

# Guide to the Thomas Davis Day Papers

MS 1674



compiled by Elizabeth Pauk

August 1995

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

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1674

**CREATOR:** Day, Thomas Davis, 1820-1896

**TITLE:** Thomas Davis Day papers

**DATES:** 1837-1990

**BULK DATES:** 1837-1871

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.75 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Thomas Davis Day Papers consist of fifteen letterbooks, which range in date from 1839 to 1871, a book recounting the history of the Day family, *The Journals of Thomas Davis Day*, written by Stanley M. Rowe, Jr. in 1990, and a scrapbook. The letterbooks contain Day's personal and business correspondence. Letters from the 1840s to his mother and other family members chiefly concern family matters and his interest in family history. They also describe daily life in New Orleans, including yellow fever epidemics, and river boat travel on the Mississippi. Business letters pertain to Day's work for Slark, Day, and Stauffer, including descriptions of business travel to New York and Washington, D. C. Following Day's relocation to St. Louis in 1846, the letters provide details of his business and financial activities in the 1840s and 1850s. There is also some discussion of Day's pro-slavery views and of national politics during the years leading up to the Civil War. There are no entries, however, between 1860 and 1864. After the war, Day's letters are largely concerned with the dissolution of his partnership with Shapleigh, his subsequent financial difficulties, and the Day family's strained relationship with James Ingersoll Day over the latter's dishonest financial dealings and mistreatment of family members. Thomas Davis Day, merchant of New Orleans, St. Louis, and New York City, was born in Ohio in 1820. At age sixteen he moved to New Orleans to work for his brother, James Ingersoll Day (1812-1896), who was a partner in the hardware firm of Slark, Day, and Stauffer. In 1846, Thomas Davis Day moved to St. Louis and with Augustus F. Shapleigh formed a hardware business, Shapleigh and Day. He married Frances Helm of Natchez, Mississippi, in 1859. After the Civil War, Day experienced business troubles and dissolved his partnership with Shapleigh. He relocated to New York City in 1865 and founded the hardware firm of Day and Haley, which went into bankruptcy in 1871. Day died in 1896.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1674>

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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.1674>.

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 Stanley M. Rowe, Jr., 1994; gift of Snowden Rowe, 2004.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research. The letterbook volumes in boxes 1 to 3 of the original accession are available on microfilm. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals. The scrapbook in box 1 of Accession 2004-M-082 requires the assistance of staff of Manuscripts and Archives because of the fragility of the fold-out inserts, especially the maps.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by Thomas Davis Day and materials donated by Snowden Rowe are in the public domain. Copyright for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by Stanley M. Rowe, Jr. was transferred to Yale University. These materials may be used for non-commercial purposes without seeking permission from Yale University as the copyright holder. For other uses of these materials, please contact [beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu). Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Thomas Davis Day Papers (MS 1674). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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### Existence and Location of Copies

Letterbooks of Thomas Davis Day are available on microfilm (5 reels, 35mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM 235.

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## Biographical / Historical

Thomas Davis Day, merchant of New Orleans, St. Louis, and New York City, was born in Ohio in 1820. At age sixteen he moved to New Orleans to work for his brother, James Ingersoll Day (1812-1896), who was a partner in the hardware firm of Slark, Day, and Stauffer. In 1846, Thomas Davis Day moved to St. Louis and with Augustus F. Shapleigh formed a hardware business, Shapleigh and Day. He married Frances Helm of Natchez, Mississippi, in 1859. After the Civil War, Day experienced business troubles and dissolved his partnership with Shapleigh. He relocated to New York City in 1865 and founded the hardware firm of Day and Haley, which went into bankruptcy in 1871. Day died in 1896.

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## Scope and Contents

The Thomas Davis Day Papers consist of fifteen letterbooks, which range in date from 1839 to 1871, a book recounting the history of the Day family, *The Journals of Thomas Davis Day*, written by Stanley M. Rowe, Jr. in 1990, and a scrapbook. The letterbooks contain Day's personal and business correspondence. Letters from the 1840s to his mother and other family members chiefly concern family matters and his interest in family history. They also describe daily life in New Orleans, including yellow fever epidemics, and river boat travel on the Mississippi. Business letters pertain to Day's work for Slark, Day, and Stauffer, including descriptions of business travel to New York and Washington, D. C. Following Day's relocation to St. Louis in 1846, the letters provide details of his business and financial activities in the 1840s and 1850s. There is also some discussion of Day's pro-slavery views and of national politics during the years leading up to the Civil War. There are no entries, however, between 1860 and 1864. After the war, Day's letters are largely concerned with the dissolution of his partnership with Shapleigh, his subsequent financial difficulties, and the Day family's strained relationship with James Ingersoll Day over the latter's dishonest financial dealings and mistreatment of family members. Thomas Davis Day, merchant of New Orleans, St. Louis, and New York City, was born in Ohio in 1820. At age sixteen he moved to New Orleans to work for his brother, James Ingersoll Day (1812-1896), who was a partner in the hardware firm of Slark, Day, and Stauffer. In 1846, Thomas Davis Day moved to St. Louis and with Augustus F. Shapleigh formed a hardware business, Shapleigh and Day. He married Frances Helm of Natchez, Mississippi, in 1859. After the Civil War, Day experienced business troubles and dissolved his partnership with Shapleigh. He relocated to New York City in 1865 and founded the hardware firm of Day and Haley, which went into bankruptcy in 1871. Day died in 1896.

