

# Guide to the Frederick William Hotchkiss Papers

MS 974



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

October 1982

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
mssa.assist@yale.edu  
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## Collection Overview

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

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 974

**CREATOR:** Hotchkiss, Frederick William, 1762-1844

**TITLE:** Frederick William Hotchkiss papers

**DATES:** 1783-1844

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Sermons, prayers, records of the First Church of Saybrook, Connecticut (1783-1844), memorandum books, a few items of correspondence, and materials relating to a private school that Frederick Hotchkiss conducted in his house. The records of the First Church and the memorandum books are available in photostatic copies from a microfilm of the originals.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0974>

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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.0974>.

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 Frederick Sheffield, 1941-1942.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Frederick William Hotchkiss Papers (MS 974). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Frederick William Hotchkiss, the fifth of seven children of John Hotchkiss (Yale 1748) and Susanna (Jones) Hotchkiss, was born in New Haven on October 30, 1762, and was baptized on the following day. An elder brother was graduated here in 1774.

During the invasion of New Haven by the British on July 4, 1779, he acted as an aid to the officer who commanded the force raised in resistance. In this conflict his father and two of his uncles were slain.

For four years after graduation he taught school,--during the latter part of the time in Wethersfield, Connecticut. Meantime he studied theology, and he was licensed to preach by the Hartford South Association of Ministers in October, 1782.

Early in the following month he began to supply the pulpit in Saybrook, Connecticut, where the Rev. William Hart (Yale 1732) had been for six months disabled from preaching. He soon received a unanimous invitation to settle as colleague-pastor, but owing to his consciousness of inexperience he deferred compliance with the repeated requests of this people for several months, and was finally ordained on September 24, 1783, over a church of 69 members.

The senior pastor died in July, 1784, and Mr. Hotchkiss remained in sole charge of the society until June, 1838, when in response to his own request a colleague was settled. During this ministry over six hundred persons had been admitted to the church. He continued in office until his death, in Saybrook, after three days' illness, on March 31, 1844, in his 82d year.

He was married, on August 29, 1790, by the Rev. Richard Ely, of Westbrook, to Amelia Hart, the youngest child of his predecessor in office, who died on August 8, 1845, aged 84 ½ years. Their children were two daughters, who survived them.

Father Hotchkiss, as he was called, was an ideally faithful pastor, and an affectionate, fervent preacher of practical righteousness. His voice was of almost phenomenal strength. Besides his other labors, for a number of years he taught a private school in his own house, at which some thirty young men were fitted for College.

(Taken from *Yale College Biographical Sketches*, 1778).

## Scope and Contents

Original and photostatic materials pertaining to Frederick William Hotchkiss and to his parish, the First Church of Saybrook, Connecticut, make up this collection. The original documents include four copies of the Articles of Faith and the church covenant of First Church, a selection of sermons, addresses, and prayers by Hotchkiss (1787-1838), and a small notebook of letters from Hotchkiss to William Tully, Jr. (1802-1807). Supplementing these items are photostatic copies of records of First Church (1783-1844), further writings by Hotchkiss (1802-1844), and several memorandum books. These copies were made from a microfilm of the original documents belonging to Frederick Sheffield. He donated the Frederick William Hotchkiss Papers to Yale University in 1941-1942, and gave the microfilm to the Connecticut State Library.

## Collection Contents

|             |  |                   |
|-------------|--|-------------------|
| b. 1, f. 1  | Articles of Faith and Church Covenant, Saybrook [4 copies]   | undated           |
| b. 1, f. 2  | Sermons  | 1787-1795         |
| b. 1, f. 3  | Valedictory address before the First Church and Congregation of Saybrook   | 1838 January 7    |
| b. 1, f. 4  | Prayers for the Superior Court of Haddam   | 1803, 1807        |
| b. 1, f. 5  | Prayers for special occasions, and other set pieces  | undated           |
| b. 1, f. 6  | Records of the First Church, Saybrook [photostatic copy]   | 1783-1844         |
| b. 1, f. 7  | Sermon, "On the contemplation of an aged Pastor on the completion of the sixtieth year of his ministry," Saybrook [photostatic copy] | 1843 September 24 |
| b. 1, f. 8  | Reflections Nativitatus [photostatic copy]   | 1802-1844         |
| b. 1, f. 9  | Memorandum book [photostatic copy]   | 1815-1844         |
| b. 1, f. 10 | "Names of young gentlemen educated for college..." and memorandum book [photostatic copy]  | 1843              |
| b. 1, f. 11 | Letters from FWH to William Tully, Jr. [original and photostatic copy]   | 1802-1807         |
| b. 1, f. 12 | Arithmetic book [photostatic copy]   | undated           |
| b. 1, f. 13 | ALS Caroline E. Moore to Frederick Sheffield relating to FWH mss. [photostatic copy]   | 1912 February 7   |
| b. 1, f. 14 | Clippings of obituaries  | 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**

Clergy

Education -- Connecticut -- Saybrook

### **Genres / Formats**

Sermons

### **Names**

Hotchkiss, Frederick William, 1762-1844

### **Corporate Body**

First Church of Christ (Saybrook, Conn.)