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# William Tully Papers

GEN MSS 1403



by Beinecke Staff

2016

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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 1403

**CREATOR:** Tully, William, 1785-1859

**TITLE:** William Tully Papers

**DATES:** 1806-1859

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.08 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** Primarily in English with some documents in Greek.

**SUMMARY:** The papers contain correspondence between Tully and his colleagues, primarily medical colleagues, and with the medical schools in which he taught. Also present is Tully's autograph diary covering the three months he spent studying medicine with Nathan Smith in Hanover, New Hampshire, drafts of his writings, two catalogues of his library, and a group of certificates and diplomas he received from schools and professional societies.

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

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.tully>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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 Sarah and Elizabeth Tully, 1896.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The William Tully Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Processing Information

This finding aid was produced from a previously existing card set in the Manuscripts Catalog.

Former call numbers: Z117.00191, Z117.221

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## Related Materials

William Tully's three Yale diplomas were removed in 1937 for the Yale Memorabilia Collection, and are in the Yale Diploma Collection (RU 150), Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library. His Yale College Class of 1806 class album (Vault Yb71 806t), is also in Manuscripts and Archives.

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## William Tully Jr. (1785-1859)

William Tully was born at Saybrook Point, Connecticut, on November 18, 1785, the son of Colonel William Tully, and the great-grandson of John Tully, a publisher of almanacs at Saybrook in the eighteenth century. Tully entered Yale College in 1802 and graduated in 1806, after which he studied medicine with Dr. Mason Fitch Cogswell in Hartford. He was granted an A.M. degree from Yale in 1807. In 1808 and 1809 he studied with Dr. Nathan Smith at the medical school at Dartmouth College, and in 1810 with Dr. Samuel Carter in Saybrook and Dr. Eli Ives in New Haven, where he gave particular attention to botany. In October 1810 Tully was licensed to practice medicine in Connecticut. Yale awarded him an honorary M.D. in 1819, as did the Medical College of South Carolina in 1843.

Between 1810 and 1824 Tully practiced medicine in the Connecticut towns of Milford, Enfield, Cromwell, Middletown, and East Hartford, before being appointed as president and professor at the Vermont Academy of Medicine at Castleton; he remained on the faculty until 1838, though he stepped down as president in 1830.

In January 1826 Tully moved to Albany, New York, and formed a practice with Dr. Alden March, a colleague at Castleton. In September 1829 he was appointed to the faculty of medicine at Yale and moved to New Haven, although holding a dual appointment with the Vermont Academy of Medicine. In 1842 Tully resigned from the faculty at Yale, and in 1851 moved with his wife Mary Potter Tully (died 1853) to Springfield, Massachusetts. He died there on February 28, 1859, at the age of 73.

Biographical information taken from "The Peregrinating Dr. William Tully, A.M., M.D.," by H. B. Ferris, in the *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine* 5, no. 1 (October 1932), and "William Tully" in Franklin Bowditch Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, volume 6 (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1885-1912), pages 68-73; the latter includes a bibliography of Tully's publications.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers contain correspondence between Tully and his colleagues, primarily medical colleagues, and with the medical schools in which he taught. Also present is Tully's autograph diary covering the three months he spent studying medicine with Nathan Smith in Hanover, New Hampshire, drafts of his writings, two catalogues of his library, and a group of certificates and diplomas he received from schools and professional societies.

## **Arrangement**

Organized into two series: I. Correspondence, 1806-1858. II. Personal Papers, 1808-1859.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1806–1858

