

The Whitney Library
New Haven Colony Historical Society

Manuscript Register

MSS #120

PAINTER/COLLINS FAMILY COLLECTION

1771-1896

Arranged and described

by

Timothy Matney

July-August 1990

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11 boxes
5 linear feet

The Collection is organized numerically by box. Each box is arranged alphabetically by folder.

There is no restriction on access to this Collection.

INTRODUCTION

The Painter/Collins Collection consists of roughly 2,700 documents, mostly private letters, dating from the period 1771-1896. The correspondence centers around the patriarchal figure of Thomas Painter (1760-1847), a prominent citizen of West Haven. Among his varied occupations, Thomas Painter was a soldier, privateer, merchant, ship's captain and storekeeper. The letters of Thomas Painter, as well as his financial papers and autobiography, provide a considerable wealth of information regarding the shipping industry in the last decades of the eighteenth and first decades of the nineteenth centuries.

A considerable correspondence between the daughter of Thomas Painter, Cynthia (Painter) Collins (1791-1880), her husband Simeon Collins (1786-1866) and their children Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane (b. 1835) and Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell illustrate the period of the Civil War in some detail. Also of interest are the letters of two of Thomas Painter's grandsons, David Chittenden Collins (1825-1863) and Thomas P. Collins, who worked as daguerrotypists in Philadelphia in the 1840s and 1850s.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

The papers of the Painter/Collins Collection are organized into five series: financial documents, diaries and literary efforts, school books, correspondence and miscellaneous documents. The collection contains over 2,700 documents, of which some 2,000 are personal letters.

The FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS (Series I) are organized by family member and are further subdivided by topic. Only three family members have financial records in the Collection and the vast majority of these documents are the private papers of Thomas Painter.

The series DIARIES AND LITERARY EFFORTS (Series II) consists of a number of essays and compositions by various family members. In addition, the practice of copying poems published in newspapers and books was common and the Collection contains a number of poems copied from various sources, usually unidentified. It is difficult to establish the authorship of the poems, but it is not unlikely that some of them were actually penned by members of the Painter and Collins families. The organization of this section is by family member, with further subdivisions based on topic.

The following series SCHOOL BOOKS (Series III) consists of practice books for ~~handwriting skills and is organized by family member.~~

The largest series is the CORRESPONDENCE (Series IV). This series is divided into two main sections: Family Correspondence and Minor Correspondents. The Family Correspondence consists of letters between the thirty-four family members shown in capital letters on the Genealogical Chart in the section of this finding aid entitled "Genealogical Notes". This represents the main branches of the family. The order of the letters is generational. First are the letters of Thomas Painter and his wife, Hannah (Candee) Painter. Second are the letters from their children.

Next are the letters from the grandchildren of Thomas Painter. The letters from the aunt and uncle of Thomas Painter and from the Candee family are placed last in the order.

The second section of correspondence, Minor Correspondents, contains the letters from non-family members and more distant relations. These letters are organized alphabetically.

The final series MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS (Series V) consists of odd papers. Of special interest are genealogical notes and papers concerning the history of the "Collins Mansion".

HISTORY OF THE PAPERS

The original Painter/Collins Collection housed at the New Haven Colony Historical Society consisted of roughly seventy-five documents. These documents were processed in 1980 by Isabelle Gould.

In 1989, a generous gift of over 2,600 documents relating to the Painter/Collins Collection was donated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society by Mr. Winslow Williams of Richmond, Virginia. These documents were processed in the summer of 1990 by Timothy Matney. The addition of this large collection necessitated the reorganization of the old collection. Some of the genealogical and historical information contained within this finding aid has been culled from the original 1980 version written by Ms. Gould.

GENEALOGICAL NOTES

The Genealogical Chart of the Painter and Collins families provided at the end of this section summarizes the relationships between the main correspondents in the Collection. The bulk of the correspondence centers on the figures of Thomas Painter, Hannah (Candee) Painter, Cynthia (Painter) Collins, Simeon Collins, Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane and Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell.

THOMAS PAINTER (1760-1847)

Thomas Painter was born in West Haven in 1760, the son of Joseph Painter, a sailor. Upon his father's death in 1776, Thomas moved to Cheshire where he was raised by his grandmother until the age of eleven. In 1771, he moved back to West Haven and worked on his uncle's farm. In 1776, he enlisted in a military company and was involved in the defense of New Haven in 1779. His autobiography (of which two handwritten and two typescript editions are housed in this Collection) details his early life as a soldier, privateer and merchant. He eventually purchased interests in a number of shipping concerns, served as a ship's captain and worked as a store-keeper on Long Wharf.

Shipping was always a vital aspect of the economy of New Haven. The Colony was proclaimed a 'Lawful Port' in 1702, later possessing its own Custom House.

Thomas Painter was active in this trade from 1784-1814. At that time, the disruption of international trade due to the Napoleonic War meant that the port of New Haven could compete for international shipping with its better situated neighbors of New York and Boston. Economically, the most important part of this trade was the flourishing commerce done with the West Indies. Always an aspect of New Haven-based shipping from the 1760s to the 1880s, the West Indies trade was vital to New Haven's success. Thomas Painter's letters and financial documents mention his participation in this trade, see especially Box 1/Folder K, Orders to Sail, 1784-1791.

In 1783, Thomas Painter married Hannah Candee, the daughter of Samuel Candee and Lydia (Sherman) Candee. After Hannah's death in 1830, Thomas married Elizabeth W. Buddington of Hartford.

ALEXIS PAINTER (1794-1867)

Alexis Painter was born in West Haven. He graduated from Yale University in 1815 and went to study law in Litchfield. After a brief career practicing law in Annapolis, Maryland he moved to Westfield, Massachusetts, where he taught and worked as a merchant. In 1852, he retired to West Haven. He was known as an ardent foe of slavery and worked for the temperance reforms movement. In 1826, he married Thalia Maria McMahon (1806-1889) of New Milford. The letters between Alexis and Thalia provide interesting historical insight into the issue of slavery.

SIMEON COLLINS (1786-1866)

Simeon Collins was the son-in-law of Thomas Painter, marrying Painter's daughter, Cynthia Painter in 1815. Simeon was a travelling salesman who dealt in perfume and ink. He travelled extensively in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York, visiting small towns throughout the region. His extensive correspondence with his wife relates the details of his travels and provides an interesting study of the rural countryside in the first half of the nineteenth century. The letters concentrate on Simeon's work, but are also useful for deriving a chronology of the Collins family.

