

# Guide to the Johnstone-Walker Family Papers

MS 949



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

July 1983

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 949

**CREATOR:** Johnstone family

**TITLE:** Johnstone-Walker family papers

**DATES:** 1833-1951

**BULK DATES:** 1833-1901

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Chiefly diaries and correspondence by the wife and daughters of Thomas Pinckney Johnstone, a missionary to Turkey from 1833 to 1853. The diaries record their attempts to convert Turkish, Greek, and Armenian neighbors, the persecutions suffered by the converts, and the life of the missionary family. Diaries and letters written on their return to the United States describe their life in Granville, Ohio where they met anti-slavery activists; in Salem, Massachusetts; and in New Haven, Connecticut. The diary of Martha Johnstone Walker reports on her experiences at the Le Roy Seminary in New York. Also in the papers are six family letters and genealogies of the Walker and Johnstone families.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0949>

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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 <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0949>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. Curtis H. Walker, 1957.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown, though much of the material in this collection is likely in the public domain. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Johnstone-Walker Family Papers (MS 949). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of diaries and letters of the Johnstone (also spelled Johnston) and Walker families. Almost all of the items in the collection were written by the women of the family, in particular Marianne Cassandra (Howe) Johnstone (Mrs. Thomas Pinckney Johnstone) and her daughters Martha Howe (Johnstone) Walker (Mrs. James Walker) and Mary Sybil Johnstone. Thomas Pinckney Johnstone (died 1883) was a missionary for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions sent to Turkey in 1833, where he served in Constantinople, Trebizond, and Smyrna before returning to the United States with his family in 1853, and the diaries of his wife and daughters record their experiences in both countries. Marianne Johnstone writes of raising her children in Turkey surrounded by hardship and disease, or her attempts to convert her Turkish, Greek, and Armenian neighbors, and of the persecutions suffered by the converts. Martha Johnstone Walker kept diaries which describe the countryside, the happy family life they enjoyed, events such as the visit of the Sultan of Smyrna, and their voyage home to America in 1853, while her sister Mary Johnstone wrote a short history of the family's adventures in Turkey.

The diaries of Marianne and Martha Johnstone continue after their return to the United States and describe their life in Granville (Ohio), where they came in contact with anti-slavery activists, in Salem (Massachusetts), and in New Haven (Connecticut). Martha Johnstone Walker attended Le Roy Seminary in New York, and her school experiences include a women's rights debate and a student rebellion against bad food. A more detailed summary of the diaries, prepared by Curtis Howe Walker, son of James and Martha Walker, is included in the collection. Also included are a record of Johnstone family births and marriages, and six family letters, the earliest of which is a record of Thomas Pinckney and Marianne Johnstone's activities in Smyrna in September of 1846 and of their education of their children. Of the remaining letters, an undated one from Martha Johnstone Walker was written in Turkey and the others were written after the family had moved to the United States.

These papers were donated to Yale University by Mrs. Curtis H. Walker in 1957.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	<a href="#">"Copy of Family Record from Johnstone Bible in possession of James Walker of Hinsdale, Ill., son of Martha Johnstone and James Walker"</a> English	undated
Marianne C. (Howe) Johnstone (1804-1898)		
b. 1, f. 2	<a href="#">Diary</a>	1843-[1852]
b. 1, f. 3	Diaries	1854-1887
Martha Hall (Johnstone) Walker (1836-1917)		
b. 1, f. 4	Diary	1850-1854
b. 1, f. 5	<a href="#">Diary</a>	1853 March-May
b. 1, f. 6	<a href="#">Exercise book and diary</a>	1853-1854
b. 1, f. 7	Diary	1855-1861
b. 1, f. 8	<a href="#">Mary Sybil Johnstone (1844-1918): reminiscence of Smyrna</a>	[post-1833]
Letters		
b. 1, f. 9	Marianne Cassandra (Howe) Johnstone to Mary Linnel	1846 September 7, 11
b. 1, f. 9	Thomas Pinckney Johnstone to Robert Alexander Johnstone	1854 May [8?]
b. 1, f. 9	William Curtis Johnstone to Marianne C. (Howe) Johnstone	1861 December 19
b. 1, f. 9	Marianne C. (Howe) Johnstone to "little Allit" [Alice Johnstone Walker]	1875 April 13
b. 1, f. 9	S. [G.?] W. Benjamin to Martha [Hall (Johnstone) Walker?]	1901 December 17
b. 1, f. 9	Martha Hall (Johnstone) Walker to Marianne C. (How) Johnstone	undated
b. 1, f. 10	<a href="#">Curtis Howe Walker (1877-1956): "Summary of Family Documents Preserved by Alice Johnstone Walker"</a>	1951

## **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  
Families  
Missionaries  
Missionaries' spouses  
Missions -- Turkey  
Slavery -- Antislavery movements  
Women -- Education  
Women -- United States

### **Geographic Names**

İzmir (Turkey) -- Description and travel  
Middle East  
New Haven (Conn.) -- Social life and customs  
Ohio -- Social life and customs  
Salem (Mass.) -- Social life and customs  
Turkey -- Social conditions

### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries

### **Names**

Johnstone, Marianne Cassandra Howe,  
1804-1898  
Johnstone, Mary Sybil, 1844-1918  
Walker, Curtis Howe, 1877-1956  
Walker, Martha Hall Johnstone, 1836-1917

### **Families**

Johnston family  
Walker family