

Guide to the William Griswold Lane Memorial Collection

MS 189



July 2008

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 189

CREATOR: Lane, William Griswold, 1824-1877

TITLE: William Griswold Lane memorial collection

DATES: 1670-1947

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 23.25 linear feet (87 boxes, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: A collection of documents on the early history of Connecticut assembled by Wolcott Griswold Lane as a memorial to his father, William Griswold Lane. The original bequest consisted of approximately 1,000 letters and papers (1670-1866) of the Lane and Griswold families of Connecticut and Ohio. Families represented in the correspondence include: Daggett, Dana, Edwards, Ellsworth, Fish, Goodrich, Hillhouse, Huntington, Lanman, Sherman, Stiles, Swayne, Swift, Trumbull, Waite, Whittlesey, Williams, Wolcott, and Woodbridge. Later additions include the extensive financial records of Joshua Huntington of New London, Connecticut recording his activities during the Revolutionary War, including the building and outfitting of the frigate, *Confederacy*. Huntington's account books after 1784 are for a commissary business in New London as well as his records for a factory that processed linseed oil and meal. Also included are deeds for real estate in Norwich, Connecticut.

The papers of Augustus Henry Griswold make up another substantial part of the collection and include temperance lectures, stories, and ships' account books (1811-1836). Also in the collection are legal and financial papers (1797-1840) relating to the building and reconstruction of the wharf in New Haven, the account books (1793-1818) of Avery & Tracy, general merchants of Norwich, Connecticut, as well as the day books (1773-1794) of Samuel Avery and his tailoring business. Other major additions are whaling logs (1850-1859), a memorial on the need for a pest house in New Haven (1785), papers of the Rowland family of Fairfield, Connecticut, letters of Jabez Huntington, major general of the Connecticut militia during the Revolutionary War, and fourteen letters (1838-1876) from President Rutherford B. Hayes to William Griswold Lane.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0189>

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.0189>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to 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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Wolcott Griswold Lane, 1938-1952.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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.

Preferred Citation

William Griswold Lane Memorial Collection (MS 189). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Processing Information

The finding aid lists only four of the 27 boxes in the collections. See Other Finding Aids note for link to scan of original contents list.

Other Finding Aids

The original (non-standard) guide to the collection [Guide](#).

Biographical / Historical

William Griswold Lane practiced law in Ohio from 1847-1873. In 1873 he became Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

Scope and Contents

A collection of documents on the early history of Connecticut assembled by Wolcott Griswold Lane as a memorial to his father, William Griswold Lane. The original bequest consisted of approximately 1,000 letters and papers (1670-1866) of the Lane and Griswold families of Connecticut and Ohio. Families represented in the correspondence include: Daggett, Dana, Edwards, Ellsworth, Fish, Goodrich, Hillhouse, Huntington, Lanman, Sherman, Stiles, Swayne, Swift, Trumbull, Waite, Whittlesey, Williams, Wolcott, and Woodbridge. Later additions include the extensive financial records of Joshua Huntington of New London, Connecticut recording his activities during the Revolutionary War, including the building and outfitting of the frigate, *Confederacy*. Huntington's account books after 1784 are for a commissary business in New London as well as his records for a factory that processed linseed oil and meal. Also included are deeds for real estate in Norwich, Connecticut.

The papers of Augustus Henry Griswold make up another substantial part of the collection and include temperance lectures, stories, and ships' account books (1811-1836). Also in the collection are legal and financial papers (1797-1840) relating to the building and reconstruction of the wharf in New Haven, the account books (1793-1818) of Avery & Tracy, general merchants of Norwich, Connecticut, as well as the day books (1773-1794) of Samuel Avery and his tailoring business. Other major additions are whaling logs (1850-1859), a memorial on the need for a pest house in New Haven (1785), papers of the Rowland family of Fairfield, Connecticut, letters of Jabez Huntington, major general of the Connecticut militia during the Revolutionary War, and fourteen letters (1838-1876) from President Rutherford B. Hayes to William Griswold Lane.