ANNA MARIA (COLLINS) CLEPHANE (b. 1835)

Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane was the wife of the Postmaster General of Washington, D.C. during the Civil War. For a period of several years, she wrote two or three times a week from Washington to her mother, Cynthia (Painter) Collins.

WOODBIDGE SAGE OLMSTEAD (1803-1871)

Woodbridge S. Olmstead, originally of Hartford, Connecticut, married Mary Ann Collins on the 29th of October 1838. She was the daughter of Simeon Collins and Cynthia (Painter) Collins. Shortly after their marriage, Mary Ann died. After her death, Woodbridge remained in Florida and eventually married Margaret P. Sanchez in 1841. They had eight children.

DAVID CHITTENDEN COLLINS (1825-1863)

David Chittenden Collins, son of Simeon Collins and Cynthia (Painter) Collins, was a noted daguerrotypist operating out of Philadelphia. He formed a partnership with his brother, Thomas P. Collins, from 1846-1851. Together they exhibited in the American Institute (1846) and David won two silver medals in the Franklin and American Institute Fair of 1852 (source: Rinhart and Rinhart 1981). Shortly after this, David moved back to the New Haven area.

Researchers should not be confused by references to David Chittenden Collins, as there were at least three family members with this name. Below is a short explanation of their chronology.

In 1768, General Augustus Collins (1743-1814) married Mary Chittenden. They produced a number of children, including Simeon Collins (1786-1866) and the first David Chittenden Collins.

In 1815, Simeon Collins married Cynthia Painter (1791-1880). In 1825, they had a son, whom they named David Chittenden Collins, presumably after his uncle. This David is the daguerrotypist whose letters are found in the Collection. He died in 1863.

A third David Chittenden Collins (1805-1861) was probably a cousin of the daguerrotypist, although documentation is lacking to confirm this hypothesis. This third David married Clarrisa Dana (1812-1911). This branch of the Collins family owned the house at 35 Hillhouse Road in New Haven from 1850 to 1916. That

he is not the son of General Augustus Collins is proved by the fact that, at his birth in 1805, General Collins would have been 62 years old and his would have been in her mid-fifties. More likely, he is from the generation of General Augustus Collins' grandchildren.

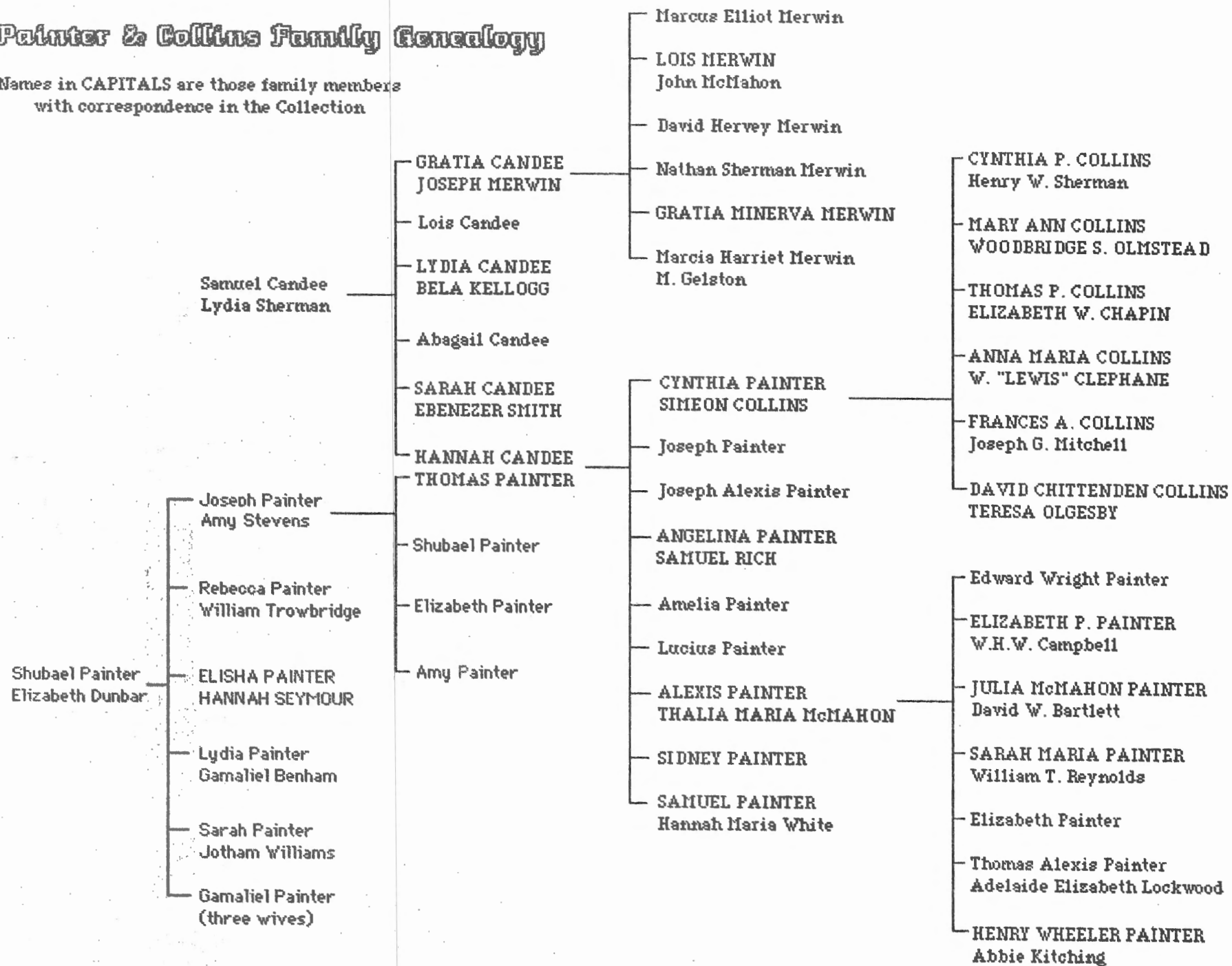
GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE PAINTER AND COLLINS FAMILIES

Box 11, Folder MM contains various documents regarding the "Collins Mansion" which was located in West Haven until 1961, when it was moved to Litchfield. This was the home of Thomas Painter and Hannah Candee. Of the children of Thomas and Hannah, Cynthia Painter moved to Guilford, Connecticut after marrying Simeon Collins. Later they moved to Westfield, Massachusetts and finally ended up in the "Collins Mansion" in West Haven. Angelina Painter, after her marriage to Rev. Samuel Rich, moved to Sangerfield, New York. The children of Simeon Collins and Cynthia (Painter) Collins moved to various locations across the United States. Cynthia P. Collins, after her marriage to Henry W. Sherman moved to Suffield, Connecticut. Mary Ann Collins, after her marriage to Woodbridge S. Olmstead, moved to Florida. Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane and Walter "Lewis" Clephane lived in Washington, D.C. Frances A. Collins, after her marriage to Joseph G. Mitchell, moved to California, later returning to West Haven. David Chittenden Collins moved to Philadelphia.

