

# Guide to the Thomas Gilyard Papers

MS 241



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

August 1981

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P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 241

**CREATOR:** Gilyard, Thomas, 1786-1853

**TITLE:** Thomas Gilyard papers

**DATES:** 1808-1853

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Diaries, a farm ledger, poems, hymns and correspondence. The diary entries cover the years 1828-1853 and are interspersed with copies of Gilyard family letters from England (1808-1818) together with fifty-five pages of recipes for dyes. Many of the diary entries concern the Methodist Church of which Gilyard was a trustee for some thirty years. The farm ledger (1835-1845) records farm activities and the sale of farm produce.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0241>

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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.0241>.

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 David F. Gilyard in 1953.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. 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

Thomas Gilyard Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Thomas Gilyard was born in Leeds, England in 1786, son of Edmund Gilyard. He was brought to the United States in 1807 by General David Humphreys to assist the latter in the establishment of his woolen mill in Humphreysville, now Seymour, Connecticut. Gilyard was the first broadcloth finisher in this country. He married Lois French of Bethany, Connecticut in 1810, took the freeman's oath in 1819, and settled on a farm in Humphreysville. He was an ardent member of the Methodist church, of which he was a trustee for about thirty years, and something of amateur poet and artist. He died in 1853.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of Thomas Gilyard's journal, a farm ledger, and various poems and hymns, as well as some correspondence. In the first volume of the journal, preceding or interspersed with diary entries for 1828-1843, are copies of letters to and from Gilyard's family in England (1808-1818) and fifty-five pages of recipes for dyes. The other volume is almost entirely composed of diary entries, 1832-1853. Included are detailed accounts of family and neighborhood activities, local politics, legal cases in the vicinity, and much matter of interest for the history of the Methodist church. The small ledger dates mainly from 1833-1845, with a few later entries, and deals for the most part with farm activities and the sale of farm produce. Finally, there is also a volume of poems, hymns, and so forth, and a photostatic copy of a self-portrait of Gilyard.

The papers were the gift of David F. Gilyard in 1953.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Journal, Vol. I	1808-1843
b. 1, f. 2	Journal, Vol. II	1832-1853
b. 1, f. 3	Ledger	1833-1853
b. 1, f. 4	Poetry and hymns	undated
b. 1, f. 5	Photostats of material removed from the journal and returned to the donor: self- portrait and poem	undated

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## **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**

Agriculture  
Business  
Clergy  
Dyes and dyeing  
Emigration and immigration  
Farms -- Connecticut -- Seymour  
Woolen and worsted manufacture --  
Connecticut -- Seymour

### **Geographic Names**

Connecticut  
Seymour (Conn.) -- History

### **Genres / Formats**

Account books  
Diaries

### **Occupations**

Weavers

### **Names**

Gilyard, Thomas, 1786-1853

### **Corporate Body**

Methodist Episcopal Church (Seymour, Conn.)