

# Guide to the Street Family Papers

MS 946



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

November 1982

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  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 946

**CREATOR:** Street family

**TITLE:** Street family papers

**DATES:** 1795-1933

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.75 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The major figure in these papers is Joseph Monfort Street, who was an Indian agent in Iowa in the 1820s and 1830s. Half of the collection is made up of family correspondence (1805-1931). Included is the correspondence of Joseph M. Street with his wife, Eliza Maria Posey Thornton, and his sons, and members of the Street and Posey families. Topics discussed in the letters include religion, health, national politics and slavery, particularly in reference to slaves owned by the Street family. Joseph M. Street's experiences on the frontier are documented in letters and financial records. Also in the papers are writings by Ida M. Street, William B. Street, and others on Indian affairs in the Iowa territory (1899-1901) and a day book (1795-1802) belonging to George Cheney.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0946>

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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.0946>.

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 Mr. and Mrs. George Cheney, 1976-1982.

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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

Street Family Papers (MS 946). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains papers from several generations of the family of General Joseph Montfort Street, Indian agent in Iowa in the 1820s and 1830s. Included are correspondence (arranged in chronological order), writings, legal and financial papers, genealogical papers, memorabilia, and other miscellaneous items.

The correspondence falls roughly into three groups: that of Joseph M. Street (1782-1840) and his wife, Eliza Maria (Posey) Thornton (1792-1846), with other family members, particularly Alexander Posey, from 1805 through the 1840s; that of their sons Anthony Waddy Street (1831-) and William B. Street (1819-) from the 1840s to the 1890s; and that of Ida Maria Street, daughter of William B. Street, from the 1880s through the 1930s. Throughout, the correspondence reveals the efforts of the large Street and Posey families to keep in touch despite their dispersal across the southern United States and along the frontier. While it is true that family disputes arose from time to time (see letters for 1811 Oct 28, 1816 Feb 22, 1836 May 17, 1850 Oct 29, 1851 May 30, 1852 May 23), for the most part great affection is expressed, not only between husband and wife (e.g. 1809 Dec 18), but also among members of widely separated branches of the family. Financial problems are shared and the consolation of religion is offered in times of sickness and death (1809 Jan 27, 1815 Feb 6, 1832 Sep 18, 1840 Sep 2, 1845 Apr 11). Other matters of interest include letters on local politics and corrupt elections (1808 Feb, 1831 Feb 17, 1839 Dec 4) and a campaign appeal on behalf of Abraham Lincoln (folder 30), letters about slaves owned by the Street family (1807 Oct 4, 1811 Jul 22, 1818 Feb 2, 1836 Oct 16), an indenture between Joseph M. Street and a free black woman (folder 48), certificates attesting the loyalty of William B. and Anthony Waddy Street during the Civil War (folder 48), a receipt for the sale of a slave (folder 50), and photographs of Ulysses S. Grant and of members of the Street family (folder 56).

Materials relating to Indian affairs include a letterbook kept by Joseph M. Street as Indian agent for the years 1830-1832 (the second half of the volume has been used by William B. Street as an account book); letters for the dates 1833 Jul 28, 1834 Jan 7, Jun 3-4, 1835 Dec 13, 1836 Oct 4, 1839 May, Aug 6, Dec 4, 1840 Jan 7, Feb 1, Feb 23, 1841 Apr 11, 1842 Nov 15, 1843 Feb 20; and a few other items concerned for the most part with the finances of the Indian agency (folder 47). In these materials are documented Joseph M. Street's views on the treatment of the Indians and his hopes for treaties with them, disputes among the various tribes around Prairie du Chien, and events leading up to the Black Hawk War in the 1830s. Also discussed

are financial and legal difficulties in which Joseph M. Street became mired as Indian agent. Materials dealing with other aspects of Joseph M. Street's career include letters to his children describing his early travels to and life on the frontier (1836 Oct 16, 1837 Jan 25), a copy of a letter from Henry Clay (1829 Feb 16), papers, including a printed prospectus, concerning *Western World* (1806 Jul 31, Sep 2, Nov 8), and memorabilia such as his commission as brigadier-general (folder 48). In addition, most of the writings deal with Joseph M. Street and Indian affairs in Iowa and Wisconsin.

Information about the Street and Posey family trees can be found in folders 51 and 52, which contain notes on the two families and a copy of *The Street Genealogy*, published in 1895. The only item in the collection not directly related to the Street and Posey families is a daybook for 1795-1802 (folder 49) belonging to George Cheney, whose family was later connected by marriage to the Anthony Waddy Street family. It was members of this branch of the Street family, Mr. and Mrs. George Cheney, who in 1976-1977 donated the Street Family Papers to Yale University.