He moved back to New Haven in the 1850s.

Painter & Collins Family Genealogy

Names in CAPITALS are those family members
with correspondence in the Collection



Dates for the Painter & Collins Family Genealogy

1. David W. Bartlett
2. Gamaliel Benham
3. W.H.W. Campbell
4. Abigail Candee (1760-1773/74)
5. Gratia Candee (1769-1839)
6. Hannah Candee (1761-1830, married 1783)
7. Lois Candee (1773-1793)
8. Lydia Candee (born 1778, married 1805)
9. Samuel Candee (1738-1821)
10. Sarah Candee (1761/64-1849, married 1792)
11. Walter "Lewis" Clephane
12. Anna Maria Collins (born 1835, married 1862)
13. Cynthia P. Collins (died 1843)
14. David Chittenden Collins (1825-1863, married 1856)
15. Elizabeth W. Collins (married 1847)
16. Frances A. Collins
17. Mary Ann Collins (1816-1838)
18. Simeon Collins (1786-1866, married 1815)
19. Thomas P. Collins (married 1847)
20. Elizabeth Dunbar (1701-1758)
21. M. Gelston (married 1834)
22. Bela Kellogg (married 1805)
23. Abbie Kitching
24. Adelaide Elizabeth Lockwood (born 1834)
25. John McMahon
26. Thalia Maria McMahon (1806-1889, married 1826)
27. David Hervey Merwin (1796-1855)
28. Gratia Minerva Merwin (born 1803)
29. Joseph Merwin
30. Lois Merwin (1794-1816)
31. Marcia Harriet Merwin (born 1807, married 1834)
32. Marcus Elliot Merwin (1807-1867)
33. Nathan Sherman Merwin (1800-1804)
34. Joseph G. Mitchell
35. Teresa Olgesby (born 1829, married 1856)
36. ~~Woodbridge S. Olmstead~~
37. Alexis Painter (1794-1867, married 1826)
38. Amelia Painter (1802-1803)
39. Amy Painter (1757-1832)
40. Angelina Painter (1784-1856, married 1806)
41. Cynthia Painter (1791-1880, married 1815)
42. Edward Wright Painter (1843-1845)
43. Elisha Painter (1736-1781, married 1770)
44. Elizabeth Painter (died 1774)
45. Elizabeth Painter (1836)
46. Elizabeth P. Painter (1837-1901)
47. Gamaliel Painter (1743-1819)
48. Henry Wheeler Painter (1831-1908)
49. Joseph Painter (1731-1766, married 1755)
50. Joseph Painter (1787-1788)

Dates for the Painter & Collins Family Genealogy

51. Joseph Alexis Painter	(1789-1793)
52. Julia McMahon Painter	(born 1833)
53. Lucius Painter	(1804-1813)
54. Lydia Painter	(1739-1814)
55. Rebecca Painter	(1734-1807)
56. Samuel Painter	(1797-1845)
57. Sarah Painter	(1742-1825)
58. Sarah Maria Painter	(1827-1889)
59. Sidney Painter	(1799-1873)
60. Shubael Painter	(1697-1785)
61. Shubael Painter	(died 1787)
62. Thomas Painter	(1760-1847, married 1783)
63. Thomas Alexis Painter	(1829-1891)
64. William T. Reynolds	(1823-1899)
65. Samuel Rich	(married 1806)
66. Hannah Seymour	(1742-1807, married 1770)
67. Henry W. Sherman	
68. Lydia Sherman	(1736-1811)
69. Ebenezer Smith	(married 1792)
70. Amy Stevens	(1737-1774, married 1755)
71. William Trowbridge	
72. Hannah Maria White	
73. Jotham Williams	(1750-1813)

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A number of additional sources of information on the Painter and Collins families exist, both published and in various manuscript collections.

1. The diary of Thalia Maria (McMahon) Painter is kept in the Women's Collection (MSS 58) housed at the New Haven Colony Historical Society. It dates from August 1848 to March 1849.
2. The basic source of genealogical information on the Painter and Collins family is the three volume series Families of Ancient New Haven, compiled by Donald Jacobus and published by Clarence D. Smith from 1923 to 1981.
3. The autobiography of Thomas Painter, of which various manuscript and typescript editions are housed in the Collection, was published in 1885. The paper is entitled "Reminiscences of the Revolutionary War by the Late Thomas Painter of West Haven", published in New Haven Historical Society Papers 4: 231-252. The work was edited by Henry Howe.
4. Obituaries for Alexis Painter and William Reynolds, husband of Sarah Maria Painter, can be found in the Yale Obituaries for 1860-1870 and 1890-1900 respectively.
5. ~~Information on the photographic careers of David Chittenden Collins and Thomas P. Collins can be obtained from Floyd Rinhart and Marion Rinhart (1981) The American Daguerreotype. The University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA. Entries on the brothers are on pp. 135 and 387 and additional references are given in the index.~~
6. For a summary of shipping in New Haven, see Shallops, Sloops and Sharpies: A Maritime History of New Haven (1976) published by the New Haven Colony Historical Society, New Haven.
7. A short published pamphlet on the life of Augustus B. Collins, brother of Simeon

Collins, is found in the library at the New Haven Colony Historical Society. It is entitled "A Tribute to the Memory of Rev. Augustus B. Collins" (1876) written by David R. Austin.

8. A legal document dealing with the ownership of a ship is found in MSS 125, National Historic Figures Collection, 1638-1976, under the entry for Marcus Merrimen. The document, dated 1799, mentions Thomas Painter as one of the parties involved in the transaction.
9. A certificate admitting Annie Teresa (Collins) Wood, daughter of David Chittenden Collins, into the Daughters of the American Revolution is located in MSS 95. It is dated 1895.
10. Genealogical information concerning Woodbridge S. Olmstead, the husband of Mary Ann Collins, can be found in Henry King Olmstead's Genealogy of the Olmstead Family in America: Embracing the Descendants of James and Richard Olmstead and Covering a Period of Nearly Three Centuries, 1632-1912 (1912). It was published by A.T. de la Mare Printing and Publishing Company Ltd., New York.
11. Additional information can be gathered regarding the Hillhouse Collins family in Maria Trumbull Dana's A Brief Sketch of Hillhouse Avenue and the Silliman Family (1947) and Henrietta Silliman Dana's Hillhouse Avenue from 1809-1900 (1900). Furthermore, various newspaper articles gathered by Clarrisa Dana Collins are found in MSS B27, Scrapbook Collection, 1792-1962.
12. Additional information concerning the Candee family can be found in Charles Baldwin's The Candee Genealogy (1882), published by the Leader Printing Company of Cleveland, Ohio.

