

# Guide to the James Jesse Strang Papers

WA MSS S-186-189



by Beinecke Staff

September 1995

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-186-189

**CREATOR:** Strang, James Jesse, 1813-1856

**TITLE:** James Jesse Strang papers

**DATES:** 1829-1870

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.75 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains letters to and from James Jesse Strang and some third party correspondence. There is a meteorological journal from Beaver Island, Michigan, which includes notes on the fishes and shells of the area, Strang's diary covering 1831-1836, and documents of the Order of the Illuminati.

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## Requesting Instructions

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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

Unspecified, please consult the appropriate curator.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 6: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates are available in both physical and digital form. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The James Jesse Strang Papers are 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

James Jesse Strang Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Associated Materials

[James Jesse Strang Collection, WA MSS 447](#)

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## Scope and Contents

James Jesse Strang (1813-1856), was a founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Strangite). The collection contains letters to and from James Jesse Strang and some third party correspondence. There is also a meteorological journal from Beaver Island, Michigan, which includes notes on the fishes and shells of the area, Strang's diary covering 1831-1836, and documents of the Order of the Illuminati.

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## Collection Contents

### Journal (WA MSS S-186)

- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| b.1 | Strang, James Jesse. Meteorological Journal, St. James [Mich.]<br>Records cover Dec 1850 - July 1851, Sep 1852 - May 1856. Also includes "Fishes of Beaver Island Harbour", "Shells and shell-fish" and "Vibrations of mercury in the thermometer". | 1850-1856 |
|-----|---|-----------|
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**Strang Letterbook (WA MSS S-187)**

The numbers to the left of the description refer to letter number; documents are bound in the contemporary letterbook in no discernable order. All letters are to James Jesse Strang unless otherwise specified.

b. 2, f. 1	Rathbone, A. D. ALS. Forestville [N.Y].	1836 Jul 14
b. 2, f. 2	General Law Agency, G. J. Grosvenor. Printed form.	[after 1840]
b. 2, f. 3	Strang, James Jesse. ALS. Silver Creek [N.Y].	1836 Jun 12
b. 2, f. 4	Messenger, Westfield [N.Y]. Printed form.	1842 Mar 16
b. 2, f. 5	Hazelton, Benjamin. ALS. Mason Center, N.Y.	1839 Aug 16
b. 2, f. 6	Johnson, L., P.M. ALS. Gerry P.O., Chautauqua Co., N.Y.	1839 Sep 28
b. 2, f. 7	Daughter "A L" [Almira L]. ALS to "Dear Cousin Mary" & James J. Strang. Brantford [Canada].	1842 Feb 20
b. 2, f. 8	Strang, Amaziah. ALS. Jamestown [N.Y].	1837 Mar 6
b. 2, f. 9	Strang, Francis. ALS. Westfield Tioga Co., Pa.	1841 May 14
b. 2, f. 10	Strang, Gabriel. ALS. Richmond, Ind.	1840 Sep 18
b. 2, f. 11	Post Office Dept., Amos Kendall. DS. Printed form. Commission of postmaster at Ellington.	1838 Dec 27
b. 2, f. 12	Strang, G[abriel]. ALS to James J. Strang & wife. Richmond, Ind.	1841 Jan 12
b. 2, f. 13	Strang, G[abriel]. ALS. Perington.	1840 Mar 3
b. 2, f. 14	Strang, James Jesse. ALS (copy) to E. Harman. Ellington [N.Y].	1841 Jul 6
b. 2, f. 15	Clark, Lot. ALS. Dunkirk [N.Y.]	1841 Aug 30
b. 2, f. 16	Strang, James Jesse. ALS (draft) to Miss W[ealthy] Smith. Clear Creek [N.Y].	1836 Sep 10
b. 2, f. 17	Harman & Wilson. ALS.	[1841 Jul]
b. 2, f. 18	Losee, Myraette A. (Strang). ALS. Chautauqua.	1841 Aug 27
b. 2, f. 19	Seaver, William A. ALS. Batavia [N.Y].	1841 Jun 30
b. 2, f. 20	James J. Strang to "Dear Father" [Clement Strang]. Ellington, N.Y.	1837 Mar 12
b. 2, f. 21	Prentiss, Russell. ALS. Saint Louis, Mo.	
b. 2, f. 22	Losee, Myraette A. (Strang). ALS.	1841 Jul 18
b. 2, f. 23	Post Office Dept: Amos Kendall. Printed form.	1839 Mar 1
b. 2, f. 24	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to "Dear Ben" [Benjamin Hazelton]. Ellington, N.Y.	1837 Feb 23
b. 2, f. 25	Smith, William. ALS. Mayville, N.Y.	1841 Aug 23
b. 2, f. 26	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Wilson & Company. Ellington, N.Y.	1841 Jan 25