41 Folders

#### Letters to William Tully

b. 1, f. 1	Ames, Julius Rubens	1836 June 13
b. 1, f. 2	Association of American Geologists Letter from Benjamin Silliman (1816-1885) regarding Tully's election to membership; accompanied by a copy of Tully's reply.	1845
b. 1, f. 3	Barnard, Henry	1838 November 29
b. 1, f. 4	Beers, Nathan	1815 September 4
b. 1, f. 5	Boardman, Giles M.	1834–1841
b. 1, f. 6	Boardman, Henry Elisha	1835 December 30
b. 1, f. 7	Bronson, Henry	1836 July 8
b. 1, f. 8	Childs, Henry Halsey	1834 December 12
b. 1, f. 9	Cobb, Daniel G.	1856 July 23
b. 1, f. 10	College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of the State of New-York	1829
b. 1, f. 11	Dickson, Samuel Henry	1835 October 28
b. 1, f. 12	Fish, Henry	undated
b. 1, f. 13	Hicks, T. B.	1835 April 24
b. 1, f. 14	Hopkins Medical Association Letter from corresponding secretary Milo Linus North; accompanied by a copy of Tully's reply.	1831
b. 1, f. 15	Howe, Hezekiah	1829 September 18
b. 1, f. 16	Jocelyn, Nathaniel	1858 December 2
b. 1, f. 17	Medical Society of the County of Albany (N.Y.)	1828
b. 1, f. 18	Miner, Thomas, 2nd Thomas Miner 2nd (1800-1873) was a cousin of Dr. Thomas Miner (1777-1841); letters concern the death of Dr. Miner and the bequest of his library to William Tully.	1841

## Letters to William Tully (continued)

b. 1, f. 19	New Orleans Academy of Sciences Letters from Noah Bennet Benedict regarding Tully's election to the New Orleans Academy of Sciences; accompanied by Benedict's card, copies of Tully's letter to the registrar of the academy, and Tully's membership certificate.	1856-1858
b. 1, f. 20	Nott, Abraham Nott	1833 December 19
b. 1, f. 21	Phi Beta Kappa. Connecticut Alpha (Yale College) Letter from Isaac H. Townsend, corresponding secretary; accompanied by a copy of Tully's reply.	1829
b. 1, f. 22	Robertson, John Brownlee Letters concerning a chair of chemistry at the Medical College of the State of South Carolina; accompanied by a draft of Tully's reply.	1835
b. 1, f. 23	Sibley, Nehemiah C.	1834 April 10
b. 1, f. 24	Stoutenburgh, Abraham	1830 January 5
b. 1, f. 25	Strong, John McCurdy	1806 August 6
b. 1, f. 26	Vermont Academy of Medicine Letter of appointment to the faculty of the medical school at Castleton, Vermont, signed by Zimri Howe; accompanied by a copy of Tully's reply to the academy, and his two letters to Theodore Woodward.  Also present is a circular letter (May 23, 1825) regarding Tully's resignation, an undated proof print of a newspaper advertisement for the academy, and an undated letter to Tully from a group of academy students.	1828-1829
b. 1, f. 27	Wells, Landon	1841, 1845
b. 1, f. 28	Whiting, Nathan	1816
b. 1, f. 29	Whitridge, Joshua Barker Accompanied by a copy of Tully's reply.	1833
b. 1, f. 30	Whittlesey, Chester	1836 February 24
b. 1, f. 31	Woodward, Samuel B. (Samuel Bayard)	1841
b. 1, f. 32	Woodward, Theodore	1838 January 10
b. 1, f. 33	Yale College, Medical Institution Regarding his appointment as professor; includes letters to and from the committee of nomination, Jeremiah Day, Eli Ives, Jonathan Knight, and Benjamin Silliman. Also present are three letters to Tully regarding his teaching, two from Yale medical students and one from his colleagues Charles Hooker and Jonathan Knight.	1829-1843
Letters from William Tully		
b. 1, f. 34	Cogswell, Mason Fitch	1814, 1816

## Letters from William Tully (continued)

b. 1, f. 35	Other correspondents Single letters to M. C. Hazen, Ansel W. Ives, Jonathan Knight, and Constantine Samuel Rafinesque.	1851–1855
<p>Third-party correspondence The subseries contains letters written between Dr. Tully's colleagues; most refer in some way to Dr. Tully.</p>		
b. 1, f. 36	Hooker, Charles, to Thomas Miner Regarding a position as head of the Bloomingdale Asylum for the Insane in New York; Hooker's letter to Miner was written at the end of a letter from John Stearns to Hooker.	1824 March 24
b. 1, f. 37	Ives, Eli, to Thomas Miner Regarding Tully's appointment at Yale; accompanied by Tully's autograph notes explaining the letter.	1829 April 9
b. 1, f. 38	Miner, Thomas, to Daniel McGregor Three-page autobiographical letter from Miner to his friend Dr. McGregor.	1826 May 26
b. 1, f. 39	Miner, Thomas, to Nathan B. Ives Regarding Sawyer's <i>Mental Philosophy</i> .	1839 May 22
b. 1, f. 40	Seeger, Edwin, to unidentified	1855 April 9
b. 1, f. 41	Woodward, Theodore, to Alden March	1828 December 29



