

# Guide to the Moses F. Little Papers

WA MSS S-1028



by Beinecke Staff

2009

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-1028

**CREATOR:** Little, Moses F., 1823-1917?

**TITLE:** Moses F. Little papers

**DATES:** 1841-1916

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.43 linear feet (58 volumes in 8 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** A collection of 58 journals recording 72 years of Moses Little's life. He spent 1844-1848 aboard the whaler *Arnolda*, commanded by Captain D. U. Coffin out of New Bedford, Massachusetts. In 1849, Little joined the Sagamore Mining and Trading Company of Lynn, Massachusetts, and traveled to California, returning in 1851. Making a second trip to California in 1852 via the Isthmus to Panama City, he sailed on the *Tennessee*. He staked a claim in Sandy Gulch, Calaveras County, and returned to New York in 1853. Except for his trips to Chicago in 1869 visiting the stockyards and 1893 for the World's Fair, the remaining journals concern Little's life in Hill, New Hampshire, where he ran a general store and became interested in local politics.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.littlemoses>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.littlemoses>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Goodspeed's Book Shop, Inc.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The Moses F. Little Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

Moses F. Little Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### Processing Information

The information in this finding aid was derived from a description and list prepared by Goodspeed's Book Shop, Inc.

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### Existence and Location of Copies

Available on microfilm.

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## Moses F. Little

Moses F. Little was born on August 31, 1823, in Boscawen, New Hampshire, and lived most of his life in the small town of Hill nearby. After graduating from an academy in Salisbury, New Hampshire, and receiving a certificate to teach in district schools, he spent the years 1844 to 1848 on a whaling voyage, and 1849 to 1853 mining for gold in California. Following his return to Hill, he became a shopkeeper, and served as town clerk and justice of the peace.

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## Scope and Contents

A collection of fifty-eight journals recording seventy-two years of Moses Little's life. He spent 1844-1848 aboard the whaler *Arnolda*, commanded by Captain D. U. Coffin out of New Bedford, Massachusetts. In 1849, Little joined the Sagamore Mining and Trading Company of Lynn, Massachusetts, and traveled to California over the plains and Rockies to Sacramento, returning in 1851. Making a second trip to California in 1852 via the Isthmus to Panama City, he sailed on the *Tennessee*. He staked a claim in Sandy Gulch, Calaveras County, and returned to New York via Nicaragua in 1853. Except for his trips to Chicago in 1869 visiting the stockyards and 1893 for the World's Fair, the remaining journals concern Little's life in Hill, New Hampshire, where he ran a general store, and became interested in local politics.

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## **Arrangement**

Arranged chronologically.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Diaries and Other Manuscripts, 1841-1916

3.43 linear feet (58 volumes in 8 boxes)

b. 1, f. 1	Copy book of proverbs	1841
b. 1, f. 2	Copy book of poems	1841-1843
b. 1, f. 3	<a href="#">Journal of the whaling voyage on ship Arnolda to the Pacific</a>	1844-1848
b. 1, f. 4	<a href="#">Copies of 8 letters written during whaling voyage</a>	1844-1848
b. 1, f. 5	Copy book of songs	1845-1847
b. 1, f. 6	Journal of overland travel from Lynn, Massachusetts over Oregon Trail and through South Pass, and mining in California	1849-1850
b. 2, f. 7	"Extracts from the Mormon's Guide," copy	1849
b. 2, f. 8	Diary of mining in California	1850 April-September
b. 2, f. 9	Company account book in California	1851 January-September
b. 2, f. 10	Diary at home	1851 December 31-1852 January 20
b. 2, f. 11	Diary at home, description of California flora and fauna in the back	1852 February-June
b. 2, f. 12	Diary of second trip to California via isthmus of Panama and mining in California	1852 June-December
b. 2, f. 13	Book of expenses at Sandy Gulch gold mine	1852
b. 2, f. 14	Diary of mining in California and voyage home via Nicaragua	1853 January-August
b. 2, f. 15	Diary at home	1853 August-1854 September
b. 2, f. 16	Book of expenses	1853
b. 3, f. 17	Diary	1854 September-1855 July
b. 3, f. 18	Diary	1855 July-October
b. 3, f. 19	Diary	1855 November 5-12
b. 3, f. 20	Diary	1855 November 17-December 18