b. 2, f. 27	Post Office Dept: Rob. Johnston, 2nd Asst. P.M. Gen. Printed form.	1838 Nov 24
b. 2, f. 28	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to John N. James (copy).	1835 Dec 23
b. 2, f. 29	Strang, James Jesse. ALS (copy) to C. Tucker. Ellington, N.Y.	1838 Apr 4
b. 2, f. 30	Post Office Dept: Amos Kendall. ALS. Hand-written, "ditto machine".	1840 May 28
b. 2, f. 31	Perce, W. L. ALS.	1841 Jun 27
b. 2, f. 32	"H N E P" [Mrs. Strang's Brother Perce] to Mrs. James J. Strang.	[n.y.] Mar 24
b. 2, f. 33	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to B[enjamin] Hazelton. Ellington, N.Y.	1841 May 4
b. 2, f. 34	Strang, Gabriel. ALS. South Charleston, O.	1842 Mar 27
b. 2, f. 35	"B.C.P" and Ellen Perce. ALS. Bloomfield. Heading is "My dear Niece".	1841 Jul 16
b. 2, f. 36	"Jamie" [James J. Strang] to "Dear Mary" [Mrs. Mary Perce Strang]. Ellington, N.Y.	1847 Feb 26
b. 2, f. 37	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to John W. James.	1836 Jun 16
b. 2, f. 38	George W. Little. Cherry Valley, N.Y.	1842 Jan 15
b. 2, f. 39	Aldrich, Hazen. ALS. Stanley Corners, N.Y.	1831 Sep 16
b. 2, f. 40	Perce, Benjamin C. ALS. Cherry Creek, N.Y.	1842 Jul 12
b. 2, f. 41	Boston Notion: George Roberts. Printed form.	1841
b. 2, f. 42	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Mary Perce Strang. Ellington, N.Y.	1837 Mar
b. 2, f. 43	Boston Notion. Printed form, mentioned in letter 41.	1841
b. 2, f. 44	Eve[ning] Journal: Thomas White & W. H. Corbin. ALS. Albany.	1842 Jan 8
b. 2, f. 45	Strang, Mary (Perce). ALS. N.Y.	1837 Jan 8
b. 2, f. 46	Strang, Francis. ALS.	1841 Dec 10
b. 2, f. 47	Strang, James, ALS. Schuylerville, N.Y.	1835 Jul 21
b. 2, f. 48	Hinckley, I. G. [Mayville]. ALS.	1842 May 4
b. 2, f. 49	Tucker, C. ALS. Fredonia, N.Y.	1842 May 13
b. 2, f. 50	Hazeltine, A. ALS. Jamestown, N.Y.	1842 May 21
b. 2, f. 51	Smith, A. ALS. Westfield, N.Y.	1841 Mar 29
b. 2, f. 52	Badger, J. ALS. Honeoye Falls, N.Y.	1839 Jun 19
b. 2, f. 53	James, John N. ALS. New York.	1836 Mar 8
b. 2, f. 54	Rathbone, A. D. ALS. Grand Rapids, Mich.	1840 Jan 6
b. 2, f. 55	Perce, Ellen. ALS to "My Dear Niece" [Mary Perce Strang].	1840 Jun 28