SERIES I
FINANCIAL RECORDS

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
1/A	Thomas Painter - Shipping Receipts, 1783-1789	(28)
1/B	Thomas Painter - Shipping Receipts, 1790-1799	(24)
1/C	Thomas Painter - Shipping Receipts, 1800-1809 [Folder 1/2]	(49)
1/D	Thomas Painter - Shipping Receipts, 1800-1809 [Folder 2/2]	(42)
1/E	Thomas Painter - Shipping Receipts, 1810-1814, 1824	(37)
1/F	Thomas Painter - Shipping Receipts, n.d.	(27)
1/G	Thomas Painter - Receipt Book, 1799-1800	(1 vol.)
1/H	Thomas Painter - Shipping Logs, Sloop 'Nancy', 1786-1789	(7 vol.)
1/I	Thomas Painter - Shipping Logs, Brig 'Orion', 1801-1802	(3 vol.)
1/J	Thomas Painter - Shipping Logs, Brig 'Polly', n.d.	(1 vol.)
1/K	Thomas Painter - Orders to Sail, 1784-1791	(5)
1/L	Thomas Painter - Customs Clearance, 1801	(2)
1/M	Thomas Painter - Contracts, 1784-1830	(8)
1/N	Thomas Painter - Charity Fund of the Town of Orange, 1839	(1 vol.)
1/O	Thomas Painter - Cancelled Checks, 1822	(7)
1/P	Thomas Painter - Cancelled Checks, 1823	(18)
1/Q	Thomas Painter - Cancelled Checks, 1824	(17)
1/R	Thomas Painter - Cancelled Checks, 1825	(12)
1/S	Thomas Painter - Cancelled Checks, 1826	(15)
1/T	Thomas Painter - Cancelled Checks, 1827	(11)
1/U	Thomas Painter - Cancelled Checks, 1828	(17)
1/V	Thomas Painter - Cancelled Checks, 1829	(19)

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SERIES I

FINANCIAL RECORDS (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
2/A	Thomas Painter - Cancelled Checks, 1830	(6)
2/B	Thomas Painter - Cancelled Checks, 1831	(13)
2/C	Thomas Painter - Cancelled Checks, 1832	(19)
2/D	Thomas Painter - Cancelled Checks, 1833	(11)
2/E	Thomas Painter - Miscellaneous Ledgers, 1791-1825	(6 vol.)
2/F	Thomas Painter - Miscellaneous Ledgers, 1803-1804	(1 vol.)
2/G	Sidney Painter - Bill for Repair of Church, 1825	(1)
2/H	Simeon Collins - Ledger Books, Bills & Agreements, 1843-1854	(4+1 vol.)

SERIES II

DIARIES & LITERARY EFFORTS

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
2/I	Thomas Painter - Manuscript for Autobiography, 1836	(16)
2/J	Thomas Painter - Copy of Manuscript for Autobiography, 1836	(1 vol.)
2/K	Thomas Painter - Typescript of Autobiography, n.d.	(72)
2/L	Thomas Painter - Typescript of Autobiography, n.d.	(49)
2/M	Thomas Painter - Typescript of Autobiography, 1939 [Federal Writer's Project]	(9)
2/N	Thomas Painter - Diary Fragment, n.d.	(1 vol.)
2/O	Thomas Painter - Poems & Essays, n.d.	(10+1 vol.)
2/P	Thomas Painter - Sermon Book, n.d.	(10+1 vol.)
2/Q	Hannah (Candee) Painter - Diaries, 1794-1828	(3 vol.)
2/R	Hannah (Candee) Painter - Sermon Book, n.d.	(1 vol.)
2/S	Hannah (Candee) Painter [?] - Poems, n.d.	(1 vol.)
2/T	Cynthia (Painter) Collins - Diary (Fragment), 1814-1867	(6)
2/U	Cynthia (Painter) Collins - Diary, 1840	(1 vol.)
2/V	Cynthia (Painter) Collins - Poems, n.d.	(1 vol.)
3/A	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane - Diary, 1850	(1 vol.)
3/B	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane - Poems & Compositions, n.d.	(3+1 vol.)
3/C	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell - Diary, 1838-1839	(2 vol.)
3/D	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell - Compostions, 1836-1837	(2 vol.)
3/E	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell - Poems, n.d.	(16+2 vol.)
3/F	Emily Williams [?], Composition	(1 vol.)
3/G	Unknown Author, "The Cherub", n.d. [Thomas Painter?]	(6)

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SERIES II

DIARIES & LITERARY EFFORTS (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
3/H	Unknown Author, Collection of Sermons, 1772	(1 vol.)
3/I	Unknown Author, "Experience of Stephen Popohe", 1819 (TAHITIAN AT CORNWALL)	(1 vol.)
3/J	Unknown Author, "Analysis of Butler's Analogy", n.d.	(1 vol.)
3/K	Unknown Author, Diary Fragment, 1835	(1 vol.)
3/L	Unknown Authors, Miscellaneous Poems	(19)

INCL SEVERAL 19th Cent.
VALENTINE CARDS

MSS 120
Painter/Collins Collection
1771-1896

SERIES III

SCHOOL BOOKS

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
3/M	Sidney Painter - Writing Books, 1810-1818	(3 vol.)
3/N	Samuel Painter - Writing Books, n.d.	(3 vol.)
3/O	Cynthia (Painter) Collins - Writing Books, 1806	(3 vol.)
3/P	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane - Writing Books, 1851	(2 vol.)
3/Q	Francis A. (Collins) Mitchell - Writing Books, 1833	(1 vol.)

