

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts
No. 119

Date processed: May, 1980

- I. Title Afro-American Collection 1688-1896
- II. The papers of concerning Afro-Americans in Connecticut and New Haven deposited in the Library on _____, by _____
In _____ converted the deposit to a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1/2 foot
Approximate number of items: 140
- IV. Restrictions: none
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of _____ in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on _____
- VII. Biographical note: This collection has been compiled from scattered papers having to do with black people chiefly in New Haven and Connecticut. It is not keyed to any one person or organization.
The few Negroes in New Haven in colonial days were probably all slaves. A number of Negroes served in the American Revolution, and after the war many prominent New Haveners, among them Ezra Stiles and Simeon Baldwin, spoke out against slavery by organizing Emancipation and African Improvement Societies. According to Osterweis in "Three Centuries of New Haven," the New Haven Negro population rose from about 200 in 1790 to over 600 persons in 1820.
In 1784 Connecticut passed a Gradual Emancipation Act which provided that all those born of slave parents would be liberated by age 25 (later changed to 21). Despite the act, New Haven Negroes led a segregated life and developed their own customs and social life. They also fought efforts of men like C.A. Ingersoll and Leonard Bacon to promulgate African colonization.
In 1839 the Amistad case aroused sympathy for the blacks. Under their leader Cinque, a group of Mendi tribesmen seized the ship Amistad which was bringing them to the Americas as slaves. The ship eventually landed on Long Island and the "mutineers" were jailed in New Haven awaiting trial. The townspeople had an opportunity to see them exercising on the Green, and Roger Sherman Baldwin undertook their defense. After two trials, one in Hartford and one in New Haven (in which John Quincy Adams aided the defense) the Amistad captives were freed and most returned to Africa.
For more complete accounts of Negro life in New Haven and the Amistad case, see "Three Centuries of New Haven", and consult the card catalog.

VIII: Analysis: The collection is housed in one box and one oversized container. It is organized by subject so that additions may be made easily. Among them are: Slavery (bills of sale, letters, depositions, handbills, etc.); New Haven free Negroes; Anti-Slavery Societies; and post-Civil War documents. Filed at the end of the collection are papers concerning the famous Amistad case, including photographs and negatives of sketches of the captives. Another interesting item is a letter from John Quincy Adams to Lewis Tappan about the Amistad captives.

All items are filed chronologically under the subjects. Most of the documents are from New Haven and Connecticut, with a few stemming from other parts of the country. They date back to 1688, but the bulk of the material is from the last part of the 18th century through mid-19th century. There is very little post-Civil War material.

Many documents about Afro-Americans may be found in other manuscript collections in this library. Some have been xeroxed, filed in Folder S and listed in the Table of Contents (p. 4). Others, which have not been xeroxed, are listed under the name of their collection on p. 5 for the researchers convenience.

Afro-American Collection
1688-1896

Table of Contents

Box I - Slavery

- Folder A - 1766 Petition to Conn. General Assembly [2]
from William Roberts of New York, vs.
Samuel Smith of Sharon, Conn. re sale
of runaway slaves
Deposition of Samuel & Joseph Smith
in this case
- B - 1767 List of baptisms of slaves, n.p., [1]
but includes slave belonging to Col.
George Washington (given to the Rev.
T.T. Munger, New Haven, 1902)
- C-1 through C-7: Bills of Sales - Slaves
- C - 1 - 1762 Wallingford, for Dick from Samuel [3]
Tyler to Daniel Tyler
1767 Stratford, Peggy - Daniel Hide to
Eunice Holbrook
1768 verso: John & Eunice Holbrook to
Asa Johnson, Woodbury
- C - 2 - 1771 New Haven, for Ham from Abram [1]
Hemingway to Abram Bradley (+ xeroxes)
- C - 3 - 1776 New Haven - Jess [1]
Michael Todd to Capt. Enos Atwater
(+ xerox)
- C - 4 - 1782 Salisbury, Conn. - Tom [1]
Jacob Bogarden to Adamijah Strong
(+ xerox)
- C - 5 - 1830 Loudon County, Virginia, Reuben [3]
Wilson G. Seldon, Jr. & Ludwell Lee
to Charles Eskridge, plus cover
1831 Recording of case (+ xeroxes)
- C - 6 - 1852 Charleston, S. C. - Jack [1]
William Hutson to Z.B. Oakes
1856 Richmond, Va. - Plato [2]
to Thomas C. Bunting Co.
- C - 7 1863 Dougherty County, Georgia, Henry & [1]
Samson W.G. Jones to Beers & Brinson
(+ xeroxes) (gift of Robert A. Beers
1915)
- Folder D - 1820-1825 Last sale of slaves in Connecticut [10]
at public auction
- Bill of sale, Sarah Tritten for Lucy
& Lois, July, 1820
- Chattel mortgage for Lucy & Lois - John
Nicoll from S. Tritten
- Assignment of mortgage by Nicoll to
Anthony P. Sanford, 1825

