

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. 93

Date processed: October, 1978

- I. Title Osborn, Shadrach (1747 - 1838). Papers (1709 - 1875).
- II. The papers of
deposited in the Library on _____, by
In _____ converted the deposit to a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: One foot
Approximate number of items: 842
- 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- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of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.

VIII. Analysis: The papers comprise two boxes.

Box I contains for the most part family and business
correspondence. Box II contains business memoranda, notes and
receipts and miscellaneous undated material. Arrangement is
chronological.

Shadrach Osborn (1747 - 1838)

While the Osborns were a prolific clan in the Southbury and Woodbury areas, virtually all of the letters in these papers were addressed to Shadrach Osborn. They represent his business affairs and the response to his efforts.

Shadrach Osborn was the son of Timothy Osborn (1720 - 1807) and Rachel Judd Osborn. During the Revolution, Timothy served on the local thirty-member Committee of Inspection and Observation. Captain Elias Deming was another member of this Committee.

Shadrach Osborn played an active role in the Revolution. He caused several hundred barrels of pork to be hidden from the British and the hiding place in Southbury is known as "Pork Hollow" to this day. As a soldier he held the rank of Sergeant and was appointed Quartermaster.

After the war he married Mary Hinman and remained in Southbury as a merchant for the rest of his life. He also served as Postmaster and Selectman in Southbury. He willed that his property be used as a church site and eventually a church was built there. He and his wife had a daughter Betsy who married Simon Dunning, and a son, Erastus (1785 - 1868).

Note: Willard E. Osborn, family genealogist, states that Betsy was an only child and does not mention Erastus at all in his genealogy of the Osborn family. But these papers include a number of letters to Shadrach from Erastus with the salutation "Dear Father." "Your son" (Erastus) occurs in another. There is a gravestone in the White Oak Cemetery in Southbury marking Erastus' grave.

From his home in Southbury Shadrach kept in close touch with his two separate business agents in New Haven, his son Erastus Osborn and Lemman Dunning, the latter possibly a relation by marriage. Business letters from his New Haven agents constitute the bulk of the Shadrach Osborn papers and show him to have been something of a "wheeler-dealer", specializing in the supply of pork.

Both Shadrach and his son Erastus were named Commissioners of various turnpikes by the Governor of Connecticut. Erastus became Deputy Sheriff of New Haven County.

In addition, the papers contain files on the settlement of the estate of Captain Elias Dunning of which Shadrach Osborn was administrator, and copies of notes, loan documents and miscellaneous receipts. There are three letters from Erastus Osborn, Jr. to his grandfather.

Shadrach Osborn died in 1838 at the age of 91, a highly respected citizen of Southbury.

Content Guide

Osborn, Shadrach (1747 - 1838). Papers (1709 - 1875)

Box I

Folder A - Osborn, Shadrach, general correspondence, 1782 - 1789.	(17)
B - Same 1791 - 1809.	(14)
C - Same 1810 - 1834.	(16)
D - Family correspondence, including reports on the illness of various children, 1791 - 1821.	(10)
E - Family correspondence, 1823 - 1826.	(10)
F - Family correspondence, including letters from Shadrach's grandson, 1830 - 1834.	(10)
G - Osborn, Erastus, business letters to Shadrach Osborn, 1808 - 1815.	(14)
H - Same, 1815 - 1817.	(13)
I - Same, 1819 - 1823.	(16)
J - Same, 1824 - 1829.	(12)
K - Same, 1810 - 1838.	(11)
L - Dunning, Leman, business letters to Shadrach Osborn, 1797 - 1807.	(12)
M - Same, 1808 - 1812.	(10)
N - Same, 1813 - 1825.	(8)
O - Dunning, Elias, insolvent debtor.	(7)
P - Estate of Elias Dunning, accounts.	(18)
Q - Estate of Elias Dunning, surveys, accounts and correspondence.	(10)

Content Guide

Osborn, Shadrach (1747 - 1838). Papers (1709 - 1875).

Box II

- Folder A - Estate of Elias Dunning, estate deeds, 1768 - 1783. (6)
- B - Estate of Elias Dunning, deeds, 1790 - 1795. (6)
- C - Shadrach Osborn, bills and billing memoranda, 1776 - 1788. (Many from Beecher, Whittelsey & Co.) (49)
- D - Key (index tabs) for material in folder (C) above. (49)
- E - Shadrach Osborn, receipts, bills, memoranda, 1788 - 1803. (Many from Beecher, Whittelsey & Co.) (50)
- F - Key (index tabs) for material in folder (E) above. (50)
- G - Shadrach Osborn, receipts, bills and memoranda, 1803 - 1826. (48)
- H - Key (index tabs) for material in folder (G) above. (48)
- I - Miscellaneous letters, memos and fragments of same, 1709 - 1875. Appointments of Shadrach and Erastus Osborn as Commissioners of various turnpikes. Much of the correspondence is undated. (38)
- J - Key (index tabs) for material in folder (I) above. (38)
- K - Miscellaneous correspondence not all of which relates to Shadrach Osborn, 1771 - 1865. (19)
- L - Notes signed by Erastus Osburn in Southbury and New Haven through the U. S. Bank in Middletown, the New Haven Bank and the Eagle Bank of New Haven. Signature on each note has been cut out indicating that payment has been made by the signator. (240)

Added, February, 1979

- M - Notebook giving narrative history and some genealogy of the Osborn family.

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Osborn, Shadrach, 1747 - 1838, Papers, 1709 - 1875

Addendum, June 1979

Folder N - Osborn Family Letters:

Shadrach Osborn to J.P. Blagg concerning order for flour
July 8, 1782.

Bilious Osborn to Shadrach Osborn concerning Blagg family
and Osborn family matters, May 10, 1795.

E. Osborn to S. Osborn concerning transactions in pork and
financing of them, December 2, 1815.

/ Erastus Osborn to S. Osborn, Esq. concerning family
matters, October 9, 1820.

Sarah Hine concerning Osborn genealogy, January 30, 1897.

Virginia Douglas McClurg concerning Osborn genealogy,
February 22, 1897.

S.J. Turtelot to John C. Osborn, Father of Willard E. Osborn,
concerning Osborn genealogy, September 6, 1916.

Same, December 4, 1916.

Photos (9) of Osborn headstones in White Oak cemetery,
church and schools and Pork Hollow marker, all in

Southbury CT., taken by Willard E. Osborn, August 6, 1933.

Addendum, November, 1979

Box II

Folder O - (Ms.) E. M. Osborn of Westville, teacher, letter to
Mary S. Clark of Orange, dated October 18, 1843,
on a religious subject.

P - Letter from J. P. R. James (1799 - 1860), distinguished
British novelist, to Minott A. Osborn, not a
direct descendant but possibly a collateral
descendant of Shadrach Osborn, dated 2 November, 1850.