

# Guide to the Ethan Allen Andrews Family Papers

MS 761



by Susan Grigg

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Yale University Library  
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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 761

**CREATOR:** Andrews, E. A. (Ethan Allen), 1787-1858

**TITLE:** Ethan Allen Andrews family papers

**DATES:** 1835-1945

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.02 linear feet (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Essentially a collection of over 200 letters written between 1837 and 1852 by Ethan Allen Andrews and his wife, Lucy Cowles Andrews, to their son, Horace. Ethan Allen Andrews (1787-1858) was an educator who wrote a successful series of Latin textbooks, was active in Connecticut politics and public affairs, and also managed a farm in New Britain. The letters begin upon Horace's entrance to Yale College and in addition to parental advice contain progress reports from Ethan Allen Andrews on his scholarly activity and accounts of his publishing negotiations. Also in the papers are miscellaneous items relating to his interest in education and the classics, family photographs and a reminiscence by Ethan Allen Andrews II about and photographs of York Square, now the site of Payne Whitney Gymnasium.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0761>

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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.0761>.

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

Accession 2013-M-067, 2013-M-074 and 2023-M-0007 gift of Sandra B. Shirey, 2013 and 2022.

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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

Ethan Allen Andrews Family Papers (MS 761). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Ethan Allen Andrews was born in the parish of New Britain, Berlin, Connecticut, in 1787. A Yale graduate (1810), he read law and practiced briefly, but his career was in education. He taught in New Britain (1814-1822), Chapel Hill, N.C. (1822-1828), New Haven (1828-1833), Boston (1833-1839), and once again in New Haven (1840-1843). His later years were devoted to the preparation of a highly successful series of Latin textbooks, the first of which appeared in 1836, and the management of Walnut Grove, his farm in New Britain. He married Lucy Cowles of Farmington in 1810. They had ten children, two of whom, Horace and Julia, assisted him in teaching and writing. He represented Berlin (1815-1817) and New Britain (1851) in the General Assembly, was twice elected Judge of Probate for the Berlin District, and worked to improve the public schools and to secure rail connections for New Britain. He died there in 1858.

For further information, see: Franklin B. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College* (New Haven, 1912), VI, 293-298; David N. Camp, *History of New Britain* (New Britain, 1889), facing p. 234 (engraving), pp. 465-467; and Hubbard Winslow, *Eulogy on the Death of the Late Professor E.A. Andrews, LL.D.* (Boston, 1858).

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## Scope and Contents

The Ethan Allen Andrews Family Papers consist of one manuscript box containing over two hundred letters, one bound volume, a register of births and deaths, and a printed leaflet.

All but two of the letters were addressed to Horace Andrews (1819-1901; Yale, 1841) by his father and mother, Ethan Allen Andrews and Lucy (Cowles) Andrews, with occasional postscripts by his brothers and sisters. They are arranged chronologically, extending from 1837, when Horace was planning to matriculate at Yale, to 1852, shortly after he had moved his legal practice from New Haven to New York, and many of the gaps correspond with his visits to the family. The majority of the letters were written from Walnut Grove, but some were sent from Boston during the terms of his father's teaching there. There is also a

letter that Ethan Allen Andrews wrote to his father shortly after he began his studies at Yale. A register of family births and deaths can be found at the beginning of the first folder.

Most of the letters, but especially those of Lucy (Cowles) Andrews, deal with domestic matters - offering advice, expressing affection, reporting family and neighborhood news. The central theme between 1827 and 1841 was Horace's college career. His father was concerned that he maintain good habits in study, prayer, and exercise; his mother, that he be sure of her devotion and feel free to call on her and his sisters for anything he might require. His father paid for his education with some difficulty, and the entire family was deeply interested in his success.

A second major theme of Ethan Allen Andrews' letters is his scholarly activity. There are progress reports, comments on other works in the field, and accounts of negotiations with co-authors, publishers, and school superintendents. The record of his other activities is less detailed. A strong Union man, he preferred "whiggery in the large way, the whiggery of Clay and Crittenden and Webster" (1849 Mar 6); and his letters of the late 1840s and early 1850s comment occasionally on the condition of the party and of Union sentiment in Connecticut. In the same period he kept Horace informed about the progress of efforts to have the State Normal School built in New Britain and to secure rail connections with Hartford, New Haven, and Middletown, but he seldom specified his own contribution. Late in 1851 he travelled to Milledgeville, Georgia, to visit his daughter and son-in-law, Ann and William McKinley. His letters from their plantation, Beulah, describe the methods of agriculture, comment on the crudeness of the plantation house and grounds, and express surprise that his daughter could be content in such surroundings. While there he met a kinsman of his wife, a Mr. Williams of Farmington, Conn., who, he reported, (Dec 11), was travelling incognito because he was active in the Underground Railroad.

