

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts
No. 92

Date processed: October, 1978

- I. Title Osborne Collection, 1792 - 1907.
- II. The papers of
deposited in the Library on _____, by
In _____ converted the deposit to a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 3 feet
Approximate number of items: 12 bound volumes.
- 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- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of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:

See page 2.

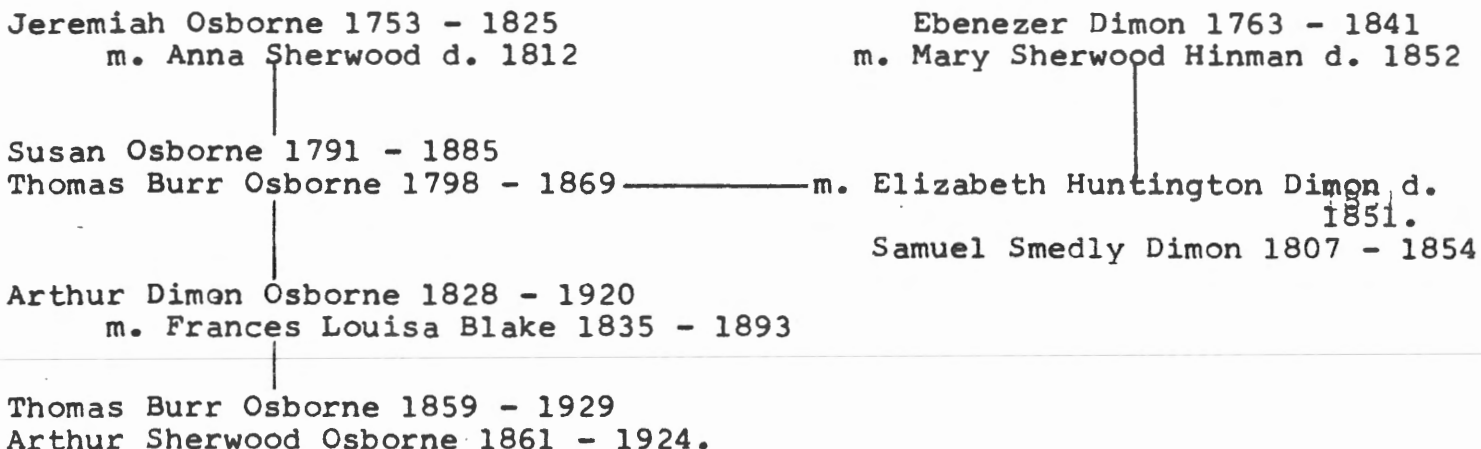
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- VIII. Analysis: Collection consists of two boxes and seven oversize items.
Material is in chronological order.

THE OSBORNE FAMILY

In Fairfield during the 18th and first half of the 19th centuries, and in New Haven during the latter part of the 19th century, the Osborne family achieved local prominence. The families into which Osbornes married were of similar stature. During the 19th century among the Osbornes and their relations were a Governor of Connecticut, two judges, several lawyers and successful businessmen and a distinguished scientist.

In 1889 a detailed book of the genealogy of the Osborne family and its relatives was drawn up by Arthur Dimon Osborne (1828 - 1920). Two copies of the published genealogy, one differing slightly from the other, are on the shelves of the Society library and are entitled, "Osborne Family Records." They are not a part of the Osborne Collection, but are important background material. The Osborne Collection consists of ledgers and account books of three generations of Osbornes, and record books of a relative by marriage, Ebenezer Dimon (1763 - 1841). The material was probably donated to the Society library by Thomas Burr Osborne (1859 - 1929) or his widow, or by Arthur Sherwood Osborne (1861 - 1924).

The chronological order in which the ledgers have been filed will be best understood by studying the 1889 Osborne genealogy. A capsule summary of this genealogy as it applies to the ledgers and records at hand is drawn up below.



Jeremiah Osborne: Born in 1753, he enlisted in the continental army early in the Revolutionary War and served with distinction thruout the conflict. He participated in several battles and was at Valley Forge and Yorktown. After the war he entered the dry-goods business, first in New York, then in Weston (now Easton), Connecticut and was most successful. Impaired health required him to retire to farming. He was the father of Susan Osborne and Thomas Burr Osborne. He died in 1825.

THE OSBORNE FAMILY (cont'd.)

Ebenezer Dimon: Born in 1763, he was with his father in the campaign of 1777, near New York. He rebuilt the family homestead in Fairfield after it was burned by the British in 1779. He was Sheriff of Fairfield County from 1806 to 1819, was a founder of Fairfield Academy and the Fairfield public library. His daughter Elizabeth Huntington Dimon married Thomas Burr Osborne. He died in 1841.

Susan Osborne: Born in Fairfield in 1791, she was the daughter of Jeremiah Osborne and the sister of Thomas Burr Osborne. Mention is made of her here because her note-book of household recipes dated 1837 is in the Library's women's collection (MSS #58). She died in 1885.

Thomas Burr Osborne: Born in Weston in 1798, the son of Jeremiah Osborne. He was admitted to the Bar in New Haven in 1820 and commenced the practise of law in Fairfield County. From 1826 to 1839 he held the position of Clerk of the Superior and County courts. He served two terms in the U.S. Congress and then served in the Senate of Connecticut. He served for several years a Judge of the Fairfield County court, and served as Judge of Probate for one year. He married Elizabeth Huntington Dimon.

