

# Guide to the Ezekiel Dodge Cushing Papers

MS 1494



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan

April 1989

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	3
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Selected Search Terms .....	7

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1494

**CREATOR:** Cushing, Ezekiel Dodge, 1790-1828

**TITLE:** Ezekiel Dodge Cushing papers

**DATES:** 1772-1839

**BULK DATES:** 1808-1828

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist primarily of correspondence of Ezekiel Dodge Cushing which documents his medical education at Dartmouth College, further medical studies in Philadelphia, London, and Paris, and medical practice in Boston. The papers also include correspondence of other family members and legal and financial documents.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1494>

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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.1494>.

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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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Ezekiel Dodge Cushing Papers (MS 1494). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Ezekiel Dodge Cushing was born on January 2, 1790, in Pembroke, Massachusetts. He was the first of seven children born to Nathaniel and Mehetabel Dodge Cushing. Ezekiel Dodge Cushing graduated from Harvard College in 1808, and then attended Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, New Hampshire, where he lived and studied with Nathan Smith. He received his M.D. degree in 1811 and pursued further medical studies in Philadelphia.

In 1812 Cushing went abroad for further medical training, first at the St. Thomas Hospital in London and after August, 1813, in Paris, where he observed in the Paris Hospital. Cushing returned to Boston in 1814 where he established his medical practice and in 1815 courted and married Delia Sawyer, daughter of David and Mary Haldane Sawyer.

Sometime in the early 1820s the Cushing family moved to Hanover, Massachusetts. It was here that Ezekiel Dodge Cushing died on April 5, 1828.

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## Scope and Contents

The Ezekiel Dodge Cushing Papers consist primarily of correspondence of Ezekiel Dodge Cushing, dating from 1808 to 1820, which documents Cushing's medical education and early medical practice in Boston. The correspondence is arranged in chronological order.

Letters to Cushing's parents and other family members describe his studies at Dartmouth, where he lived and worked with Nathan Smith. There are also letters from his sojourn in Rush, Barton, and Physick, as well as observations on current affairs and the population of the city. Letters from 1812 - 1813 document Cushing's work in London and Paris. There are also letters to Cushing from English acquaintances. Letters in 1815 relate to Cushing's medical practice in Boston and also convey Cushing's feelings on meeting his future wife and later on his impending marriage.

Later correspondence primarily concerns Cushing's medical practice and family affairs. Included in the files after 1815 are letters to Cushing from Nathan Smith. There correspondence files also include letters addressed to other family members. The last folder in the papers contains legal and financial documents and notes on Cushing Family genealogy.

The Ezekiel Dodge Cushing Papers were purchased by Dr. Harvey Cushing from Frank S. Collins, a rare book and manuscript dealer, in 1937. Though Harvey Cushing was only distantly related to Ezekiel Dodge Cushing, the Ezekiel Dodge Cushing Papers were stored as part of the Harvey Cushing materials housed in the Yale University Medical Historical Library. They were transferred to Manuscripts and Archives in April, 1989.

## **Arrangement**

Arranged by record type.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence	1772, 1808-1809
b. 1, f. 2 - 3	Correspondence	1810
b. 1, f. 4 - 6	Correspondence	1811-1813
b. 1, f. 7	Correspondence	1814-1819
b. 1, f. 8	Correspondence	1820-1828, 1839
b. 1, f. 9	Legal and financial papers; passport; family history; and printed matter	1814-1847, undated

## **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**

Medicine -- Study and teaching  
Physicians

### **Names**

Cushing, Ezekiel Dodge, 1790-1828  
Smith, Nathan, 1762-1829

### **Corporate Body**

Dartmouth Medical School -- Students