The remainder of the papers consist of three unrelated items. The text of the leaflet, "Report Respecting...Village Schools," was produced shortly after 1850 by the Committee of the First School District in New Britain; it recommends expansion and reorganization in the local system. The letter from the British classicist Sir William Smith is a polite justification of his criticisms of Ethan Allen Andrews' *Latin-English Lexicon*, probably made in the preface to his own *Smaller Latin-English Dictionary* (1855). Horace Andrews' "Life and Writings of Virgil," probably written in 1862, is a bound volume the first few pages of which conform to the title, but the bulk of the text is a set of annotations to the *Aeneid*.

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## Collection Contents

### Original accession

b. 1, f. 1-19	Letters	1806, 1837-1838 January-July, 1838 October- Dec, 1839-1840 January-April, 1842 March- April, 1844 September-1845 April-Dec, 1846 January-Jun, 1849 January- July, 1846 July- Dec, 1847- 1849 August- Dec, 1850-1852 January-July, 1852 August- Dec, undated
b. 1, f. 20	Andrews Ethan Allen, "Report Respecting the Best Organization of Village Schools"	post-1850
b. 1, f. 21	Smith, William: letter	1855
b. 1, f. 22	Andrews, Horace, "The Life and Writings of Virgil"	1862(?)

**Accession 2013-M-067: Additional material, 1850-1933**

Additional correspondence of the Ethan Allen Andrews family, including correspondence from Lucy Cowles Andrews to her son, Horace, Sr., and from Horace, Sr. (1819-1901), to his son, Horace, Jr. (1852-1945), and his siblings; a journal; and photographs.

	Correspondence	1850s-1890s
b. 1, f. 1	1850s	1850s
b. 1, f. 2	1860-1861	1860-1861
b. 1, f. 3	1862 English	1862
b. 1, f. 4	1863 English	1863
b. 1, f. 5	1864 English	1864
b. 1, f. 6	1865 English	1865
b. 1, f. 7	1866-1869	1866-1869
b. 1, f. 8	1870-1875	1870-1875
b. 1, f. 9	1876-1879	1876-1879
b. 1, f. 10	1880s and 1890s	1880s and 1890s
b. 1, f. 11	Journal	1894
b. 1, f. 12	Photographs	1861-1933

**Accession 2013-M-074: Additional Material, 1850-1945**

Additional photographs of members of the Ethan Allen Andrews family, correspondence, and a reminiscence written by Ethan Allen Andrews II about York Square, now the site of Payne Whitney Gymnasium on the Yale University Campus.

Includes a photograph of Lucy Cowles Andrews received in 2022 (as accession 2023-m-0007).

Correspondence		
b. 1, f. 1	1850-1852	1850-1852
b. 1, f. 2	1945 English	1945
b. 1, f. 3	Andrews, Ethan Allen II, "Reminiscences of York Square house"	Undated
b. 1, f. 4	Photographs and floor plan of York Square house	1870, 1907
	Photographs of members of the Andrews family	Undated
b. 1, f. 5	Andrews, Lucy Cowles	circa 1845, 1850
b. 1, f. 5	Andrews, Ethan Allen (1787-1858)	undated
b. 1, f. 5	Andrews, Ethan Allen (brother of Horace) The image is a photograph of a painting depicting Ethan Allen Andrews	undated
b. 1, f. 5	Andrews, Horace, Jr.	undated
Real estate maps		
b. 1, f. 6	1885 May 9	1885 May 9
b. 1, f. 6	1888	1888



## **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**

Classical education  
Education  
Educators  
Latin language -- Study and teaching

### **Geographic Names**

Connecticut  
Southern States  
United States -- Politics and government

### **Names**

Andrews, E. A. (Ethan Allen), 1787-1858  
Andrews, Horace, 1819-1901

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1810  
Yale University -- Students