b. 2, f. 56	Peacock, William W. ALS. Mayville, N.Y.	1840 Dec 10
b. 2, f. 57	Office of Treasurer, E. Whittlesey, Auditor. Printed form.	1841 Nov 10
b. 2, f. 58	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Manly James. Silver Creek, N.Y.	1836 Jun 12
b. 2, f. 59	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to C. Tucker. Ellington, N.Y.	1839 Nov 1
b. 2, f. 60	Parker, Charles. ALS. Ashville, N.Y.	1840 Aug 3
b. 2, f. 61	Perce, W. L. [father]. ALS.	1838 Jul 1
b. 2, f. 62	Strang, James. ALS to "Mr. Perce" [Mary's father]. Clear Creek.	1836 Sep 22
b. 2, f. 63	Perce, W. L. [father]. ALS.	1836 Oct 10
b. 2, f. 64	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to "Sister", E. H. Perce. Mayville, N.Y.	1838 Jan 14
b. 2, f. 65	Tucker, C. ALS.	1838 May 21
b. 2, f. 66	Post Office Department: C. A. Wickliffe [in print], Post Master General. Printed form.	1842 Jan 24
b. 2, f. 67	Post Office Dept. Blank printed form.	n.d.
b. 2, f. 68	Post Office Dept.: C. A. Wickliffe [in print], Post Master General. Printed form.	1841 Nov 1
b. 2, f. 69	Tucker, C. ALS.	1839 Sep 8
b. 2, f. 70	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to "Dear Parents" [Perce family].	1838 Jan 25
b. 2, f. 71	Strang, Gilbert [Francis Strang]. ALS.	1842 Sep 16
b. 2, f. 72	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to "Dear Parents & Sister" [Perce Family]. Ellington Center, N.Y.	1837 Feb 12
b. 2, f. 73	Willing, Richard. ALS. N.p.	1839 Nov 26
b. 2, f. 74	Winchester. E. ALS. Fredonia, N.Y.	1840 Oct 24
b. 2, f. 75	Central Comm. [political]. Printed form with note in Strang's hand on it.	1840 Oct 19
b. 2, f. 76	Peacock, William W. ALS. Mayville, N.Y.	1840 Nov 10
b. 2, f. 77	Strang, Francis. ALS.	1841 July 7
b. 2, f. 78	LaHatt, Charles H. ALS. Girard, Ala.	1841 Aug 8
b. 2, f. 79	Seward, B. J. ALS. Westfield, N.Y.	1839 Apr 1
b. 2, f. 80	Hughes, Harriet. ALS. Marseilles, N.Y.	1841 Mar 14
b. 2, f. 81	Bowen & McManus Co. ALS Strang. N.Y.	1842 Jan 24
b. 2, f. 82	Perce, Benjamin C. ALS Strang. Burlington.	1842 Jan 27
b. 2, f. 83	Gibbs, Anson. ALS. N.p.	1840 Jun 27
b. 2, f. 84	Treasury Dept; Auditor signed, E. Whittlesey. Printed form.	1841 May 17



b. 2, f. 85	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Mary P. Strang. Clear Creek, N.Y.	1837 Jan 20
b. 2, f. 86	Post Office Dept., signed George Hitt, agent. ALS. N.Y.	1842 Jan 28
b. 2, f. 87	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Mary Perce Strang. Clear Creek, N.Y.	1837 Jan 13
b. 2, f. 88	Signed by clerk Jno. Robertson, Jr. ALS. Ohio River.	1841 May 9
b. 2, f. 89	Strang, Mary (Perce). ALS. Ellicottville, N.Y.	1837 Jan 21
b. 2, f. 90	Democratic Party, Comm. of Correspondence. Printed form.	1840 Feb 8
b. 2, f. 91	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to "Respected Friend". Clear Creek, N.Y.	1836 Aug 29
b. 2, f. 92	Strang, Mary (Perce). ALS.	Winter, 1836-7
b. 2, f. 93	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Amaziah Strang. Ellington, N.Y.	1837 Jan 21
b. 2, f. 94	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Amaziah Strang. Ellington, N.Y.	1837 Apr 3
b. 2, f. 95	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Mary Perce Strang. Clear Creek, N.Y.	1836 Dec 5
b. 2, f. 96	Strang, Mary (Perce). ALS. Little Valley.	n.d.
b. 2, f. 97	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Mary Perce Strang.	1837 Apr 13
b. 2, f. 98	Treasury Dept., Auditor's Office: signed E. Whittlesey. Printed form.	1841 May 17
b. 2, f. 99	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Mary Perce Strang. Clear Creek, N.Y.	1835 Dec 5
b. 2, f. 100	C.H. Read Company. ALS to W.T. Norris [Postmaster at Ellington]. Troy, N.Y.	1839 May 14
b. 2, f. 101	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Mary Perce Strang. Ellington Center, N.Y.	1837 Apr 4
b. 2, f. 102	Strang, Francis. ALS. Westfield, N.Y.	1841 Jul 2
b. 2, f. 103	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Mary Perce Strang.	1837
b. 2, f. 104	Patchin, A. D. ALS.	1839 Sep 28
b. 2, f. 105	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to "Very dear Sister" [H. N. Perce]. Ellicottville.	1837 Feb 18
b. 2, f. 106	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Myraette. Clear Creek, N.Y.	1836 Jul 26
b. 2, f. 107	Hazeltine, Abner. ALS. Jamestown, N.Y.	1834 Oct 29
b. 2, f. 108	Hazeltine, Abner. ALS. Washington.	[1837] Jan 30
b. 2, f. 109	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to "Amanda". Ellington, N.Y.	1837 Feb 25
b. 2, f. 110	Strang, James Jesse. ALS (copy) to Mr. Fuller. Ellington, N.Y.	1837 Mar 7
b. 2, f. 111	Strang, James Jesse. ALS (copy) to Peter L. Fraser. Clear Creek, N.Y.	183-? Jun 27
b. 2, f. 112	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to "Dear Ellen". N.p.	1837 Feb 23
b. 2, f. 113	Strang, Mary (Perce). ALS. Ellicottville, N.Y..	1837 Jan 14
b. 2, f. 114	Strang, James. ALS. Schuylerville, N.Y.	1829 Nov 25

