepared the Digest of Opinions of the Judge-Advocates General of the U.S. Army; and was in his later years a contributor to literary and scientific periodicals.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on him by Georgetown University in 1896.

He married, in 1877, Miss Alice Worthington, who survives him.

[From Yale Obituary Record]
Scope and Contents

This collection consists of correspondence and other papers of the Winthrop and Weston families, in particular of William Woolsey Winthrop, his sister Sarah Chauncey (Winthrop) Weston, and their mother, Elizabeth Dwight (Woolsey) Winthrop. A partial genealogical chart can be found in the repository.

Family correspondence, mostly letters from William and Sarah Winthrop to their mother, makes up the bulk of the papers. Of particular interest are William Winthrop's letters from St. Anthony, Minnesota, where he moved in 1857 to practice law, and from Virginia during his military service in the Civil War. Unfortunately, only a few letters from this period are contained in the papers. Other materials include several undated stories, poem, and other writings, for the most part by William Winthrop, and a few small sketches.
## Collection Contents

### Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1 - 15 reel 1U</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1845–1900, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 16 reel 1U</td>
<td>Miscellaneous writings</td>
<td>1860, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 17 reel 1U</td>
<td>Drawings; printed matter</td>
<td>1911, undated</td>
</tr>
</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**
- Families
- Lawyers

**Geographic Names**
- Minnesota -- Description and travel
- St. Anthony (Minn.) -- History
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

**Occupations**
- Soldiers

**Names**
- Weston, Sarah Chauncey Winthrop
- Winthrop, Elizabeth Dwight Woolsey
- Winthrop, William, 1831-1899

**Families**
- Weston family
- Winthrop family
- Woolsey family

**Corporate Body**
- Yale University -- Students