Box I, Folder D - continued

- Execution of judgment, J.H. Jacocks vs. S. Tritten re Lucy & Lois, 1825
- Receipts for sales of slaves
- Manumission paper (mss. not signed) for Lucy, 1825
- Quit claim deeds, 1825 by A. Sanford for emancipating Lucy & Lois

D - 1 - Xeroxes of papers in Folder D

- E - 1780 Deed, Amasa Joyce (free Negro) to James Lines for land in Amity (Woodbridge) [1]
- F - 1790 List of names & ages of New Haven black people in State, Union, Fleet & Water St. areas
- G - 1683 Facsimile - Germantown Friends Protest Against Slavery plus printed copy of same [2]
- H - 1783 Petition to Conn. General Assembly for their freedom by Cato, Frank, Jack, Cuff, Yarrow & Abel [1]
- I - 1790 Xerox of handwritten draft of Constitution of Conn. Society for the Promotion of Freedom (original in Ezra Stiles Collection MSS #7 and on microfilm) [1]
- J - 1792 Connecticut Society for the Promotion of Freedom [3]
 - Imprint. Constitution as amended 1792
 - Minutes of meeting, Sept. 13, 3 cc.
 - Manuscript, list of members, n.d.
- K - 1796 Broadside (3 cc.) "To the Free Africans and the Free People of Color in the U.S." from the Convention of abolitionist societies in Philadelphia [3]
- L - 1797 Connecticut Society for the Abolition of Slavery - Imprint, Letter from Joseph Bloomfield, President from the National Convention of Abolition Societies, Philadelphia [1]
- M - Letters/Deposition 1800-1857 [5]
- 1800 New York, Deposition - Lewis Hast re taking under his protection his "reputed daughter Solina by a 'colloured woman' from Wallingford
- 1831 ALS, William P. Aldrich to Isaack Rawlings, Washington, PA explaining why his faculty refuses to admit a student of mixed blood (partly Negro)
- 1840 (copy) Letter from Lt. Commander H.J. Matson, Royal Navy to U.S. Circuit Court re detaining American Brig "Tigris" for carrying slaves

MOVED TO
OVERSIZE
#1

1830 ALS from Jeremiah Day to Arthur Tappan.

Box I, Folder M - continued

- 1841 ALS, Boston, Josiah Sturgis to Judges of District Court offering to care for Negro boy
- 1857 ALS, Philadelphia, C.D. Cleveland re election of Sumner and copies of Emancipator (pasted to it is an autography of Henry Box Brown)
- N - Handbill, n.d. offering reward for Jason G. Shepard (a fugitive slave) [2]
- Lithograph, n.d. "The Resurrection of Henry Box Brown at Philadelphia (fugitive slave who escaped from Richmond, Va. in a box)
- O - Indian Slaves [2]
- 1727 Milford, Conn. Bill of sale for slave Caherol (?) to Richard Bryant by T. Clark
- 1896 Description of deed for above
- P - 1873 Broadside, Lecture by Mr. Islay Warren former slave, at Loomis Temple of Music New Haven, Sept. 4 [2]
- Q - 1889 Milford, Letter to Miss Diana Miles not signed, about rental of house to black man [1]

Amistad Case 1839

- R - 1 - ALS John Quincy Adams to Lewis Tappan re Amistad case, Boston, Nov. 19, 1841 [1]
- R - 2 - ALS E. Sweet to Juliana Chamberlain, New Haven, Feb. 13, 1841 re captives [2]
- ALS Kale (a captive) to Miss Chamberlain Feb. 71, 1841
- R - 3 Fragment, one page handwritten description of Amistad decisions - mounted on wood (in poor condition)- written by Mr. Townsend, n.d. (plus xerox and typed copy of contents) [1]
- R - 4 Photographs of sketches of Amistad captives (some duplicates) [15]
- R-5 *Speech Hon. J.A. Rockwell, Aug. 1848*
- R - 6 Photographs of Amistad murals at Talladega; photo of painting of ship; negative of article from N.Y. Sun, 1839 [13]
- R - 7 Correspondence concerning William A. Owen's manuscript for his book "Black Mutiny," from NHCHS

Original of
R-3 removed to
Oversize 1.

