

Guide to the Tomlinson Family Papers

MS 1172



compiled by Bruce P. Stark

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Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
(203) 432-1735
(203) 432-7441

beinecke.library@yale.edu

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1172

CREATOR: Tomlinson family

TITLE: Tomlinson family papers

DATES: 1758-1865

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, financial records, and legal documents of the Tomlinson and related families of Connecticut. Prominent in the correspondence are six letters (1826-1853) by Gideon Tomlinson, governor of Connecticut (1826-1831) and a series of Civil War letters (1862-1865) by Albert DeForest of the 14th Connecticut Volunteers. Also a farming diary (1793-1805) kept probably by Joel Beard of Stratford, and the daybook (1805-1812) of Curtiss Tomlinson, a farmer of Huntington. Additional account books include one kept (1843-1848) by Gideon Tomlinson for the account of Mrs. Clarina Brewster, and another kept by Stephen Tomlinson, a dyer of Stratford, from 1814 to 1845.

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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.1172>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Tomlinson Family Papers (MS 1172). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Gideon Tomlinson was born in Fairfield County, Connecticut on December 31, 1780. He was the son of Jabez H. and Rebecca (Lewis) Tomlinson. Jabez Huntington Tomlinson was a student at Yale and, in 1779, was captured by a party of British raiders and taken to New York. On his release he entered the army. Governor Gideon Tomlinson graduated from Yale College in 1802, then studied law, finally making his home in Fairfield. He was a member of congress between 1819-1827, and then became the eighth governor of Connecticut (1827-31). He resigned the governorship to enter the United States Senate. He was married to Sarah Bradley, and had two sons. He died October 8, 1854.

Scope and Contents

The Tomlinson Family Papers, which focus on several Tomlinsons and related families from the Stratford, Connecticut area, are housed in one box (18 folders).

Folders 1-6 contain correspondence. The two chief correspondents are Gideon Tomlinson (1780-1854) and Albert DeForest. Tomlinson was a congressman 1819-1827, governor of Connecticut 1827-1831, and senator 1831-1837. The papers contain six letters by and to him, the most important being letters from Tomlinson to Nathan Smith (1770-1835) 1826 Apr 4 discussing a political appointment and from Ingoldsby W. Crawford (1786-1867) 1835 Feb 25 refuting charges of irregularity in the building of the New London customs house. The second major correspondent, Albert DeForest, served in the 14th Connecticut Volunteers during the Civil War from 1862-1865. DeForest was not well educated but served his regiment well, beginning as a private and ending a lieutenant. He writes to his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Philo Birdseye of Stratford. Included in the correspondence are four other letters, written by Diodate Silliman in 1782, Augustus Tomlinson and his son Mark Tomlinson in 1863, and by Charles A. Hatch in 1864.

The remaining papers primarily concern three generations of Tomlinsons. The chief figures are Gideon Tomlinson (-1765) of Stratford, grandfather of the Connecticut governor; Jabez Huntington Tomlinson (1760-1849), father of the governor; Captain Joseph Tomlinson (-1774), brother of Gideon; his son Curtiss Tomlinson; and Stephen Tomlinson (1791-), son of Curtiss. Several documents and a court case relate to fishing rights for Curtiss Tomlinson. The papers also include unidentified diaries for 1793, 1800, and 1805 by a Stratford region farmer.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence	1782
b. 1, f. 2	Correspondence	1826-53
b. 1, f. 3	Correspondence	1862
b. 1, f. 4	Correspondence	1863
b. 1, f. 5	Correspondence	1864
b. 1, f. 6	Correspondence	1865
b. 1, f. 7	Deeds	1758-1812
b. 1, f. 8	Indenture	1836
b. 1, f. 9	Fishing Rights	1786-1815
b. 1, f. 10	Court Papers	1819-20
b. 1, f. 11	Bills, receipts	1770-95
b. 1, f. 12	Bills, receipts	1797-1825, undated
b. 1, f. 13	Accounts: Gideon Tomlinson and Mrs. Clarina Brewster	1843-48
b. 1, f. 14	Accounts, miscellaneous	1787-1822
b. 1, f. 15	Day book: Curtiss Tomlinson	1805-12
b. 1, f. 16	Ledger: Stephen Tomlinson	1814-45
b. 1, f. 17	Biographical material on Jabez Huntington Tomlinson, as related to Charles H. Booth in 1840: typescript	undated
b. 1, f. 18	Unidentified diaries Stratford area (attributed to Joel Beard)	1793, 1800, 1805

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
Families
Farmers

Geographic Names

Connecticut -- Politics and government --
1775-1865
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
United States -- Politics and government

Genres / Formats

Account books
Diaries

Occupations

Public officers
Soldiers

Names

Beard, Joel, 1765-1846
Brewster, Clarina Bradley
Crawford, Ingoldsby Work, 1786-1867
DeForest, Albert
Tomlinson, Curtiss, fl. 1779-1832
Tomlinson, Gideon, 1780-1854
Tomlinson, Jabez Huntington, 1760-1849
Tomlinson, Stephen, b. 1791

Families

Tomlinson family

Corporate Body

United States. Army. Connecticut Infantry
Regiment, 14th (1862-1865)