Collection Contents

| | | |
|------------|---|---------------|
| b. 21, 21A | Backus family collection Correspondence and business papers of Elijah, Rufus, and James Backus; letters to Sarah Backus from various individuals; A.L.S. from Sarah Backus to her sister; The Works of Creation: autograph MS of an essay probably by Sarah Backus; Exile of Eden: autograph MS of a poem by Mary Backus; cancelled checks signed by William Backus; together with Miscellaneous letters and papers of other members of the family. Addition 29. Purchased, 1950. | 1750–1859 |
| b. 21A | Lane, Ebenezer, correspondence and business papers Correspondence and business papers of Ebenezer Lane, papers relating to the settlement of his estate, A.L.S. of his wife, Mrs. Marion Griswold Chandler Lane Ely to her daughter, Mrs. Ursula Chandler Frink, and 18 letters to Mrs. Ely from her children and other individuals, correspondence and business papers of Justin Ely, who married Ebenezer Lane's widow, and miscellaneous papers. Addition 29. Purchased, 1950. | 1744–1827 |
| b. 21A | Woodbridge, Dudley, correspondence and legal and business papers Addition 29. Purchased, 1950. | 1769–1789 |
| b. 21A | Griswold, Roger correspondence (15 ALS) from family members and others Addition 30. Gift of Wolcott G. Lane, 1950. | 1788–1812 |
| b. 21A | Roger Wolcott to Stephen Williams (1 ALS) Addition 30. Gift of Wolcott G. Lane, 1950 | 1717 March 17 |
| b. 21A | 2 ALS from Oliver Wolcott, Jr. (1760-1833), 1795 and 1801; DS, 1791 Addition 31. Purchased, 1951. | |
| b. 21A | Gov. Roger Griswold to Stephen Hosmer (ALS), 1812 Jun 25 Addition 32. Gift of Wolcott G. Lane, 1951. | 1812 June 25 |
| b. 21B | Griswold family and other papers Largely papers of the Griswold family, 1675-1861. Also correspondence and other papers signed by Nathaniel Shaw (1735-1782), Joseph Trumbull (1782-1861), Noah Webster (1758-1843), and Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804), and others. Addition 33. Gift of the estate of Jeannette M. K. Griswold, 1952. See also box 27. | 1675–1861 |
| b. 21B | Griswold family papers Approximately 15 items. Addition 34. Gift of Wolcott G. Lane, 1952. | 1811–1939 |
| b. 21B | Wolcott, Roger (1679-1767) Roger Wolcott's Journal of the Expedition against Louisbourg in 1745 together with his autobiography, [typed carbon copy of the original ms., which belonged to Thomas Robbins, D.D. of Hartford, Connecticut. Addition 34. Gift of Wolcott G. Lane, 1952. | 1845 |

| | | |
|--------|---|---|
| b. 21B | Griswold, Lane, Ely, and Wolcott families papers (5 items) Addition 35. Gift of Wolcott G. Lane, 1952. | 1804-1862, undated |
| b. 21C | Griswold and Lane families papers Approximately 45 items. Addition 36. Gift of Wolcott G. Lane, 1952. | 1750-1899 |
| b. 21C | Griswold family papers Approximately 15 items. Addition 37. Gift of Wolcott G. Lane, 1952. | 1814-1854 |
| b. 21C | Griswold family papers Approximately 6 items. Addition 38. Gift of Wolcott G. Lane, 1952. | 1820-1864 |
| b. 21C | Ship's log (New London) Ship Superior (whaler bound to New Zealand), Alber McLean master. Log-keeper not identified. Ship's log (New London) 1838 Nov 29 - 1840 Dec 7. Also in back of volume "Remarks on Board," 1810 Apr 24 - Aug 10, as well a glued on receipts related to the estate of Peter Andre and Mrs. Andre, 1858-1860. Addition 38. Gift of Wolcott G. Lane in 1952. | 1810-1860, bulk 1838 November 29- 1840 December 7 |

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

Business
Businessmen
General stores -- Connecticut -- Waterford
Harbors -- Connecticut -- New Haven
Medicine -- Formulae, receipts, prescriptions
Merchants
Presidents -- United States
Shipping
Students
Wharves -- Connecticut -- New Haven

Geographic Names

Connecticut -- Social life and customs
Louisbourg (N.S.) -- History -- Siege, 1745
Lyme (Conn.) -- History
New Haven (Conn.) -- History
New London (Conn.) -- Commerce
Norwich (Conn.) -- Commerce
Ohio -- Economic conditions
United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Equipment and supplies
United States -- Politics and government

Genres / Formats

Deeds
Logbooks

Occupations

Manufacturers
Soldiers

Names

Adams, Eliphalet, 1677-1753
Adams, William, 1650-1685
Avery, Samuel, 1752 or 3-1842
Beckwith, Russell, b. 1788
Griswold, Augustus Henry, 1789-1836
Griswold, Charles Chandler, 1787-1869
Griswold, Matthew, 1714-1799

Griswold, Matthew, 1760-1842
Griswold, Roger, 1762-1812
Griswold, Thomas, 1817-1840
Griswold, William C.
Hale, Enoch, 1753-1837
Hayes, Rutherford B., 1822-1893
Hemans, Felicia Dorothea Browne, 1793-1835
Huntington, Jabez, 1719-1786
Huntington, Joseph, 1768-1837
Huntington, Joshua, 1751-1821
Jones, George, 1810-1879
Lane, Ebenezer, 1793-1866
Lane, William Griswold, 1824-1877
Wolcott, Roger, 1679-1767

Families

Dana family
Doggett family
Edwards family
Ellsworth family
Fish family
Goodrich family
Griswold family
Hillis family
Huntington family
Landman family
Sherman family
Stiles family
Swain family
Swift family
Trumbull family
Waite family
Whittlesey family
Williams family
Wolcott family
Woodbridge family

Corporate Bodies

Avery & Tracy
Confederacy (Frigate)
Joseph B. Huntington & Co
New Haven Wharf Company
Superior (Ship)
Yale University -- Students