

Guide to the Elias Perkins Papers

MS 1013



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

July 1983

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1013

CREATOR: Perkins, Elias, 1767-1845

TITLE: Elias Perkins papers

DATES: 1784-1833

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence and miscellaneous documents reflecting Elias Perkins attendance at Yale College (1782-1786) and his political activities as a member of the 7th Congress of the U.S. and as judge of the New London County Court. Also included are papers of Nathaniel Shaw Perkins documenting his Yale career (1808-1812), his service in the War of 1812, and his admission to the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. The papers also include a letter on Nathaniel Shaw from the U.S. State Department (1900).

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1013>

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.1013>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to 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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Separated from the Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Papers, 1951 and 1980.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Elias Perkins Papers (MS 1013). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Elias Perkins was born in Newent Society, now Lisbon, Connecticut, on April 5, 1767. A twin-brother was graduated a year later, and an older brother a year earlier.

He left College with a high reputation for scholarship and after studying law settled in practice in New London, Connecticut, where he married on March 14, 1790, Lucretia Shaw, the only surviving daughter of the Rev. Ephraim Woodbridge (Yale 1765).

He was one of the Representatives of the city in the General Assembly during eight sessions between 1795 and 1800, and again in 1814 and 1815,--in which last session, as in one in 1798, he served as Speaker of the House.

At a comparatively early date (1799) he was appointed an Assistant Judge of the County, and in 1807 was promoted to the rank of Chief Judge, which he retained until 1825.

In politics he was a Federalist, and as such was elected to Congress for one term, 1801 to 1803. Later he was in the State Senate for six years, from 1817 to 1822, being also for this period *ex-officio* a Fellow of the Yale Corporation.

From 1829 to 1832 he was Mayor of New London.

He was the first President of the New London Bank, which was chartered in 1807.

In 1817 he was chosen to be a Deacon in the First Congregational Church in New London. An engraving from his full-length portrait is given in a volume of the *American National Register*.

His wife died on March 6, 1802, in her 29th year; and he next married on February 11, 1805, Mary, second daughter of John and Lucretia (Christophers) Mumford, of the present township of Salem, Connecticut, who died on March 22, 1830, in her 56th year.

By his first wife he had four sons and two daughters. The first and second sons were both graduated at Yale in 1812, and the others died in infancy. The younger daughter married Charles Griswold (Yale 1808).

Mr. Perkins died in New London on September 27, 1845, in his 79th year.

Two of his private letters to Governor Griswold (1800-01) are printed in the *Family-Histories and Genealogies* of Mr. And Mrs. Salisbury.

(Taken from *Biographical Sketches of Yale College*, F. B. Dexter, pp. 502-503).

Scope and Contents

This collection contains certificates and other papers of Elias Perkins and his son Nathaniel Shaw Perkins. The papers of Elias Perkins consist of several letters, notices, and certificates recording his election to Phi Beta Kappa, his election to Congress, his appointment to the public examination committee for Yale College, his appointment as judge of the New London, Connecticut, County Court, and votes of thanks from Yale officials, as well as his Yale B.A. diploma. There are also two orations by Perkins and a copy of the Freshman Laws, possibly in his hand.

The papers of Nathaniel Shaw Perkins (1797-1870) consist of a receipt for his Yale College tuition, his B.A. and M.A. diplomas, certificates of appointment as a military surgeon, receipts and cards of admission to classes at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, and a certificate of appointment as a royal arch mason.

The final item in the collection is a letter from the United States State Department to Nathaniel Shaw Perkins (1822-1905) concerning Nathaniel Shaw.

These papers were separated in 1951 and 1980 from the Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Papers (Ms. Gr. No. 445). The latter collection was given to Yale University as a memorial to Nathaniel Shaw Perkins by his daughter, Jane R. Perkins, and her brothers in 1926.

Collection Contents

Elias Perkins, 1767-1845

b. 1, f. 1	Oration: "A Dispute"	1784 April 18
b. 1, f. 2	Oration, untitled, delivered at commencement	1786 September 13
b. 1, f. 3	Yale B.A. diploma, signed by Ezra Stiles and others	1786
b. 1, f. 4	ALS: notice of election as Phi Beta Kappa orator, signed by Sam Austin	1789 July 20
b. 1, f. 5	ALS relating to election to the 7th Congress of the U.S., signed by Gov. Jonathan Trumbull	1800 October 17
b. 1, f. 6	Certificate of appointment as judge of New London County Court, signed by Gov. Jonathan Trumbull	1808 May 20
b. 1, f. 7	ALS: concerning the Connecticut Agricultural Society, from John Humphreys for himself and Eli Whitney	1819 April 14
b. 1, f. 8	Certificate of appointment as judge of New London County Court, signed by Oliver Wolcott	1820 May 25
b. 1, f. 9	Vote of thanks of the Yale Faculty, signed by Jeremiah Day	1920 September 8
b. 1, f. 10	ALS: notice of appointment to the committee to attend the public examination at Yale, signed by Jeremiah Day	1821 August 16
b. 1, f. 11	Certificate of appointment as judge of New London County Court, signed by Oliver Wolcott	1822 May 30
b. 1, f. 12	Vote of thanks from Yale College treasurer, Wyllys Warner	1833 March 1
b. 1, f. 13	"The Freshman Laws" English	undated

Nathaniel Shaw Perkins, 1797-1870

b. 1, f. 14	Yale tuition receipt, signed by S. Twining	1808 September 8
b. 1, f. 15	Yale B.A. diploma, signed by Timothy Dwight	1812
b. 1, f. 16	Appointment as surgeon's mate in Lt. Col. William Moore's 3rd Regiment, Waterford, signed by William Moore	1813 July 16
b. 1, f. 17	Yale M.A. diploma, signed by Timothy Dwight	1813
b. 1, f. 18	Receipts and certificates of admission to classes at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine	1814-1815
b. 1, f. 19	Appointment as surgeon in Lt. Col. Nathan Frank's 2nd Regiment, Horse Artillery, New London, signed by Nathan Frank	1816 August 13

b. 1, f. 20	Certificate of appointment as royal arch mason, New London, signed by Ebenezer Perkins and others	1818 February
b. 1, f. 21	Nathaniel Shaw Perkins, 1822-1905: letter from the U.S. State Department concerning Nathaniel Shaw, signed by Andrew Allen	

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

Lawyers
Students

Occupations

Politicians

Names

Perkins, Elias, 1767-1845
Perkins, N. S. (Nathaniel Shaw), 1792-1870
Shaw, Nathaniel, 1735-1782

Corporate Bodies

Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1786
Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1812
Yale University -- Students