SERIES IV
CORRESPONDENCE

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
<u>Family Correspondence</u>		
4/A	Thomas Painter to Hannah (Candee) Painter, 1802-1830	(5)
4/B	Thomas Painter to Angelina (Painter) Rich, 1801	(3)
4/C	Thomas Painter to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1807-1845	(10)
4/D	Thomas Painter to Alexis Painter, 1807-1830	(4)
4/E	Thomas Painter to Simeon Collins, 1836-1844	(3)
4/F	Hannah (Candee) Painter to Angelina (Painter) Rich, 1806	(1)
4/G	Hannah (Candee) Painter to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1817-1823	(12)
4/H	Hannah (Candee) Painter to Alexis Painter, 1818-1820	(3)
4/I	Hannah (Candee) Painter to Cynthia P. (Collins) Sherman, n.d.	(2)
4/J	Angelina (Painter) Rich to Hannah (Candee) Painter, 1818	(3)
4/K	Angelina (Painter) Rich to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1806-1856	(19)
4/L	Angelina (Painter) Rich to Aleis Painter, n.d.	(1)
4/M	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Hannah (Candee) Painter, 1818-1830	(17)
4/N	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Simeon Collins, 1837-1849	(11)
4/O	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Simeon Collins, 1850-1854	(16)
4/P	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Simeon Collins, 1855-1856	(5)
4/Q	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Simeon Collins, n.d.	(31)
4/R	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Alexis Painter, 1824	(2)
4/S	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Angelina (Painter) Rich, 1854	(1)
4/T	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Thalia Maria (McMahon) Painter, 1830-1831	(2)

SERIES IV

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
4/U	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1856-1860	(26)
4/V	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, n.d. [Folder 1/3]	(20)
4/W	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, n.d. [Folder 2/3]	(18)
4/X	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, n.d. [Folder 3/3]	(22)
5/A	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to David Chittenden Collins, 1848-1860	(10)
5/B	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell, 1875	(17)
5/C	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Teresa (Olgesby) Collins, 1864	(3)
5/D	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to Cynthia P. (Collins) Sherman, 1837	(4)
5/E	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to William [?], 1876	(1)
5/F	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to [Family], 1847-1875	(6)
5/G	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to [Family], n.d. [Folder 1/4]	(34)
5/H	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to [Family], n.d. [Folder 2/4]	(31)
5/I	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to [Family], n.d. [Folder 3/4]	(23)
5/J	Cynthia (Painter) Collins to [Family], n.d. [Folder 4/4]	(24)
5/K	Alexis Painter to Thomas Painter, 1828-1832	(5)
5/L	Alexis Painter to Hannah (Candee) Painter, 1817-1826	(5)
5/M	Alexis Painter to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1836-1866	(21)
5/N	Alexis Painter to Thalia Maria (McMahon) Painter, 1826-1867	(2)
5/O	Alexis Painter to Sidney Painter, 1808-1823	(3)
5/P	Alexis Painter to Sarah Maria (Painter) Reynolds, 1860-1866	(4)

SERIES IV

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
5/Q	Alexis Painter to William [?], 1862	(1)
5/R	Alexis Painter to [Friends], 1836	(1)
5/S	Samuel Painter to Thomas Painter, 1825-1828	(3)
5/T	Samuel Painter to Hannah (Candee) Painter, 1826-1830	(4)
5/U	Samuel Painter to Alexis Painter, 1826	(1)
5/V	Samuel Painter to Sidney Painter, 1825	(3)
5/W	Sidney Painter to [Parents], 1825-1827	(3)
5/X	Simeon Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1811-1825	(18)
5/Y	Simeon Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1815-1829	(9)
5/Z	Simeon Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1836-1837	(20)
6/A	Simeon Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1838-1839	(11)
6/B	Simeon Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1840-1849	(21)
6/C	Simeon Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1850-1851	(34)
6/D	Simeon Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1852	(5)
6/E	Simeon Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1853	(11)
6/F	Simeon Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1854	(11)
6/G	Simeon Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1855	(29)
6/H	Simeon Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1856	(11)
6/I	Simeon Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1857	(17)
6/J	Simeon Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1858-1859	(15)
6/K	Simeon Collins to David Chittenden Collins, 1836-1848	(3)
6/L	Simeon Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1851-1858	(5)

SERIES IV

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
6/M	Simeon Collins to Cynthia P. (Collins) Sherman, 1838-1840	(3)
6/N	Simeon Collins to C.A. Sherman, 1843	(1)
6/O	Simeon Collins to [Family], 1836-1850	(4)
6/P	Thalia Maria (McMahon) Painter to Alexis Painter, 1834	(4)
6/Q	Thalia Maria (McMahon) Painter to Sarah Maria (Painter) Reynolds, 1836	(8)
6/R	Thalia Maria (McMahon) Painter to [Family], 1856-1859	(4)
6/S	Samuel Rich to Thomas Painter, 1815	(1)
6/T	Cynthia P. (Collins) Sherman to Simeon Collins, 1838-1842	(4)
6/U	Cynthia P. (Collins) Sherman to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1838-1842	(6)
6/V	Cynthia P. (Collins) Sherman to Hannah (Candee) Painter, 1828	(1)
6/W	Cynthia P. (Collins) Sherman to Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell, 1838	(1)
6/X	MaryAnn (Collins) Olmstead to Hannah (Candee) Painter, 1827	(2)
6/Y	MaryAnn (Collins) Olmstead to Simeon Collins, 1835-1837	(2)
6/Z	MaryAnn (Collins) Olmstead to Cynthia P. (Collins) Sherman, 1837-1838	(10)
7/A	MaryAnn (Collins) Olmstead to David Chittenden Collins, 1838	(1)
7/B	Thomas P. Collins to Simeon Collins, 1857-1858	(3)
7/C	Thomas P. Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1848-1850	(3)
7/D	Thomas P. Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1853-1857	(7)
7/E	Thomas P. Collins to David Chittenden Collins, 1839-1849	(3)
7/F	Thomas P. Collins to Cynthia P. (Collins) Sherman, n.d.	(1)

SERIES IV

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
7/G	Thomas P. Collins to [Family], 1848	(2)
7/H	David Chittenden Collins to Simeon Collins, 1853	(1)
7/I	David Chittenden Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1849-1850	(4)
7/J	David Chittenden Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1852	(15)
7/K	David Chittenden Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1853-1855	(27)
7/L	David Chittenden Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1856-1858	(27)
7/M	David Chittenden Collins to Teresa (Olgesby) Collins, 1857-1867[?]	(25)
7/N	David Chittenden Collins to Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell, 1850	(1)
7/O	David Chittenden Collins to Cynthia P. (Collins) Sherman, 1842	(1)
7/P	David Chittenden Collins to [?], 1855	(1)
7/Q	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to Simeon Collins, 1849-1854	(17)
7/R	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1854-1860	(66)
7/S	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1862	(18)
7/T	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1863	(52)
7/U	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1864	(34)
8/A	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1865	(15)
8/B	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1866-1874	(5)
8/C	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to Cynthia P. (Collins) Sherman, 1840	(1)
8/D	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to David Chittenden Collins, 1844-1880	(31)
8/E	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell, 1849-1880	(30)
8/F	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to Teresa (Olgesby) Collins, 1863-1886	(12)

