Guide to the Thomas Hartley Crawford Papers

MS 844

compiled by Ruth Gay

January 1979

Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview ................................................................................................................................. 3  
Requesting Instructions ............................................................................................................................. 3  
Administrative Information ....................................................................................................................... 3  
  Immediate Source of Acquisition .................................................................................................................. 3  
  Conditions Governing Access ..................................................................................................................... 4  
  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  
Yale University Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 844

**CREATOR:** Crawford, Thomas Hartley, 1786-1863

**TITLE:** Thomas Hartley Crawford papers

**DATES:** 1827–1862

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.5 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The most important part of the Thomas Hartley Crawford Papers relate to Crawford's work on a presidential commission investigating land fraud in connection with the 1832 treaty with the Creek Indians. There are also legal opinions, reports, financial records and correspondence with members of Congress which reflect his work as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1836-1845, and as a judge in Washington, D.C., 1845-1861. Among his correspondents are Dixon H. Lewis, C. C. Clay, William Mitchell and J. C. Ten Eyck.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0844

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**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.0844.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>folder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Administrative Information**

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
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Preferred Citation
Thomas Hartley Crawford Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical
Thomas Hartley Crawford, a lawyer from Pennsylvania, served as representative to Congress from 1829-1833. He then served as a member of the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives in 1833-1834. In 1836, he was appointed to investigate suspected fraud in the sale of Creek lands in Alabama. From 1838 to 1845 he served as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and subsequently as judge of the criminal court in the District of Columbia, 1845-1861. He died in 1863.

Scope and Contents
Thomas Hartley Crawford’s papers, spanning the years 1827 to 1862, concern both his personal and official affairs, although in both cases they are largely financial and legal in character. The personal papers include a voluminous financial correspondence (1827-1862) with Anna Maria Inglis, the head of a boarding school attended by Crawford’s sisters and daughters. There is also a brief autobiographical sketch written in 1858.

The major portion of the papers stems from Crawford’s investigative work on the 1832 treaty with the Creek Indians and contains testimony, documents and legal opinions in the case against General James C. Watson. Other papers are connected with Crawford’s work as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, including his legal opinions on cases concerning Indian lands (1838), miscellaneous legal documents, correspondence, accounts and memoranda relating to the Miami Indians (1839-1842). The Shawnee and the Cherokee tribes are also mentioned in several cases. There are a few items concerning local ordinances in Washington (1837-1855).
### 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>Personal financial and legal papers</td>
<td>1831–1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2-3</td>
<td>Financial correspondence with Anna Maria Inglis</td>
<td>1827–1862</td>
</tr>
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<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
<td>Eulogy on Alexander H. Lawrence</td>
<td>1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
<td>Autobiographical sketch</td>
<td>1858</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 5</td>
<td>Washington, D.C. - local ordinances and correspondence</td>
<td>1837–1855</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 6-7</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1832–1862</td>
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<td>Legal opinions on cases relating to Indian lands</td>
<td>1838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 9</td>
<td>Memoranda, reports, notes and miscellaneous financial and legal</td>
<td>1840–1842,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>documents on Indian affairs</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 10</td>
<td>Names of towns and Indian chiefs in district of R. W. McHenry</td>
<td>1836 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 11</td>
<td>Legal and financial documents</td>
<td>1826–1836,</td>
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<tr>
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<td>undated</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 12</td>
<td>Abstract and notes on testimony of J. C. Watson</td>
<td>1836 August 26,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>November 16–17</td>
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<td>Opinion of T. Hartley Crawford on the contract of 1836 Aug 28</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>between certain Creek chiefs and J. C. Watson, et. al.</td>
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<td>Copy of the contract approved by the President between certain Creek</td>
<td>1837 February 17</td>
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<td>chiefs and J. C. Watson</td>
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<td>b. 1, f. 15</td>
<td>Miami Indians: memoranda, correspondence and other papers on the Miami</td>
<td>1839–1842</td>
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<td>Indians</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
Creek Indians
Education
Indians of North America
Law
Lawyers
Miami Indians

Geographic Names
Southern States
Washington (D.C.)

Occupations
Legislators
Politicians

Names
Clay, Clement Comer, 1789-1866
Crawford, Thomas Hartley, 1786-1863
Lewis, Dixon Hall, 1802-1848
Lewis, Ellis, 1798-1871
Livingston, John
Mitchell, William, 1807-1865
Poinsett, Joel Roberts, 1779-1851
Ten Eyck, John C. (John Conover), 1814-1879

Corporate Body
United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs