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Manuscript Register

MSS # 289

**Genealogical Research of
Professor and Mrs. Edward Elbridge Salisbury**

Arranged and described

by

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Introduction

Edward Elbridge Salisbury (1814 - 1901), noted scholar in the field of Arabic at Yale, worked extensively with his second wife, Evelyn McCurdy in the field of genealogy.

This collection contains notes and correspondence about a number of families. Two letters are found in Box 1, Folder G, which are not genealogical in nature.

A biography of EES from the Yale Biographies is included in this finding aid.

EDWARD ELBRIDGE SALISBURY, son of Josiah Salisbury (Harvard 1798) and Abigail (Breese) Salisbury, was born on April 6, 1814, in Boston, Mass., the home of his ancestors for several generations. He completed his preparation for college at the Boston Latin School.

After graduation he spent a year in private studies, and three years in the Theological Seminary in New Haven, and then went abroad. Although he did not enter the ministry, one definite purpose which he had in choosing oriental research for his life work, was to be of service to the missionaries in the East. He placed himself under the instruction of deSacy and Garcin de Tassy in Paris, and Bopp in Berlin, and after an absence of between three and four years returned to New Haven, and in 1841 was made Professor of the Arabic and Sanskrit Languages and Literature. By the terms of his appointment he became the first University Professor at Yale. Before entering on his duties in 1843 he again went abroad and spent several months in Bonn, reading Sanskrit with Lassen, and studying with Burnouf in France. In the course of the next few years the province of both Arabic and Sanskrit became so enlarged as to be beyond the mastery of a single scholar, and he retired from the chair of Sanskrit in 1854 in favor of his already distinguished pupil, William D. Whitney, for whose salary Prof. Salisbury himself made permanent provision. He retained the Professorship of Arabic until 1856. In 1869 he was urged, without success, to accept a similar chair at Harvard University.

After his retirement Professor Salisbury visited Europe for a third time, and a year later returned to the pursuit of his literary and historical studies at home.

For eleven years he was the Corresponding Secretary of the American Oriental Society, and for ten years its President, and almost from the beginning its invaluable supporter. It was conceded that for some ten years he was virtually the society, so unreservedly did he give to it his time, labor, and means. Among his many papers read before the Society, that on the "History of Buddhism" (1844), on the "Science of Moslem Tradition" (1859), and his "Notice of the Book of Sulaimân's *First Ripe Fruit*" (1864), were regarded as of special scientific value. In accordance with his suggestion a classical section, for the promotion of classical learning in its various bearings on oriental subjects, was formed within the Oriental Society, and from this

the Philological Association was an offshoot some twenty years later.

Professor Salisbury's scholarly attainments were recognized by his election as a member of the Asiatic Society of Paris in 1838, when he was but 24 years of age, a member of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1839, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Boston in 1848, and a corresponding member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences and Belles Lettres at Constantinople in 1855, of the German Oriental Society in 1859, and of the American Antiquarian Society in 1861. He received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Yale in 1869, and from Harvard in 1886.

Besides his contributions on oriental subjects, Professor Salisbury treated topics of more general interest in a "Sketch of the Life and Works of Michael Angelo Buonarroti" in 1858, and in a lecture before the Yale Art School in 1877 on the "Principles of Domestic Taste," both of which were published in the *New Englander*. For the work, "Yale College" (1879), he wrote a biographical and historical paper on the Trumbull Gallery.

In his later years he took a keen interest in genealogical studies, and printed in 1886 "Family Memorials", and in 1892 "Family Histories and Genealogies" relating to the ancestry of his wife's family, in several large volumes remarkable for fulness, accuracy, and typographical excellence.

In 1870 Professor Salisbury gave his very valuable collection of oriental books and manuscripts to the Yale Library, with a fund for additions. His aid made possible the completion of the "Old Library" building, and his gifts for special needs of the University Library were generous and frequent. His interest in art, and his friendly sentiment towards the Art School were shown in a similar manner. Toward the erection of East and West Divinity Halls he gave considerable sums. But among his most timely gifts were those which secured to the University the life-long services of Professors James D. Dana and William D. Whitney. In accordance with the provisions of his will it is expected that the University will ultimately receive large additional amounts.

Professor Salisbury was a deacon in the Center Church from 1849 to 1862, and a member from 1840 to 1872, when he transferred this relation to the Church in Yale College. He was a member of the Art Council of the School of Fine Arts from, its

formation in 1865, and until a year before his decease a member of the Standing Committee of the University Library. He was also the Secretary of his class for many years.

In the spring of 1836 he married his cousin, Abigail Salisbury Phillips, daughter of Edward Phillips, Esq., of Boston. She died in 1869, and their only daughter in 1875. On November 23, 1871, he married Evelyn McCurdy, daughter of Judge Charles J. McCurdy (Yale 1817), of the Connecticut Supreme Court.

Professor Salisbury died at his home from heart failure following an illness of about a week from pneumonia, on February 5, 1901, having nearly completed his 87th year.

ALFRED STILLÉ, son of John Stillé, a prosperous East India merchant and Maria (Wagner) Stillé, was born in Philadelphia, Pa., on October 30, 1813. At the age of fifteen he entered Yale, but his course was cut short in 1830, and he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1832. In 1850 he received the degree of M.A. from Yale, and was then enrolled with his class.

The year following his graduation at Philadelphia he began the study of medicine, and received his degree of M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1836. He was at once appointed resident physician in the Philadelphia Hospital, but soon went abroad and pursued further studies for two years, mostly in Paris. He began to lecture on pathology and the practice of medicine before the Philadelphia Association for Medical Improvement in 1844, and continued these lectures until 1850, in the meantime becoming a resident physician in the Pennsylvania Hospital. In 1851 he again went abroad for professional study, chiefly in Vienna.

In 1854 he was appointed Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in Pennsylvania Medical College, and ten years later was elected to a similar chair in the University of Pennsylvania, where his brother Charles (Yale 1839) was Professor and afterward Provost. His instruction was held in high regard and attracted large classes. In 1884 he was made Professor *Emeritus*, and held this position during the remainder of his life. He was one of the visiting physicians of St. Joseph's Hospital from its organization in 1840 until 1877, and during the Civil War at the United States Satterlee Hospital. From 1865 to 1871 he was one of the physicians and clinical lecturers at the Philadelphia Hospital.

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<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1/A	Griswold Family
1/B	Johnson Family
1/C	Ogden Family
1/D	Miscellaneous families including: McCurdy, Baldwin, Granville, Griffin, Harmon, Scarlett, Hawes, Crawford, Digby, Say
1/E	Miscellaneous families including: Lynde, Lyne, Mitchell, Lee, Lord, Drake, Pitkin, Marvin, Parmelee, Tabb
1/F	Genealogical Correspondence, 1879-1887
1/G	a. Letter to EES, 1844, from David L. Stoddard, Persia b. Letter to EES, 1846 from Nathaniel L. Frothingham, Boston
1/H	2 photographs of EES