b. 3, f. 21	Diary	1855 December 18-1856 January 17
b. 3, f. 22	Diary	1856 January 17- July 20
b. 3, f. 23	Diary	1856 July 21-1857 August 7
b. 3, f. 24	Diary	1857 August 29- December 23
b. 3, f. 25	Diary	1857 December 26-1858 February 22
b. 3, f. 26	Diary	1858 February 24-December 31
b. 3, f. 27	Book of debts	1857
b. 3, f. 28	Diary	1859 January- April
b. 3, f. 29	Diary	1859 September 21-December 31
b. 4, f. 30	Diary	1860
b. 4, f. 31	Diary	1864
b. 4, f. 32	Diary	1867
b. 4, f. 33	Diary	1869
b. 4, f. 34	Diary	1871
b. 4, f. 35	Diary	1877
b. 4, f. 36	Diary	1878
b. 5, f. 37	Diary	1880
b. 5, f. 38	Diary	1881
b. 5, f. 39	Diary	1882
b. 5, f. 40	Diary	1883
b. 5, f. 41	Diary	1884
b. 5, f. 42	Diary	1886
b. 6, f. 43	Diary	1887
b. 6, f. 44	Diary	1890

b. 6, f. 45	Diary	1891
b. 6, f. 46	Diary	1892
b. 6, f. 47	Diary: trip to World's Fair in Chicago	1893
b. 6, f. 48	Diary	1895
b. 7, f. 49	Diary	1898
b. 7, f. 50	Diary	1899
b. 7, f. 51	Diary	1904
b. 7, f. 52	Diary	1906
b. 7, f. 53	Diary	1907
b. 8, f. 54	Diary	1908
b. 8, f. 55	Diary	1910
b. 8, f. 56	Diary	1912
b. 8, f. 57	Diary	1915
b. 8, f. 58	Diary	1916



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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

General stores -- New Hampshire  
Gold mines and mining -- California  
Overland journeys to the Pacific  
Overland journeys to the Pacific -- 1849  
Voyages to the Pacific coast  
Whaling

### Geographic Names

Azores  
Bonin Islands (Japan)  
Calaveras County (Calif.)  
California -- Description and travel  
Easter Island  
Hawaii  
Hebrides (Scotland)  
Hill (N.H.)  
New Bedford (Mass.)  
Oregon National Historic Trail  
Pitcairn Islands  
Sacramento (Calif.)  
Society Islands (French Polynesia)  
Sutter's Fort (Sacramento, Calif.)

### Genres / Formats

Account books -- United States  
Diaries -- United States

### Occupations

Gold miners -- California  
Merchants -- New Hampshire  
Whalers (Persons) -- Massachusetts

### Names

Coffin, D. U.  
Little, Eben L., b. 1837  
Little, John Pierce, b. 1831  
Little, Moses F., 1823-1917?

### Corporate Bodies

Amethyst (Ship : 1800)  
Arnolda (Ship)  
Brother Jonathan (Ship)  
Commodore Preble (Ship)  
Congaree (Ship)  
Desdemona (Ship)  
Elizabeth (Ship)  
Henry (Ship : 1848-1859)  
John Adams (Ship)  
Liancourt (Ship)  
Lydia (Ship)  
Mary Anne (Ship)  
Minerva (Ship : 1800-1807)  
Nantucket (Ship)  
Navigator (Ship)  
New Bedford (Ship)  
Nobile (Ship)  
Norman (Ship)  
Old Prometheus (Ship)  
Phoenix (Steamer)  
Rose (Ship)  
Sagamore Mining and Trading Company  
Sophie (Steamer)  
Swift (Ship)  
World's Columbian Exposition (1893 Chicago, Ill.)