**Series II: Personal Papers, 1808–1859***11 Folders*

b. 1, f. 42	Journal Autograph diary of Tully's journey from Saybrook, Connecticut, to Hanover, New Hampshire, in September 1808 to study medicine, and his journey back to Saybrook in January 1809. In the pages between he wrote of his life in Hanover and his classes at Dartmouth with Dr. Nathan Smith.  The diary was edited by Oliver S. Hayward and Elizabeth H. Thomson, and published as <i>The Journal of William Tully, Medical Student at Dartmouth, 1808-1809</i> , with a foreword by John F. Fulton (New York: Science History Publications, 1977).	1808–1809
b. 1, f. 43	Notes and drafts on scientific and medical topics	1834–1852
b. 1, f. 44	"Catalogue of the Names of Certain Plants" Booklet in paper wrappers with autograph notes on plants.	1833
b. 1, f. 45	"Catalogue of Library of William Tully, M.D." Booklet in wrappers with manuscript listing of book titles, citations, and sizes.	undated
b. 1, f. 46	<i>Catalogue of an Extensive Collection of Scientific, Medical and Miscellaneous Books, being the private library of the late Dr. Wm. Tully</i> (New York: George A. Leavitt & Co., 1859)	1859
b. 1, f. 47	"Epitaph on my Friend and Class Mate LHT" Manuscript transcript of an epitaph for Tully's classmate Leverett Hubbard Trumbull (Yale 1806) who died on May 7, 1807. The inscription was composed by his father and appears on his gravestone in Old North Cemetery, Hartford.	undated
b. 1, f. 48	Sample texts for diplomas and sample diploma Manuscript texts copied from diplomas issued by Brown University, Middlebury College, and Transylvania University, with manuscript layout for a Vermont Academy of Medicine diploma and an engraved certificate issued by the Connecticut Medical Society to Franklin Skidmore. Also present is a blue silk ribbon with a Vermont Academy paper seal from an academy diploma.	undated
b. 1, f. 49	Certificates and honors Contains certificates and awards from medical societies, and Tully's military appointment as surgeon of the Sixth Regiment of the Connecticut Militia.	1810–1825
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 50	Certificates and diplomas Membership certificates for Lyceum of Natural History of New-York, Medical Society of the State of New-York, New Orleans Academy of Sciences, and Iatrikē Hetaireia Athēnōn (the Athens Medical Society), and a diplomas from the Medical College of South Carolina.	1835–1854
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 51	"Scutellaria-Lateriflora. Scull-Cap" by William Tully, in <i>Middlesex Gazette</i> , vol. 35, no 1827	1820 November 30
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 52	Newspaper clippings with "Reviewers Reviewed" and reply, regarding Miner and Tully on fever	1824

## **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**

Physicians -- Connecticut

### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries -- United States -- 19th century

Diplomas -- Greece -- 19th century

### **Occupations**

Physicians -- Connecticut -- 19th century

### **Names**

Benedict, Noah Bennet, 1771-1831

Miner, Thomas, 1777-1841

Silliman, Benjamin, 1779-1864

Tully, William, 1785-1859

Woodward, Samuel B. (Samuel Bayard),  
1787-1850

Woodward, Theodore, 1788-1840

### **Corporate Bodies**

College of Physicians and Surgeons of the  
Western District of the State of New-York

Iatrikē Hetaireia Athēnōn

Medical College of the State of South Carolina

New Orleans Academy of Sciences

Vermont Academy of Medicine (Castleton, Vt.)

Yale College (1718-1887). Medical Institution