

Guide to the Alfred Elijah Perkins Papers

MS 1016



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

July 1983

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1016

CREATOR: Perkins, Alfred Elijah, 1809-1834

TITLE: Alfred Elijah Perkins papers

DATES: 1826-1833

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Chiefly disputes and compositions written while Alfred Elijah Perkins was at Yale College on topics of historical, political, and religious interest. Also included is a textbook on natural philosophy. Three letters written by Perkins to his family during the last year of his life on a journey to Madeira and Barbados are also in the papers.

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Requesting Instructions

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased in 1950 and 1951. Gift of Stan Oliner, 2006.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Alfred Elijah Perkins Papers (MS 1016). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Alfred Elijah Perkins, son of Major Joseph and Mary (Watkinson) Perkins, of Norwich, Connecticut, was born on April 5, 1809. A sister married the Hon. John A. Rockwell (Yale 1822).

He attended three courses of medical lectures, the first in Boston, and the others at the University of Pennsylvania. At the close of the last course, as a result of his strenuous application in preparation for his examinations, he was quite suddenly and severely attacked with pulmonary consumption. He was able to secure in March, 1833, the degree of M.D., and spent the next six months in the South. In September he started for Madeira, going thence to the West Indies, and returning home in the summer of 1834 by way of New Orleans and the Mississippi. He died in Norwich on October 29, in his 26th year. He was never married.

By his will he left \$10,000 to the Yale Library for the purchase of books; so large a sum had not before been given at one time by any individual to the College.

(Taken from *Biographical Notices of Yale College Graduates, 1816-1884*, p. 213).

Scope and Contents

The papers of Alfred Elijah Perkins pertain for the most part to his study at Yale College. They include thirty-two disputes and compositions written between 1828 and 1830 on topics of historical, political, religious, and general interest, a notebook containing an essay on Ecclesiastes IX, 18, and a printed volume, *Outlines of the Experimental Lectures in Natural Philosophy, Delivered at Yale College, for the Use of the Students*, heavily annotated and with loose papers laid in.

There are, in addition, three letters written from Madeira and Barbados by Perkins to his family in 1833. These describe his voyages to Europe and back, and his impressions of the places he had visited.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Letters	1830, 1833
b. 1, f. 2 - 5	Disputes and compositions	1826-1830
b. 1, f. 6	Notebook	1827 February 4
b. 1, f. 7	<i>Outlines of the Experimental Lectures in Natural Philosophy, Delivered at Yale College, for the Use of the Students</i> English	1828

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.

Geographic Names

Barbados -- Description and travel
Madeira (Madeira Islands) -- Description and travel

Names

Perkins, Alfred Elijah, 1809-1834

Corporate Bodies

Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1830
Yale University -- Curricula
Yale University -- Students