

Guide to the Bennett Upson Papers

MS 678



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

October 1981

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 678

CREATOR: Upson, Bennett, 1809-1856

TITLE: Bennett Upson papers

DATES: 1836-1858

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence between Bennett Upson of Wolcott, Connecticut, and his wife, Ursula Hotchkiss Upson, who, after her husband's death, became a spiritualist. There is also correspondence with other family members in addition to some business correspondence and miscellaneous papers. The correspondence is largely concerned with his work as an agent travelling through the South for Atkins, Allen & Co. of Bristol, Connecticut. There is much about his long absences from home and his business problems in collecting debts and selling cotton gins in Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. There is also one letter (1858) relating to Mrs. Upson's dealings with spiritualism.

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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 materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Bennett Upson Papers (MS 678). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Scope and Contents

These papers consist mainly of correspondence between Bennett Upson (1809-1856) of Wolcott, Connecticut, and his wife, Ursula (Hotchkiss) Upson, who became a spiritualist of some minor note after her husband's death. There is in addition some correspondence with other family members, and with business acquaintances. The letters are largely concerned with his work as an agent travelling through the South for Atkins, Allen, & Company of Bristol, Connecticut. There is much about his long absences from home and about his business problems collecting debts and selling cotton gins in Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. There is also one letter (1858) relating to Ursula Upson's dealings with spiritualism, and some miscellaneous papers, among which are what appear to be spirit messages from Bennett Upson and others.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1 - 5	Family correspondence	1836-1858
b. 1, f. 6	Business correspondence	1836-1853
b. 1, f. 7	Miscellaneous papers	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

Business
Businessmen
Cotton gins and ginning
Spiritualism

Geographic Names

Southern States -- Description and travel
Wolcott (Conn. : Town) -- History

Names

Upson, Bennett, 1809-1856
Upson, Ursula Hotchkiss, 1815-1863

Corporate Body

Atkins, Allen & Co