

# Guide to the Bronson Family Papers

MS 103



compiled by Susan Grigg

November 1979

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Inventory, 1753-1781, 1804-1898 .....	6
Index of Correspondents .....	8
Selected Search Terms .....	9

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 103

**CREATOR:** Bronson family

**TITLE:** Bronson Family papers

**DATES:** 1753-1898

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, legal and financial papers, a diary and miscellaneous items of the Bronson family of Washington, Connecticut. The largest part of the papers are those of Moseley Virgil Bronson (1806-1890), documenting his career as an officer of the Connecticut militia and as a teacher in New York and Connecticut. Of particular interest are the letters of Edna Moseley Todd, who moved to Virginia in 1821, and whose letters to various members of the family describe her life as a mother and school teacher, as well as offering comments on slavery and abolitionism. Also in the papers is the diary of Maria N. Fowler Ford, recording her experience as a physician's wife in Hawaii (1854-1858) and in New York and Connecticut (1858-1861). There are also miscellaneous papers of the Hollister family.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0103>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0103>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

Gift of Clarence W. Bronson between 1943 and 1949.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

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### Preferred Citation

Bronson Family Papers (MS 103). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Scope and Contents

The Bronson Family Papers, 1753-1902, consist of ten inches of correspondence, legal and financial papers, a diary, and miscellaneous items related mainly to the Bronson family of Washington, Conn. The largest segment of the papers concerns Moseley Virgil Bronson (1806-1890), son of Dr. Ira Virgil Bronson (1788-1866) and Sarah Ann (Moseley) Bronson (1775-1862).<sup>1</sup> There are also papers of his father, his father's parents, his mother's Moseley relations, and his brothers and sisters. Finally, there are a few non-family papers of the Hollister family and Maria N. (Fowler) Ford.

All the correspondence is in a single chronological sequence consisting mainly of these components (the principal place of residence being Washington, Conn., unless otherwise stated): › Ephraim and Bethiah Bronson of Locke, N.Y., and Groton, Conn., to their son and daughter-in-law, Ira V. and Sarah A. (Moseley) Bronson, 1813-1819 › Edna (Moseley) Todd of Richmond and Prince Edward County, Va., to various members of the Bronson family, 1821-1833, 1838-1846 › Family (mainly Ira V. and William C. Bronson) to Moseley V. Bronson, living in various places in N.Y. and Conn., 1827-1869 › Martha Bronson, at the State Normal School in New Britain, Conn., to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Moseley V. Bronson, 1857-1858 › Miscellaneous family and non-family, 1871-1902

The rest of the papers are filed alphabetically under the names of the persons to whom they belonged. Increase Moseley (1712-1795) is represented by a volume of his proceedings as justice of the peace in Woodbury, Conn., between 1753 and 1781. The papers of Moseley V. Bronson document his career as an officer of the Connecticut militia (12th Infantry Regt., Co. 5) and a teacher in New York and Connecticut. Ira V. Bronson, Lucy Ann (Whittlesey) Bronson, Susan M. Bronson, Walter W. Bronson, and William C. Bronson are represented by small quantities of miscellaneous material including legal and financial papers, records of teaching, and memorabilia. The diary of Maria N. (Fowler) Ford is a record of her experience as a physician's wife in Hawaii, 1854-1858, and in New York and Connecticut, 1858-1861. The unidentified papers include legal and financial papers, farm accounts, and some religious music.

<sup>1</sup>Dr. Bronson was born in Locke, N.Y., studied medicine with Dr. Everest in Simsbury, Conn., and settled in Washington, Conn., in 1804. The following year he married Sarah Ann Moseley (1775-1862), daughter of Abner Moseley and grand-daughter of Increase Moseley (1712-1795), justice of the peace in Woodbury, Conn.

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## **Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by Bronson family members.

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## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1753-1781, 1804-1898

b. 1, f. 1-10	Correspondence	1813-1890
b. 1, f. 11	Bronson, Ira Virgil (1778-1866): lease	1809
	Bronson, Lucy Ann (Whittlesey) (1820-)	
b. 1, f. 12	Funeral sermon for Deacon Whittlesey	1855
b. 1, f. 13	Legal and financial papers	1864-1899
b. 1, f. 14	School essays	undated
b. 1, f. 15	Mementoes from friends, photograph	undated
	Bronson, Moseley Virgil (1806-1890)	
	Military papers	
b. 1, f. 16	Rosters, inspection returns, and enlistment certificates	1824-1837
b. 1, f. 17	Commissions	1832-1838
b. 1, f. 18	Regimental orders	1835-1837
b. 1, f. 19	Orders to non-commissioned officers	1835-1837
	School papers	
b. 1, f. 20	Tuition records	1831-1850
b. 1, f. 21	Teaching certificates	1827-1853
b. 1, f. 22	Accounts for board and other financial papers	1834-1854
b. 1, f. 23	Students' attendance records	1839-1859
b. 1, f. 24	Legal and financial papers	1835-1877
b. 2, f. 25	Bronson, Susan M. (1814-): inventory of household goods	undated
	Bronson, Walter Whittlesey	
b. 2, f. 26	Essays	1865, 1870
b. 2, f. 26	Teaching certificates	1865
b. 2, f. 26	Records of students' attendance	1866
	Bronson, William C. (1811-1877)	
b. 2, f. 27	Notes re: religious experience	1831, 1834, undated
b. 2, f. 28	Account book	1835