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## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1795-1933, undated

20" (4 boxes)

Correspondence		
b. 1, f. 1	1805-1809	1805-1809
b. 1, f. 2	1811-1818	1811-1818
b. 1, f. 3	1820-1829	1820-1829
b. 1, f. 4	1830-1831	1830-1831
b. 1, f. 5	1832 English	1832
b. 1, f. 6	1833 English	1833
b. 1, f. 7	1834 English	1834
b. 1, f. 8	1835-1836	1835-1836
b. 1, f. 9	1837-1838	1837-1838
b. 1, f. 10	<a href="#">1839</a> English	1839
b. 1, f. 11	1840-1842	1840-1842
b. 1, f. 12	1843-1844	1843-1844
b. 1, f. 13	1845-1848	1845-1848
b. 1, f. 14	1849 English	1849
b. 1, f. 15	1850-1851	1850-1851
b. 1, f. 16	1852 English	1852
b. 2, f. 17	1853 January-March	1853 January- March
b. 2, f. 18	1853 April-December	1853 April- December
b. 2, f. 19	1854 January-July	1854 January- July
b. 2, f. 20	1854 October-December	1854 October- December
b. 2, f. 31	Combined letter book and accountbook	1830-1832, 1840-1845

## Correspondence (continued)

b. 2, f. 21	1855 January-August	1855 January-August
b. 2, f. 22	1855 September-1859	1855 September-1859
b. 2, f. 23	1860-1873	1860-1873
b. 2, f. 24	1882-1892	1882-1892
b. 2, f. 25	1893 English	1893
b. 2, f. 26	1896-1899	1896-1899
b. 2, f. 27	1905-1920	1905-1920
b. 2, f. 28	1921-1931	1921-1931
b. 2, f. 29-30	undated	undated
Writings		
b. 3, f. 32	Hull, James: "Life of Major Genl. Thomas Posey" (ms. copy)	undated
b. 3, f. 33	Perrin, William Henry: "The Western World...," excerpted from <i>The Pioneer Press of Kentucky</i> , Filson Club Publications, No. 3	undated
b. 3, f. 34	Street, A.W.: notes re death of Joseph M. Street	undated
Street, Ida M.		
b. 3, f. 35	"A Chapter of Indian History," <i>Annals of Iowa</i> , Vol. 3 English	1899 January
b. 3, f. 36	"The Simon Cameron Indian Commission of 1838," <i>Annals of Iowa</i> English	1905 July-October
b. 3, f. 37	"A Century Old Chapter of Our Indian Affairs" English	undated
b. 3, f. 38	"The Yellow River School" English	undated
b. 3, f. 39	Notes on Indian affairs in Iowa and Wisconsin	undated
Street, William B.		
b. 3, f. 40	Speeches about Joseph M. Street and Indian affairs	1860, 1890
b. 3, f. 41	"General Joseph M. Street," <i>Annals of Iowa</i> , Vol. 2 English	1895 July-October
b. 3, f. 42	"Life of Gen. J.M. Street" English	undated
b. 3, f. 43	Wilson, George: "George, Wilson: First Territorial Adjutant of the Militia of Iowa," <i>Annals of Iowa</i> , Vol. 4	1901 January

## Writings (continued)

b. 3, f. 44	Unknown author: "The Acquisition of Iowa Lands from the Indians"; "Indian Affairs in Iowa Territory; 1839-1843"; "Indian Affairs in Iowa Territory"; all in <i>Annals of Iowa</i>	undated
b. 3, f. 45	Unknown author: funeral address for Mr. Street	undated
b. 3, f. 46	Printed matter re: Silver King Coalition Mines Company	
b. 3, f. 47	Papers re: Indians (statements, notes, etc.)	1831-1833, undated
b. 3, f. 48	Legal papers and documents	1818-1869, undated
Financial papers		
b. 3, f. 49	Daybook of George Cheney, "Bought January 1st, 1796"	1795-1802
b. 3, f. 50	Receipts, bills, etc.	1822-1835, 1932-1933
Genealogical papers		
b. 4, f. 51	<i>The Street Genealogy</i> , by Henry A. Street and Mary A. Street	1895
b. 4, f. 52	Notes, newspaper clippings, etc.	1855-1887, 1923, undated
b. 4, f. 53	Memorabilia	1846-1932
b. 4, f. 54	Map of Prairie du Chien	undated
b. 4, f. 55	Three leather wallets, two containing locks of hair of Street family members	undated
b. 4, f. 56	Photographs and postcards	1863-1894, undated
b. 4, f. 57	Miscellaneous poems	undated
b. 4, f. 58	Miscellaneous	undated
b. 4, f. 59	Photographs from Middle East	undated



## **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  
Frontier and pioneer life -- Iowa  
Husband and wife  
Indians of North America  
Slavery -- United States

### **Geographic Names**

Iowa -- History  
Middle West  
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

### **Genres / Formats**

Account books

### **Names**

Cheney, George, 1771-1829  
Posey, Alexander Lawrence, 1873-1908  
Street, Anthony Waddy  
Street, Ida M. (Ida Maria), 1856-  
Street, Joseph Montfort, 1782-1840  
Street, William B., b. 1819  
Thornton, Eliza Maria Posey, 1792-1846

### **Families**

Posey family  
Street family