SERIES IV

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
8/G	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to Elizabeth W. Collins, 1854-1880	(1+1 vol.)
8/H	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to Anna Teresa (Collins) Wood, 1881	(1)
8/I	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to "Bella", 1851-1854	(12)
8/J	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to [Sister], 1851-1862	(4)
8/K	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane to [?], 1850-1886	(46)
8/L	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell to Cynthia (Painter) Collins	(51)
8/M	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell to David Chittenden Collins, 1850	(2)
8/N	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell to Thomas P. Collins, 1846	(1)
8/O	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1857-1886	(31)
8/P	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell to Teresa (Olgesby) Collins, 1881-1886	(13)
8/Q	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell to Cynthia P. (Collins) Sherman, 1841	(3)
8/R	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell to Samuel [?], n.d.	(1)
8/S	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell to [Family], 1866-1881	(11)
8/T	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell to [?], 1845-1880	(6)
8/U	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell to [?], 1881	(16)
8/V	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell to [?], 1882	(17)
8/W	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell to [?], 1883-1896	(39)
8/X	Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell to [?], n.d.	(43)

SERIES IV

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
9/A	Elisha Painter to Sarah (Painter) Williams, 1771	(1)
9/B	Hannah (Seymour) Painter to Sarah (Painter) Williams, 1788	(1)
9/C	Gratia (Candee) Merwin to Thomas Painter, 1821-1836	(7)
9/D	Gratia (Candee) Merwin to Hannah (Candee) Painter, 1798-1830	(31)
9/E	Gratia (Candee) Merwin to Sidney Painter, 1811	(1)
9/F	Gratia (Candee) Merwin to Alexis Painter, 1810-1827	(3)
9/G	Gratia (Candee) Merwin to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1806-1832	(14)
9/H	Gratia (Candee) Merwin to Thalia Maria (McMahon) Painter, 1832-1833	(3)
9/I	Gratia (Candee) Merwin to Lydia (Candee) Kellogg, 1827	(1)
9/J	Sarah (Candee) Smith to Hannah (Candee) Painter, n.d.	(1)
9/K	Lydia (Candee) Kellogg to Thomas Painter, 1820	(1)
9/L	Lydia (Candee) Kellogg to Hannah (Candee) Painter, 1814-1829	(18)
9/M	Lydia (Candee) Kellogg to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, n.d.	(1)
9/N	Lydia (Candee) Kellogg to Gratia (Candee) Merwin, 1826	(1)
9/O	Lydia (Candee) Kellogg to Lucena Steven, 1798	(1)
9/P	Joseph Merwin to Thomas Painter, 1823-1842	(3)
9/Q	Joseph Merwin to Hannah (Candee) Painter, 1807	(1)
9/R	Bela Kellogg to Thomas Painter, 1822-1830	(3)
9/S	Bela Kellogg to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1813	(1)
9/T	Ebenezer Smith to Hannah (Candee) Painter, 1793	(1)
9/U	Lois (Merwin) McMahon to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1811-1814	(9)

SERIES IV

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
9/V	Lois (Merwin) McMahon to Alexis Painter, 1813	(1)
9/W	Woodbridge S. Olmstead to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1838-1842	(17)
9/X	Woodbridge S. Olmstead to Simeon Collins, 1839	(1)
9/Y	Woodbridge S. Olmstead to Cynthia P. (Collins) Sherman, 1841-1842	(3)
9/Z	Woodbridge S. Olmstead to Frances A. (Collins) Mitchell, 1870	(1)
9/AA	Gratia Minerva Merwin to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1862	(3)
9/BB	Gratia Minerva Merwin to Alexis Painter, 1829	(1)
9/CC	Gratia Minerva Merwin to Thalia Maria (McMahon) Painter, 1827	(8)
9/DD	Elizabeth W. Collins to Simeon Collins, 1851	(1)
9/EE	Elizabeth W. Collins to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1854-1863	(7)
9/FF	Elizabeth W. Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1851-1855	(20)
9/GG	Elizabeth W. Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1856	(16)
9/HH	Elizabeth W. Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1857	(17)
9/II	Elizabeth W. Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1858	(10)
9/JJ	Elizabeth W. Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1859	(11)
9/KK	Elizabeth W. Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1860-1863	(16)
9/LL	Elizabeth W. Collins to [Family], n.d.	(1)
9/MM	Elizabeth W. Collins to [?], 1854-1858	(3)
9/NN	W. "Lewis" Clephane to Cynthia (Painter) Collins, 1862	(1)
9/OO	Teresa (Olgesby) Collins to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1858	(3)

SERIES IV

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
10/A	Elizabeth P. (Painter) Campbell to Cynthia (Painter) Collins [?], 1879	(1)
10/B	Elizabeth P. (Painter) Campbell to Thomas [?], 1849	(1)
10/C	Elizabeth P. (Painter) Campbell to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1854-1861	(42)
10/D	Julia McMahon (Painter) Bartlett to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1850-1854	(2)
10/E	Sarah Maria (Painter) Reynolds to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1850	(1)
10/F	Sarah Maria (Painter) Reynolds to [Parents], 1852-1853	(2)
10/G	Henry Wheeler Painter to Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane, 1854-1857	(7)

Minor Correspondents

10/H	Alan, 1881	(1)
10/I	C.C. Armstrong, 1858	(1)
10/J	M.M. Bartlett, 1833-1842	(7)
10/K	E. Baute, 1840	(1)
10/L	E.W. Boies, 1841	(1)
10/M	M.F. Bristol, n.d.	(2)
10/N	P.H. Budington, 1822	(1)
10/O	Nancy D. Cadwell, 1839	(1)
10/P	R.A. Campbell, 1849	(1)
10/Q	Cordelia Candee, 1823-1824	(3)
10/R	Carol, n.d.	(1)
10/S	Chapman, n.d.	(1)

SERIES IV

Minor Correspondents (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
10/T	C.Chapman & C.C. Armstrong, 1857	(1)
10/U	Qui. Civley [?], 1851	(1)
10/V	Clara, 1865-1866	(8)
10/W	Anna L. Clephane, 1877	(1)
10/X	Sarah T. Coleman, 1865	(1)
10/Y	Augustus B. Collins, 1849-1873	(5)
10/Z	F. Collins, 1830	(1)
10/AA	H.S. Collins, 1837	(1)
10/BB	N.S. Collins, 1845	(2)
10/CC	Nellie Collins, 1859	(1)
10/DD	Orsa A. Collins, 1851	(1)
10/EE	Parsons Cooke, 1833	(1)
10/FF	M. Louise Cox, n.d.	(1)
10/GG	A.G. Crane, 1839	(1)
10/HH	E.M.D., n.d.	(2)
10/II	Juliet D., 1889	(1)
10/JJ	E. Davis, 1823-1824	(5)
10/KK	Helen E. Douglas, 1846	(1)
10/LL	Elizabeth Egberton, n.d.	(2)
10/MM	Ella, 1876	(1)
10/NN	Elmira, 1842	(1)
10/OO	Eunice [?], 1872	(1)