## Bronson, William C. (1811-1877) (continued)

b. 2, f. 29	Financial and legal papers	1836-1864
b. 2, f. 30	Essay, "Upon Politics"	[pre-1837]
b. 2, f. 31	Sunday school reports and lists of pupils	1861-1862, undated
b. 2, f. 32	Proprietors' accounts for the District 5 school	1861-1863
b. 2, f. 33	List of apple trees	undated
b. 2, f. 34	Ford, Maria N. (Fowler): diary	1854-1861
b. 2, f. 35	Hollister family: legal and financial papers	1803-1876
b. 2, f. 36	Moseley, Increase (1712-1795): records of the Justice's Court of Woodbury, Connecticut	1753-1781
Miscellaneous and unidentified		
b. 2, f. 37	Connecticut census (printed, with unrelated annotations)	1774
b. 2, f. 38	Farm accounts	1804-1814
b. 2, f. 39	Deeds	1805-1878
b. 2, f. 40	Miscellaneous legal and financial papers	1834-1867, undated
b. 2, f. 41	Records of early-morning frost	1835 June- August
b. 2, f. 42	Music, lists of hymns	1835-1836, undated
b. 2, f. 43	Draft vote of church members to censure Augustus Smith	1864
b. 2, f. 43	Diary	1898
b. 2, f. 44	Genealogical notes	undated

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## Index of Correspondents

Allen, F. L. , 1877 Sep 6  
Andrews, John P. , 1853 Apr 15-1863 Oct 14, undated  
Baldwin, H. , 1851 Mar 25  
Beach, S. Y. , 1843 Aug 18  
Beeman, Oscar E. , 1891 Dec 7-1902 Jan 8  
Bronson, Bethiah (Virgil) , 1813 Oct 4-1819 Feb 19  
Bronson, Edwin , 1868 Dec 5-1874 Nov 9  
Bronson, Ephraim , 1813 Jan 20-1819 Jan 29  
Bronson, Harriett E. , Undated  
Bronson, Ira Virgil , 1829 Dec 25-1851 Jun 8  
Bronson, Jacob , 1819 Jul 2  
Bronson, Martha A. , 1857 Dec 4-1858 Dec 4, undated  
Bronson, Moseley Virgil , 1838 Apr 10-1851 Mar 31  
Bronson, Susan M. , 1831 Jun 26  
Bronson, Walter Whittlesey , 1871 Mar 8-1902 Jun 12  
Bronson, William Clark , 1832 Jan 21-1839 Dec 30  
Brooks, George , 1838 Sep 3  
Calhoun, Sarah , Undated  
Calhoun, Seth , 1834 Feb 11  
Cogshall, William S. , 1838 Feb 15  
Cooper, Daniel S. , 1865 Apr 18-1879 Jan 8  
Curtis, Eli , 1838 Jul 2  
Dimock, Marvin W. , 1852 Jan 13/14  
Doughty, Joseph C. , [1840?] Aug 31-1850 Feb 21  
Hammond, Charles , 1837 Mar 21  
Hayes, Gordon , 1842 Oct 15  
Hemingway, Merrit , 1838 Jun 8  
Hickox, Ithiel , 1838 Oct 30  
Leavitt, William W. , 1827 Dec 17-1838 Jun 12  
Moseley, W. G. , 1877 May 23  
Peck, D. A. , 1839 Feb 18  
Phelps, General , 1838 Apr 23  
Robertson, George B. , 1838 May 9  
Smith, A[ugustus] , 1869 Feb 15  
Smith, Ebenezer C. , 1828 Apr 17  
Smith, J. Homer , 1839 Feb 16  
Sperry, H G , 1835 May 28  
Sunbury, Mrs. James B. , 1853 Apr 12  
Todd, Edna (Moseley) , 1821 Nov 1-1846 Dec 19  
Wheaton, J. B. , 1845 May 22  
Whittlesey, Gould Camp , 1898 Jan 28  
Whittlesey, Sarah Deming , 1870 Mar 26  
Wood, Morgan L. , 1834 Nov 30-1835 Jan 10



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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

Agriculture -- Connecticut  
Armed Forces  
Clergy  
Education  
Educators  
Families  
House furnishings  
Law  
Missionaries -- United States  
Music  
Physicians  
Schools -- Connecticut  
Schools -- New York (State)  
Slavery -- United States  
Women -- Education

Cooper, Daniel S.  
Dimock, Marvin W.  
Moseley, Increase, 1712-1795  
Nettleton, Martha Augusta Bronson, 1841-  
Smith, J. Augustus  
Todd, Edna Moseley, 1796-1848

### Families

Branson family  
Hollis family  
Mosley family

### Corporate Bodies

First Church (Washington, Conn.)  
United States. Army. Connecticut Infantry, 12th  
Regiment

### Geographic Names

Asia  
Connecticut  
Hawaii -- Description and travel  
Virginia -- History  
Washington (Conn.)

### Genres / Formats

Diaries

### Occupations

Soldiers

### Names

Bronson, Bethiah Virgil  
Bronson, Ephraim  
Bronson, Ira Virgil, 1778-1866  
Bronson, Lucy Ann Whittlesey, 1820-  
Bronson, Moseley Virgil, 1806-1890  
Bronson, Sarah Ann Moseley, 1775-1862  
Bronson, Susan M., 1814-  
Bronson, Walter Whittlesey, 1848-  
Bronson, William Clark, 1811-1877  
Calhoun, Sarah  
Calhoun, Seth