In 1854 he moved his family to New Haven and taught at the Yale Law School until 1865 when he retired. He died in 1869 in New Haven.

Samuel Smedley Dimon: Born in 1807, the son of Ebenezer Dimon. He was executor of his father's estate and worked with his mother, Mary Sherwood Dimon, in its settlement. He was a delicate person and died in 1854 at the age of forty-seven.

Arthur Dimon Osborne: Born in 1828, son of Thomas Burr Osborne, he received law instruction from his father and was admitted to the Bar in 1850. He moved to New Haven in 1854 where he was Alderman of the 2nd Ward. He was appointed Clerk of the Superior and Supreme courts, remaining in that office until 1882. He held numerous civic posts and business directorships and in 1882 was elected President of the Second National Bank of New Haven. He retired in 1899 and died in 1920 at the age of 92.

Arthur Dimon Osborne took a great interest in the heritage of his family and published the genealogy of the Osborne family and its relatives in 1889. One of his two sons, Thomas Burr Osborne, became a distinguished scientist and was internationally known for his basic research in vegetable proteins at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven.

Content Guide
The Osborne Collection, 1792 - 1907.

Affairs of Jeremiah Osborne

- Item 1 Account book with merchants 1792 - 1828. Albert Turney helps to settle Jeremiah Osborne's estate after his death in 1825. Some accounts are recorded in dollars and cents, others in pounds, shillings and pence. Ledger is oversized.
- Item 2 Store account book 1792 - 1825. Some accounts are kept in dollars and cents, others in pounds, shillings and pence. Ledger is oversize.

Box I

Affairs of Ebenezer Dimon

- Folder A - Letter book of Ebenezer Dimon 1795 - 1829. This journal is unusual in that it contains copies of letters sent by Dimon. Copies of letters prior to the invention of the typewriter seem the exception rather than the rule. These letters deal with financial transactions and export-import dealings of Ebenezer Dimon with New York, Philadelphia, and London merchants. The journal also includes a list of expenses after Ebenezer Dimon's death, probably made by his son and executor, Samuel Smedley Dimon. This journal is of particular value because it expresses a sense of the conduct of business at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries.
- B - Account book of the estate of Ebenezer Dimon, 1841 - 1852. Samuel Smedley Dimon, son of Ebenezer Dimon, was executor of the estate, and Mary S. Dimon, widow of Ebenezer Dimon, was beneficiary.

Affairs of Thomas B. Osborne

Folder C - Ledger of the State Treasurer in account with Thomas B. Osborne, Clerk of the Fairfield County Superior court, beginning with his appointment in 1825, thru 1839. (The ledger begins in 1798 with the accounts of the previous clerk, David Burr.)

- Item 3 Account book of Fairfield County Treasurer with the Superior court of Fairfield County, 1779 - 1839. Item is oversize.
- Item 4 Receipt book of Thomas B. Osborne, Clerk of Superior court, Fairfield County, State of Connecticut, 1826-1829. Item is oversize.
- Item 5 Same as (4) above, 1829 - 1832.
- Item 6 Same as (4) above, 1832 - 1835.
- Item 7 Same as (4) above, 1835 - 1839.

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Box II

- Folder A - Arthur Dimon Osborne cash account book, January 1855 -
- January 1860.
A.D.O. receipts and expenditures account book, January,
1859 - June 1865. Cash accounts January, 1864 - December,
1865. Bond and stock transactions, 1864 and 1865.
- B - A.D.O. cash book, May, 1861 - October 1867, all entries
crossed out. Accounts with E.K. Foster, State Attorney.
A.D. O. expense book, January 1866 - November 1871.
- C - A.D.O. expense book, July 1871 - January 1880.
Same May 1880 - December 1888.
- D - Same January 1889 - December 1895.
Same January 1899 - December 1907.
- E - Miscellaneous letters.
Cover for letter to Seth P. Staples, Esq. dated
11 January 1822, from Thomas B. Osborne.
Letter to Messers. Day and Fitch dated 4 January,
1849, from Thomas B. Osborne.
- F - Last Will and Testament of Ebenezer Dimon, Feb. 12, 1841.
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Addendum, May 1979

Transferred from library shelves to Mss. 92.

- Item 8 - Osborne Family Records (book). Family genealogy prepared
by Arthur Dimon Osborne in 1889, privately printed, with
handwritten corrections and newspaper clipping updates by
~~others thru 1910, and with chapters on related families.~~
- 9 - Second copy of above with minor text changes and without
updates. Flyleaf signature of Thomas Burr Osborne.
- 10 - Osborne Family Records. Newspaper clippings and obituaries
on: Arthur Dimon Osborne 1828 - 1920
Thomas Burr Osborne 1859 - 1929
with emphasis on his scientific achievements.
Arthur Sherwood Osborne 1861 - 1924.

Addition to Item #10, 2014, Pages removed from Family
Bible of John Joel Osborn, 1856.

Additions to Item #10, 2014. Daguerreotype of Charlotte
Gilbert Osborn, wife of John Joel Osborn. Marriage
certificate for JJO & CGS, 1853.