SERIES IV

Minor Correspondents (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
10/PP	Flora, n.d.	(1)
10/QQ	Timothy Fowler, 1859	(1)
10/RR	Georgie, 1854	(1)
10/SS	Gertrude, 1837	(1)
10/TT	S. Graham, 1835	(1)
10/UU	Albert Hale, 1827	(1)
10/VV	Harriet, n.d.-1866	(1)
10/WW	Harriet, 1857-1866	(6)
10/XX	A.W. Harrison, 1857	(1)
10/YY	Betsy Hitchcock, 1874-1876	(12)
10/ZZ	George Hood & M.A. Hood, 1857-1858	(8)
10/AAA	S.A.J., 1841	(1)
10/BBB	Jane, 1842-1843	(2)
10/CCC	Washington Janvier, 1856	(5)
10/DDD	Jeannie, 1857-1860	(8)
10/EEE	Jed, 1856	(1)
10/FFF	Emerson Jessup, 1857	(2)
10/GGG	Mary Jessup, 1843-1867	(2)
10/HHH	Joe, 1887	(1)
10/III	Julia, n.d.	(2)
10/JJJ	Mary June, 1841	(1)
10/KKK	K., 1884	(1)

SERIES IV

Minor Correspondents (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
10/LLL	Kate, 1835	(2)
10/MMM	C. Kellogg, 1823	(1)
10/NNN	M.I.G. King, 1839	(1)
10/OOO	Hannah Kingsbury, 1831	(2)
10/PPP	S.M.L., n.d.	(1)
10/QQQ	Fanny Leffingwell, 1802	(1)
10/RRR	Louise, 1838-1839	(2)
10/SSS	Mary, n.d.	(1)
10/TTT	Mary Manifold, 1810	(1)
10/UUU	Mase, 1854	(3)
10/VVV	Maggie McFarland, 1852-1854	(10)
10/WWW	Henry C. McMahon, 1831	(5)
10/XXX	Julia McMahon, 1826-1832	(4)
10/YYY	Samuel McNutt, 1867-1881	(2)
11/A	Charles H. Miller, 1854-1855	(4)
11/B	H.W. Min, 1845	(1)
11/C	Molly, 1837	(1)
11/D	Olivia, 1800	(1)
11/E	E.E.P., 1842	(1)
11/F	Azabah Packard, 1808	(1)
11/G	E.R. Palcott, n.d.	(1)
11/H	Mary Reynolds, 1833	(1)

SERIES IV

Minor Correspondents (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
11/I	C. Resaup, n.d.	(1)
11/J	Will Rulafson, 1877	(1)
11/K	Samuel Salents, 1857	(1)
11/L	Sarah, 1841-1874	(3)
11/M	Schieferdecker's Water-Cure Institute, 1850	(2)
11/N	James Sherman, 1841	(1)
11/O	Emeline Smith, 1852	(2)
11/P	J. Spear, 1854-1855	(2)
11/Q	Sally Spencer, 1804	(1)
11/R	Lucretia Stebbins, n.d.	(1)
11/S	Lucena Steven, 1800	(1)
11/T	A.L. Stone, 1886	(1)
11/U	Ellen Stone, n.d.	(2)
11/V	Ann Storrs, 1859-1873	(33)
11/W	Samuel L. Talcott, 1877	(1)
11/X	Gertie Talmadge, 1865	(1)
11/Y	H.B. Taylor, 1837	(1)
11/Z	F. Thomas, 1825	(1)
11/AA	S. Thomas, 1827	(1)
11/BB	Timothy Tugmutton, 1848	(1)
11/CC	Union Soldiers, 1865	(2)
11/DD	Walter, 1887	(1)

SERIES IV

Minor Correspondents (continued)

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
11/EE	M.S. Wate, n.d.	(1)
11/FF	George Whitney, 1822	(1)
11/GG	A.F. Wood, n.d.	(1)
11/HH	Wright, 1820	(2)
11/II	Henry V. Wright, 1856	(1)
11/JJ	Letters - Author Unknown [Folder 1/3]	(15)
11/KK	Letters - Author Unknown [Folder 2/3]	(10)
11/LL	Letters - Author Unknown [Folder 3/3]	(16)

MSS 120
Painter/Collins Collection
1771-1896

SERIES V

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

<u>Box/ Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>No. of Items</u>
11/MM	Papers Regarding the History of the "Collins Mansion"	(42+2 vol.)
11/NN	Picture of Gynthia (Painter) Collins	(1)
11/OO	Newspaper Clippings & Published Notice	(12)
11/PP	Anna Maria (Collins) Clephane - Phrenological Chart, 1839	(1)
11/QQ	Genealogical Notes	(9)
11/RR	Blank Notices for the Comm. for the Improvement of Coloured People	(1 vol.)
11/SS	Article of the Female Soc. for Religious Improvement, 1826	(2)
11/TT	Medical Prescription, n.d.	(1)

PAINTER/COLLINS FAMILY COLLECTION
MSS #120

Box/Folder Contents

2. Typed inventory of the household furnishings belonging to Mrs. John K. Stevenson, 216 Bishop Street, New Haven. Includes 5-page appraisal by Carroll Alton Means done in 1959).
3. Post Card of Painter Hall with handwritten chorus of Gabriel Painter's Cane.

Emily Williams (Stevenson)s

- 13/C 1. Journal, Emily P. Williams, entries during 1901-1905 and various events to 1924/ (Not consistent day-to-day.)
2. Journal, Emily W. Stevenson, daily entries for 5-year period, 1933-1937.
- 13/D 3. List of names/notes (appears to be a wedding gift register).
4. Two legal documents pertaining to real property in West Haven and New Haven, 1944 and 1959.

Annie T. Collins Wood

- 13/E 1. Legal document from 1891 on ownership of West Haven real estate to Annie T. Wood, wife of A. Felton Wood. (David T. Welch/W.A. Main)
2. Real estate document to Annie Teresa Wood (David T. Welch/ W.A. Main)
3. Two legal documents regarding real property circa 1925. One regarding Annie Teresa Wood (David's Daughter) and the other Annie M. Clephane (David's sister).