b. 2, f. 115	James, Manly. ALS. New York City, N.Y.	1835 Nov 25
b. 2, f. 116	Strang, Mary (Perce). ALS. Ellicottville, N.Y.	1837 Feb 21
b. 2, f. 117	Edwards, Charles [Texas Land Co.]. ALS to James J. Strang and Ward.	1834 Nov 17
b. 2, f. 118	Rathbone, A. D. ALS. N.p.	[n.y.] Jan 8
b. 2, f. 119	Parker, Charles. ALS. Ashville, N.Y.	1840 Feb 6
b. 2, f. 120	Post Office Dept: signed M. Paine, agent. ALS.	1840 Jun 20
b. 2, f. 121	Perce, L. [Mary's mother]. ALS to James J. & Mary P. Strang. N.p.	1838 Feb 23
b. 2, f. 122	Perce, W. L. [on same sheet as above letter]. ALS to James J. & Mary P. Strang. N.p.	1840 Feb 23
b. 2, f. 123	Democratic Party. "To the Democratic Electors of the State of N. York". Printed form.	n.d.
b. 2, f. 124	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to W. L. Perce.	1837 Jul 2
b. 2, f. 125	R. J. Hilton [Lawyer in Albany]. Printed form.	18[?] Aug
b. 2, f. 126	Hughes, Harriet & Perce, L. (Mrs.). ALS to Mary Perce Strang ["Dear Sis"].	1840 Sep 20
b. 2, f. 127	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Mary Perce Strang. Ellington, N.Y.	1837 Feb 20
b. 2, f. 128	Strang, Amaziah. ALS. Leon Center, N.Y.	1839 Oct 28
b. 2, f. 129	Strang, Amaziah. ALS. Leon Center, N.Y.	1840 Apr 10
b. 2, f. 130	Strang, Amaziah. ALS. Leon Center, N.Y.	1840 Apr 4
b. 2, f. 131	Strang, G. [Gabriel]. ALS. N.Y.	1840 Jun 1
b. 2, f. 132	Strang. Gabriel. ALS. South Bloomfield Picaway County, Ohio.	1840 Jul 19
b. 2, f. 133	Strang, Amaziah. ALS. Leon Center, N.Y.	1839 Aug 16
b. 2, f. 134	Losee, Myraette A. (Strang). ALS. Chautauque, N.Y.	1841 Apr 22
b. 2, f. 135	Losee, Myraette A. (Strang). ALS. Chautauque, N.Y.	1840 May 16
b. 2, f. 136	Losee, Myraette A. (Strang). ALS. Chautauque, N.Y.	1837 May 8
b. 2, f. 137	Losee, Myraette A. (Strang). ALS. Chautauque, N.Y.	1838 Oct 25
b. 2, f. 138	Losee, Myraette A. (Strang). ALS. Chautauque, N.Y.	1840 Jan 21
b. 2, f. 139	Losee, Myraette A. (Strang). ALS to Mary Perce Strang. Chautauque, N.Y.	1840 May 24
b. 2, f. 140	Strang, David. ALS. Hanover, N.Y.	1837 Jan 31
b. 2, f. 141	James, John N. ALS. Jamesville, N.Y.	1839 Jul 22
b. 2, f. 142	James, Manly. ALS. Jamesville, N.Y.	1839 Jul 6
b. 2, f. 143	Little, George W. ALS. Cherry Valley, N.Y.	1840 Oct 4
b. 2, f. 144	Losee, Myraette A. (Strang). ALS. Chautauque, N.Y.	1840 Mar 27