6 Broadside on painting,
"Massacre" by A. Hewins on
Amistad uprising. n.d.

Rox I -

Folder R - 8 - Correspondence re Amistad microfilm
in New York Public Library, 1977

S - Xerox copies of documents in NHCNS [12]
Collections re Afro-Americans in
New Haven

- Baldwin Collection MSS #63
1790 census of slaves in New Haven
Bill of sale, Peter, William Johnson,
Middletown to John Pierpont, 1771
- Ingersoll Papers MSS #68
William Worthington to J. Ingersoll,
1769, re slaves ALS
ALS Benjamin Gale to Ingersoll,
Dec. 1769
Bill of sale for Cambridge, S. Alling
to Ingersoll, 1751
Receipts to Ingersoll for slaves from:
Thaddeus Cook for Zilphea, 1755
Christopher Kilby for Ishon, 1761
Joshua Chandler for Damon, 1764
Richard Hubbard for Lelah, 1765
Page of diary, Sept. 1785 (Jonathan, Jr.)
with note that Negro girl "came to live
at our house"

(Ingersoll papers are on microfilm # 9)

- Wilford Papers MSS #67
John Wilford wills to his wife a Negro
boy, Quam, 1767
Account book page lists Negro man. Peter;
boy Quam; and Dick, and amounts paid for
each (on microfilm #2)
- See also Index to Maritime Collection
MSS #22

T - Correspondence concerning collection

Oversize Item 1 -

[4]

- Photograph of painting of Cinque -
in color 11" x 14", plus small black/
white print; also 8x10 glossy print, black and white.
- Photostat, New York Sun article re Amistad
1839
- New York Observer, Sept. 28, 1839 .
includes article on Amistad captives

U - Clippings

- V - "Grimes" engraving of [?] William Grimes, 1845
by Barber[?] 2 copies.

[2]

Additions - August 1989

Box 1/Folder W	January 4, 1870 issue of New Haven Morning Journal and Courier -includes article on New Haven observance of 7th anniversary of Emancipation Proclamation.	(1)
Box 1/Folder X	Photographs of blacks in New Haven n.d.	(3)
	African-American Caricatures	(5)

ADDITIONS - JULY 2000

Box 1/Folder Y	Book of Remembrances - Long Wharf
Box 1/Folder Z	Book of Remembrances - 114 Whitney Avenue

These two books were made available for visitors to New Haven to record their thoughts at the time of the arrival of the Amistad Schooner, a replica of the original ship. The Long Wharf volume was available at the site of the ship's docking on Saturday, July 15, 2000. The 114 Whitney Avenue volume was available in the Rotunda of the Historical Society from July 15, 2000 to

Documents in other collections
not xeroxed

1. Foote Collection MSS #98: [15]
Letters to Andrew Hull Foote, 1849-1855 re
slave trade, colonization and Foote's book
on Africa.
2. Alexander Catlin Twining Collection MSS #2 [4]
ALS, Zebina Kinsley to the Rev. Leonard Bacon
re colonization in Liberia, 1834
3 letters (1834, 1835, 1860) to Twining re
abolition in Connecticut
3. Ezra Reed Collection MSS #40 [1]
Pamphlet, African Colonization, address before
the American Colonization Society, Washington,
D.C., Jan., 1875, by the Rev. John Orcutt
4. J.W. Barber Collection MSS #107 [1]
Proofs of Barber's engravings of Amistad captives
5. Mary Hewitt Mitchell Collection MSS #48 [2]
Typescript and two typed copies (annotated)
of her manuscript, "Slavery in Connecticut"
Typescript, "Slavery in New Haven"
6. Nathan Beers Collection MSS #32 [1]
Payroll record, 4th Conn. Regiment, 2nd Company,
listing Connecticut blacks who fought in the
Revolution.
7. Microfilm No.2: Amistad case:
selected letters, 1839-1888. in the Baldwin
family papers (MS Group No.55) and Bacon
family papers (MS Group No.46) in the Yale
University Library collection.
Microfilmed at Yale U. 1970.