Guide to the Ethan Allen Andrews Family Papers

MS 761

by Susan Grigg

June 1976

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
mssa.assist@yale.edu
http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/

CALL NUMBER: MS 761

CREATOR: Andrews, E. A. (Ethan Allen), 1787-1858

TITLE: Ethan Allen Andrews family papers

DATES: 1835–1945

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.02 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Essentially a collection of over 200 letters written between 1837 and 1852 by Ethan Allen Andrews and his wife, Lucy Cowles Andrews, to their son, Horace. Ethan Allen Andrews (1787-1858) was an educator who wrote a successful series of Latin textbooks, was active in Connecticut politics and public affairs, and also managed a farm in New Britain. The letters begin upon Horace’s entrance to Yale College and in addition to parental advice contain progress reports from Ethan Allen Andrews on his scholarly activity and accounts of his publishing negotiations. Also in the papers are miscellaneous items relating to his interest in education and the classics, family photographs and a reminiscence by Ethan Allen Andrews II about and photographs of York Square, now the site of Payne Whitney Gymnasium.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0761

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.0761.

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
Ethan Allen Andrews Family Papers (MS 761). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical
Ethan Allen Andrews was born in the parish of New Britain, Berlin, Connecticut, in 1787. A Yale graduate (1810), he read law and practiced briefly, but his career was in education. He taught in New Britain (1814-1822), Chapel Hill, N.C. (1822-1828), New Haven (1828-1833), Boston (1833-1839), and once again in New Haven (1840-1843). His later years were devoted to the preparation of a highly successful series of Latin textbooks, the first of which appeared in 1836, and the management of Walnut Grove, his farm in New Britain. He married Lucy Cowles of Farmington in 1810. They had ten children, two of whom, Horace and Julia, assisted him in teaching and writing. He represented Berlin (1815-1817) and New Britain (1851) in the General Assembly, was twice elected Judge of Probate for the Belin District, and worked to improve the public schools and to secure rail connections for New Britain. He died there in 1858.

For further information, see: Franklin B. Dexter, Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College (New Haven, 1912), VI, 293-298; David N. Camp, History of New Britain (New Britain, 1889), facing p. 234 (engraving), pp. 465-467; and Hubbard Winslow, Eulogy on the Death of the Late Professor E.A. Andrews, LL.D. (Boston, 1858).

Scope and Contents
The Ethan Allen Andrews Family Papers consist of one manuscript box containing over two hundred letters, one bound volume, a register of births and deaths, and a printed leaflet.

All but two of the letters were addressed to Horace Andrews (1819-1901; Yale, 1841) by his father and mother, Ethan Allen Andrews and Lucy (Cowles) Andrews, with occasional postscripts by his brothers and sisters. They are arranged chronologically, extending from 1837, when Horace was planning to matriculate at Yale, to 1852, shortly after he had moved his legal practice from New Haven to New York, and many of the gaps correspond with his visits to the family. The majority of the letters were written from Walnut Grove, but some were sent from Boston during the terms of his father’s teaching there. There is also a
letter that Ethan Allen Andrews wrote to his father shortly after he began his studies at Yale. A register of family births and deaths can be found at the beginning of the first folder.

Most of the letters, but especially those of Lucy (Cowles) Andrews, deal with domestic matters - offering advice, expressing affection, reporting family and neighborhood news. The central theme between 1827 and 1841 was Horace’s college career. His father was concerned that he maintain good habits in study, prayer, and exercise; his mother, that he be sure of her devotion and feel free to call on her and his sisters for anything he might require. His father paid for his education with some difficulty, and the entire family was deeply interested in his success.

A second major theme of Ethan Allen Andrews’ letters is his scholarly activity. There are progress reports, comments on other works in the field, and accounts of negotiations with co-authors, publishers, and school superintendents. The record of his other activities is less detailed. A strong Union man, he preferred “whiggery in the large way, the whiggery of Clay and Crittenden and Webster” (1849 Mar 6); and his letters of the late 1840s and early 1850s comment occasionally on the condition of the party and of Union sentiment in Connecticut. In the same period he kept Horace informed about the progress of efforts to have the State Normal School built in New Britain and to secure rail connections with Hartford, New Haven, and Middletown, but he seldom specified his own contribution. Late in 1851 he travelled to Milledgeville, Georgia, to visit his daughter and son-in-law, Ann and William McKinley. His letters from their plantation, Beulah, describe the methods of agriculture, comment on the crudeness of the plantation house and grounds, and express surprise that his daughter could be content in such surroundings. While there he met a kinsman of his wife, a Mr. Williams of Farmington, Conn., who, he reported, (Dec 11), was travelling incognito because he was active in the Underground Railroad.

The remainder of the papers consist of three unrelated items. The text of the leaflet, “Report Respecting...Village Schools,” was produced shortly after 1850 by the Committee of the First School District in New Britain; it recommends expansion and reorganization in the local system. The letter from the British classicist Sir William Smith is a polite justification of his criticisms of Ethan Allen Andrews’ Latin-English Lexicon, probably made in the preface to his own Smaller Latin-English Dictionary (1855). Horace Andrews’ “Life and Writings of Virgil,” probably written in 1862, is a bound volume the first few pages of which conform to the title, but the bulk of the text is a set of annotations to the Aeneid.
# Collection Contents

## Inventory

| b. 1, f. 20 | Andrews Ethan Allen, “Report Respecting the Best Organization of Village Schools” | post–1850 |
| b. 1, f. 21 | Smith, William: letter | 1855 |
| b. 1, f. 22 | Andrews, Horace, “The Life and Writings of Virgil” | 1862(?) |
Accession 2013-M-067. Additional material

Additional correspondence of the Ethan Allen Andrews family, including correspondence from Lucy Cowles Andrews to her son, Horace, Sr., and from Horace, Sr. (1819-1901), to his son, Horace, Jr. (1852-1945), and his siblings; a journal; and photographs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correspondence</th>
<th>1850s–1890s</th>
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<tr>
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<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td>1862</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
<td>1863</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 5</td>
<td>1864</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 6</td>
<td>1865</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 7</td>
<td>1866–1869</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 8</td>
<td>1870–1875</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 9</td>
<td>1876–1879</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 10</td>
<td>1880s and 1890s</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 11</td>
<td>Journal</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 12</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
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<td>1861–1933</td>
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Accession 2013-M-074. Additional Material

Additional photographs of members of the Ethan Allen Andrews family, correspondence, and a reminiscence written by Ethan Allen Andrews II about York Square, now the site of Payne Whitney Gymnasium on the Yale University Campus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 1 1850–1852</td>
<td>1850–1852</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 2 1945</td>
<td>1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3 Andrews, Ethan Allen II, “Reminiscences of York Square house”</td>
<td>Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4 Photographs and floor plan of York Square house</td>
<td>1870, 1907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 5 Photographs of members of the Andrews family</td>
<td>Undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Real estate maps</td>
<td></td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 6 1885 May 9</td>
<td>1885 May 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 6 1888</td>
<td>1888</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
Classical education
Education
Educators
Latin language -- Study and teaching

Geographic Names
Connecticut
Southern States
United States -- Politics and government

Names
Andrews, E. A. (Ethan Allen), 1787-1858
Andrews, Horace, 1819-1901

Corporate Bodies
Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1810
Yale University -- Students