A. Felton Wood (husband of Annie T. Collins)

- 13/F 1. 1869 Time Table of West Haven R.R. Co., and A.F. Wood & Son, Druggist and Chemists.
2. Photograph of a group of young men by Pack Bros. Studio, circe 1885.

New Haven Library

- 13/G 1. Old copy of "New Haven Library Books of Isaac, Jan. 1793"
2. Old copy of the names of the founders of the New Haven Library with mission statement.

Newspapers regarding the moving of the Painter House

- 13/H 1. Waterbury Sunday Republican, Nov. 13, 1960
2. The New Haven Register Magazine, Jan. 15, 1961.

PAINTER/COLLINS FAMILY COLLECTION
MSS #120

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
12/A	Business Ledger, 1817
12/B	Miscellaneous material, ca. 1800

Additions to the Collection – 2008

The following items were purchased by the Whitney Library from funds of the Whitney Library Associates.

Built in 1695 in what is now West Haven, the Thomas Painter House is considered to be the last of its kind in Connecticut. Thomas Painter was born in the house in 1760. His daughter, Cynthia, married Simeon Collins and they had four children, Frances, Thomas, David, and Annie Marie. Thomas P. and David C. Collins became well known as talented daguerreotypists and photographers.

The house passed through two generations of the Collins family, and upon the death of David Collins' daughter, Annie T. Collins Wood (Mrs. A. Felton Wood), the home was inherited by Emily Williams (Mrs. John King Stevenson). Annie had no children and left the home to her good friend, Emily. It was dismantled and reconstructed in Litchfield, Connecticut in the 1960's.

Photographs

- | | |
|------|--|
| 13/A | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 3 exterior2. 3 interior3. Small interior, fireplace view (appears to be before 1938)4. Photograph of the original showing 4 young people, two of whom are thought to be the children of David Collins, Annie (in hammock) and William (holding tennis racket).5. Early photograph indemnified as "Edith, Bonnie, Madge, and 'Woolly' (a doll). Bonnie is thought to be the family name of Emily Williams Stevenson. |
|------|--|

Oversized

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Item #1 | Large sepia tone of Painter House with 5 people in view (two women thought to be Simeon's daughters, Frances Collins (Mitchell) and Annie M. Collins (Clephane)). |
|---------|---|

Notes Regarding the Painter House and Family

- | | |
|------|--|
| 13/B | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Handwritten list of inventory of items in Painter/Collins house on stationery of "The Northfield, East Northfield, Mass." |
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ALMANAC

SEPTEMBER 2010

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

NUMBER 80

IN THIS ISSUE

- RECENT ACQUISITION
- FALL LECTURES
- ANNUAL MEETING
 - WORCESTER IN 1910
- BARON LECTURE
- WIGGINS LECTURE
- RECOMMENDED READING
- SUMMER SEMINARS
 - PROGRAM IN THE HISTORY OF THE BOOK
 - CENTER FOR HISTORIC AMERICAN VISUAL CULTURE
- CHAVIC CONFERENCE
- NEW MEMBERS
- MELLON DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS, 2010-2011
- NEW FELLOWS' RESIDENCE
- TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY
- NEWS
- AAS HERITAGE

FALL LECTURES

All, 7:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

16 Nathaniel Philbrick Lecture

28 Ilyon Woo Lecture

OCTOBER

12 Marla R. Miller Lecture

21 BARON LECTURE:

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

NOVEMBER

9 Paul Finkelman Lecture

16 WIGGINS LECTURE:

John B. Hench

More information online:
www.americanantiquarian.org

THE REGISTERS OF PHILADELPHIA DAGUERREOTYPISTS SIMONS & COLLINS, 1845-1854

The opportunity to acquire business records for American daguerreotype operators is rare, so when curators at AAS were contacted by our member David Doret about a pair of truly remarkable customer registers being offered by a Pennsylvania dealer, we acted quickly. The registers consist of a volume for the firm Simons & Collins (Montgomery Simons and the Collins brothers, Thomas and David C.), and a second volume for its subsequent incarnation, D.C. Collins & Co. (David C. primarily, with Thomas and/or their father, sporadically). Because the Library Company of Philadelphia has excellent examples of the Collins brothers' daguerreotypes, we confirmed that they were not pursuing these records before we acquired them. Library Company curator of prints and photographs Sarah Weatherwax was pleased that they ended up at AAS rather than in the hands of a private collector. They will be available to scholars for future work on the Collins firm, the history of the daguerreotype, and image-making in the United States before the Civil War.

The registers document over 23,000 customers who visited the company's daguerreian rooms in Philadelphia. For the decade covered by the ledgers (1845-1854), each sitter signed the register or was recorded by a clerk. One of the Collins brothers often added comments regarding the weather ("Stormy day," "Clear day," etc.), payment, size of plate taken, and type of case used. The two volumes are peppered with significant names, such as Philadelphia lithographer Albert Newsom, who sat on the very first day the business was open, and the nationally known temperance lecturer John B. Gough, who sat on a cloudy January day in 1846. Sitters also gave their address; while most came from Philadel-

phia, more distant locations, such as Memphis, Tenn., Shrewsbury, Mass., and Trieste, Austria, are also recorded. Often, as is the case with the sitter from Trieste (Stephen Chase), one family member arrived for a session and the next day returned with other family members – in this case Mrs. Chase, who, like her husband, sat for a half plate image. Occasionally, the entries can be frustratingly un-

specific, for example, mentioning only "A Lady," "An Irish Girl," or "Child of the Hill family." The information about cases and plate size is often scratched hurriedly in the margin, along with notes about whether payment was owed. Returns and refusals are also noted, although these occur infrequently, indicating that the photographers, who started the business just six years after the invention of the daguerreotype process, tried their best to get clear images that pleased their clients.

Because the registers have been held privately since being sold by descendants in 2004, they have been used only infrequently by scholars. They are cited in Rebecca Norris's article on the Collins brothers in the 2006 *Daguerreian Annual*. Scholar Anne Verplanck has also looked at the ledgers for her work on Quakers in Philadelphia and considers them a vital resource for understanding the consumer culture of the era. Since their arrival at the Society this spring, several collectors and scholars have already used the registers, including one working on a biography of Gough and one, from Singapore, working on the history of the daguerreotype.

The Collins registers were purchased with funds pooled from both the manuscript and graphic arts acquisition budgets. The documentation of image-making and consumption that they provide will be invaluable to scholars working under the auspices of the Society's Center for Historic American Visual Culture, as well as researchers working in a number of other areas.

– Lauren Hewes and Thomas Knoles

