Guide to the Shadrach Osborn Papers

MS 1035

compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

September 1982

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Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1035  
**CREATOR:** Osborn, Shadrach, 1747-1838  
**TITLE:** Shadrach Osborn papers  
**DATES:** 1765–1838  
**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 linear foot  
**LANGUAGE:** English  
**SUMMARY:** Correspondence and financial papers of Shadrach Osborn, a general merchant of Southbury, Connecticut, who was also active as a commissary during the Revolutionary War. Also included are the records of his business associate, Truman Hinman and his son, Erastus Osborn, who was sheriff of New Haven County. An account book for purchases from wholesale suppliers covers the period 1783-1792. The three letters in the papers are from Erastus Osborn. One dated 1812 describes a town-gown riot in New Haven, Connecticut and two written to his father in January 1824 report the discovery of a body stolen by Yale medical students from the West Haven, Connecticut burying ground.  

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1035

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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.1035.

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 collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
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Preferred Citation
Shadrach Osborn Papers (MS 1035). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical
Shadrach Osborn was born on April 14, 1747, in the parish of Southbury, Connecticut. Little is known of his early life. During the Revolutionary War, he purchased and issued commissary departments. At the end of the war, Osborn was appointed a state purchaser of provisions for the army. He died on August 27, 1838.

Scope and Contents
This collection is composed almost entirely of business papers of Shadrach Osborn, a general merchant of Southbury, Connecticut, and of his son, who was a sheriff of New Haven County. Included are miscellaneous financial papers such as receipts, orders, and so forth, and an account book listing primarily invoices for purchases by Osborn from wholesale suppliers.

Three letters written by Erastus Osborn from New Haven are also included in the collection. The first describes a "town-and-gown" riot in April of 1812, and the other two, written in January of 1824, describe the discovery of a body stolen by Yale medical students from the West Haven graveyard.

Arrangement
The papers are arranged chronologically.
## Collection Contents

### Inventory

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<th>Container</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1 - 34</td>
<td>Miscellaneous financial papers</td>
<td>1765-1805</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 35 - 49</td>
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<td>1806-1838</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 49a</td>
<td>Letters</td>
<td>1812, 1824</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 50</td>
<td>Account book</td>
<td>1783-1792</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
Business
Businessmen
General stores
Merchants

Geographic Names
Connecticut
New Haven (Conn.)
Southbury (Conn.)
United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783

Genres / Formats
Account books

Names
Hinman, Truman, b. 1731
Osborn, Erastus, b. 1785
Osborn, Shadrach, 1747-1838

Corporate Bodies
Yale University -- History
Yale University -- Students
Yale University. School of Medicine