b. 2, f. 145	Losee, Myraette A. (Strang). ALS. Chautauque, N.Y.	1840 Apr 10
b. 2, f. 146	Jones, William. ALS. Chicago, Ill.	1841 May 12
b. 2, f. 147	James, John N. ALS. N.Y.	1840 May 15
b. 2, f. 148	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to "Mr. James", draft. Mayville, N.Y.	1837 Nov 17
b. 2, f. 149	James, John W. ALS. N.Y.	1840 Mar 19
b. 2, f. 150	Strope, M. ALS to "Editors of the Randolph Herald.	1843 Mar 31
b. 2, f. 151	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to "Dear Father" [Clement Strang]. Ellington, N.Y.	1837 Apr 18
b. 2, f. 152	Kershaw, John. ALS. Millersburg, N.Y.	1838 Dec 26
b. 2, f. 153	James, Jonathan. ALS to Jesse Brooks. Cherry Creek, N.Y.	1837 Dec 10
b. 2, f. 154	James, John N. ALS. N.Y.	1839 Dec 25
b. 2, f. 155	James, John N. ALS. N.Y.	1839 Mar 8
b. 2, f. 156	Briggs, John R. ALS. Westfield, N.Y.	1843 Mar 16
b. 2, f. 157	Strang, Ira. ALS. Stillwater, N.Y.	1841 Mar 28
b. 2, f. 158	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to M. Strope. Randolph.	1843 Apr 9
b. 2, f. 159	Strang, A. [Amaziah]. ALS. Leon Center, N.Y.	1841 Jan 23
b. 2, f. 160	Warren, E. F. ALS. Jamestown, N.Y.	1843 May 13
b. 2, f. 161	Salisbury, Manchester & Co. Printed form.	n.d.
b. 2, f. 162	Strang, G. [Gabriel]. ALS.	1841 Feb 18
b. 2, f. 163	Erie County Republican General Corresponding Committee [Buffalo, N.Y.]. Printed form.	1843 Mar 13
b. 2, f. 164	O'Reilly, H. ALS. N.p.	1842 Feb 12
b. 2, f. 165	Waith, William. ALS. Ellington, N.Y.	1843 Apr 19
b. 2, f. 166	Citizens of Ellington. ALS (draft) "To the Post Master General of the United States". Ellington, N.Y.	1838 Nov 6
b. 2, f. 167	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to Mary Perce Strang. Mayville.	1841 Oct 15
b. 2, f. 168	Strang, G. [Gabriel]. ALS. Richmond, Ind.	1840 Nov 19
b. 2, f. 169	Foote, E. T. ALS. Jamestown, N.Y. "Friday Morning."	1840 Jul
b. 2, f. 170	Strang, James Jesse. ALS to "Sir", draft. N.p. Concerning post office business.	n.d.

## Diary (WA MSS S-188)

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|--------|---|-----------|
| b. 6   | Strang, James Jesse. Diary.<br>Some pages missing; most mutilated. Partly in cipher. Includes 15 leaves listed in Withington, <i>Western Americana Manuscripts</i> , 447.<br>Restricted fragile material. Physical and digital surrogates are available. For more information please consult the appropriate curator. | 1831–1836 |
| b. 3-4 | Photostatic copy and typed transcript of: Strang, James Jesse. Diary.   |           |

## Order of the Illuminati Covenant (WA MSS S-189)

- b. 5                      Order of the Illuminati. Covenant rituals and lists of members.                      1850-1870  
The covenant of the secret order within the Strangite Mormon church, signed by  
the members, and lists of members added up to 1870.
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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**

Mormons -- Michigan

### **Geographic Names**

Beaver Island (Mich.)

### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries -- United States

### **Names**

Losee, Myraette A. Strang, 1818-  
Strang, James Jesse, 1813-1856  
Strang, Mary Perce  
Tucker, C.

### **Corporate Body**

Order of the Illuminati