

Guide to the Lewis Family Papers

MS 624



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 624

CREATOR: Lewis family

TITLE: Lewis family papers

DATES: 1811-1918

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.75 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The principal figure in these papers is Addin Lewis, who was the first Collector of the District of Mobile and later mayor of the city. The outgoing correspondence is made up of his official letters as Collector and contain several on the smuggling of slaves. The incoming correspondence contains both business and family letters. Notable correspondents include David Daggett and Jeremiah Day. Also included are financial and legal papers concerning Addin Lewis's real estate transactions in Mobile as well as papers kept by the executors of his estate. Other items in the collection are an autograph album of 1823-1826 belonging to Hannah Maria Lewis Bishop and an inventory of the estates of Isaac Chauncey and Harriet Pomeroy Lewis of Meriden, Connecticut.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0624>

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.0624>.

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

Transferred from White Brothers law office in 1915.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. 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.

Preferred Citation

Lewis Family Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Addin Lewis (1780-1842), fourth son of Captain Nathaniel and Sarah (Gridley) Lewis, of that part of Southington, Connecticut which is now Wolcott, and grandson of Nathan and Mary (Gridley) Lewis, was born in Southington on January 4, 1780.

In 1804 he accepted a position as Instructor or Tutor in the University of Georgia, at Athens, and remained there for four years. In this service he had gained such reputation and esteem that he was appointed the first Collector of the District of Mobile, without his solicitation. The importance of the office induced his acceptance, though the emoluments were small; and he found the position, as that of the chief representative of the general government, one with scope for all his powers.

At the same time he filled the office of Postmaster, and was made Mayor of the city and President of the local bank.

As years passed he became identified with all the public interests of the city and vicinity, and amassed quite a fortune. Having suffered for years from consumption, and being wearied of long official service, he retired at length from all his duties.

For some years he spent the summers in Connecticut, and the winters in the South. Finally, becoming a good deal deaf, he settled about 1827 permanently in New Haven and died here on April 7, 1842, in his 63rd year.

He was married, by the Rev. David L. Ogden (Yale 1814), on September 29, 1823, to Fanny, second daughter of his own cousin, Seth Lewis (Yale 1783), of Southington, and widow of Anson Judd, of Southington and Philadelphia. Two of her sisters married Yale graduates Timothy Jones (1804), and Dr. E. Huggins Bishop (1826). She died in New Haven on December 2, 1832, in her 43d year. Their children were three daughters, all of whom died young.

In his will he provided, after the death of his only surviving daughter without issue, for the gift of \$10,000 to the town of Wolcott for the support of public schools, of \$15,000 to the town of Southington for the building and maintenance of an Academy, and of \$5,000 for the Yale Library.

Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, Vol. V, 1792-1805, pp. 598-599.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Addin Lewis (1780-1842) make up the bulk of this collection. Outgoing correspondence (1811-1832) is found in a letter book dealing with Lewis' official business as collector of the port of Mobile, Alabama. Among the routine letters are several on the smuggling of slaves in contravention of the Non-Importation Act of 1808. There are also incoming business and family letters (1831-1842). Notable correspondents include David Daggett and Jeremiah Day. The rest of the Addin Lewis material consists of miscellaneous papers and maps relating to land sales in Mobile and of papers from Lewis' estate, both correspondence of executors William R. Hitchcock, Isaac H. Townsend, and Henry Ward, and a variety of wills and other legal documents, inventories, and administrative accounts.

Other Lewis family material in the papers includes an autograph album of Hannah Maria (Lewis) Bishop (1805-72), cousin and sister-in-law of Addin Lewis, and of her mother, Rhoda (Cole) Lewis (1766-1854), and an account book from the estates of Isaac Chauncey Lewis (1812-1893) and Harriet (Pomeroy) Lewis (d. 1899) of Meriden, Connecticut.

Collection Contents

Addin Lewis		
b. 1, f. 1	Letter book	1811-1832
b. 1, f. 2 - 4	Correspondence A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1831-1842
b. 1, f. 5	Miscellaneous papers	1826-1832, undated
b. 1, f. 6 - 8	Executors' correspondence	1842-1870
b. 1, f. 9 - 18	Estate papers	1836-1870
b. 2, f. 19	Hannah Maria (Lewis) Bishop: autograph album	1823-1826
b. 2, f. 20	Isaac C. Lewis and Harriet (Pomeroy) Lewis: account book from their estates	[1893?]-1918

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

African Americans
Families
Shipping
Slave trade -- United States

Geographic Names

Connecticut
Meriden (Conn.)
Mobile (Ala.) -- History
Southern States

Occupations

Public officers

Names

Bishop, Hannah Maria Lewis, 1805-1872
Daggett, David, 1764-1851
Day, Jeremiah, 1773-1867
Hitchcock, William R.
Lewis, Addin, 1780-1842
Lewis, Harriet Pomeroy, d. 1899
Lewis, Isaac Chauncey, 1812-1893
Lewis, Rhoda Cole, 1766-1854
Townsend, Isaac Henry, 1803-1847
Ward, Henry, 1732-1797

Families

Lewis family