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## Arrangement

15 volumes of letterbooks, arranged in rough chronological order.

## Collection Contents

### Original accession

#### Thomas Davis Day Letterbooks

Patrons must use FILM HM 235 instead of the originals.

b. 1, f. 1reel 1U	Volume 1, 1839-1842 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.
b. 1, f. 2reel 1U	Volume 2, 1842-1845 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.
b. 1, f. 3reel 1U	Volume 3, 1848-1852 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.
b. 1, f. 4reel 2U	Volume 4, 1850-1851 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.
b. 1, f. 5reel 2U	Volume 5, 1851 May 9-1852 Jul 11 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.
b. 1, f. 6reel 2U	Volume 6, 1852 Apr 10-1854 Apr 30 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.
b. 2, f. 7reel 3U	Volume 7, 1852 Jul-1854, 1866 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.
b. 2, f. 8reel 3U	Volume 8, 1854 May-1855 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.
b. 2, f. 9reel 3U	Volume 9, 1855-1856, 1866-1867 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.
b. 2, f. 10reel 4U	Volume 10, 1854 May-1857 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.
b. 3, f. 11reel 4U	Volume 11, 1857 Jun-1858 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.
b. 3, f. 12reel 4U	Volume 12, 1858 May-1860 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.
b. 3, f. 13reel 5U	Volume 13, 1864 Jul-1866 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.
b. 3, f. 14reel 5U	Volume 14, 1866-1868 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.
b. 3, f. 15reel 5U	Volume 15, 1868-1871 This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 235 instead of the originals.

b. 4, f. 16

*The Journals of Thomas Davis Day*, by Stanley M. Rowe, Jr., 1990

The journals are not available on microfilm.

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**Accession 2004-M-082: Additional material, Circa 1839-1860**

The scrapbook contains handwritten accounts for sugar, cotton, and tobacco kept by Day's newspaper clippings; several broadsides, including ones for the Cuban Lottery (1860) and the new Orleans Lottery (1839); a hand-drawn plan of Dat's room; and other printed ephemera. It also contains three folded maps in extremely fragile condition: military map of parts of Kansas, Nebraska, and Dakota by G. K. Warren, from explorations (1855-1857); map of Pilot Knob, Missouri; and map of the Hudson River (1830).

This accession is not available on microfilm.

The scrapbook requires the assistance of staff of Manuscripts and Archives because of the fragility of the fold-out inserts, especially the maps.

b. 1, f. 1

[Scrapbook](#)

Circa 1839-1860

This scrapbook requires the assistance of staff of Manuscripts and Archives because of the fragility of the fold-out inserts, especially the maps.

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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.

Slark, Day, and Stauffer (New Orleans, La.)

### Subjects

Businessmen -- History -- 19th century  
Families -- History -- 19th century  
Hardware industry -- History -- 19th century  
Merchants -- History -- 19th century

### Geographic Names

Alabama -- Description and travel -- 19th century  
New Orleans (La.) -- Economic conditions -- 19th century  
New Orleans (La.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century  
New York (N.Y.) -- Economic conditions -- 19th century  
New York (N.Y.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century  
New York -- Economic conditions -- 19th century  
New York -- Social life and customs -- 19th century  
Saint Louis (Mo.) -- Economic conditions -- 19th century  
Saint Louis (Mo.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century  
United States -- Description and travel  
United States -- Politics and government -- 19th century

### Names

Day, James Ingersoll, 1812-1896  
Day, Thomas Davis, 1820-1896  
Helm, Frances  
Rowe, Stanley M.  
Shapleigh, Augustus F.

### Families

Brown family

### Corporate Bodies

Day and Haley (New York, N.Y.)  
Shapleigh and Day (Saint Louis, Mo.)