

Guide to the Shadrach Osborn Papers

MS 1035



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1035

CREATOR: Osborn, Shadrach, 1747-1838

TITLE: Shadrach Osborn papers

DATES: 1765-1838

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence and financial papers of Shadrach Osborn, a general merchant of Southbury, Connecticut, who was also active as a commissary during the Revolutionary War. Also included are the records of his business associate, Truman Hinman and his son, Erastus Osborn, who was sheriff of New Haven County. An account book for purchases from wholesale suppliers covers the period 1783-1792. The three letters in the papers are from Erastus Osborn. One dated 1812 describes a town-gown riot in New Haven, Connecticut and two written to his father in January 1824 report the discovery of a body stolen by Yale medical students from the West Haven, Connecticut burying ground.

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Requesting Instructions

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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 collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Shadrach Osborn Papers (MS 1035). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Shadrach Osborn was born on April 14, 1747, in the parish of Southbury, Connecticut. Little is known of his early life. During the Revolutionary War, he purchased and issued commissary departments. At the end of the war, Osborn was appointed a state purchaser of provisions for the army. He died on August 27, 1838.

Scope and Contents

This collection is composed almost entirely of business papers of Shadrach Osborn, a general merchant of Southbury, Connecticut, and of his son, who was a sheriff of New Haven County. Included are miscellaneous financial papers such as receipts, orders, and so forth, and an account book listing primarily invoices for purchases by Osborn from wholesale suppliers.

Three letters written by Erastus Osborn from New Haven are also included in the collection. The first describes a "town-and-gown" riot in April of 1812, and the other two, written in January of 1824, describe the discovery of a body stolen by Yale medical students from the West Haven graveyard.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged chronologically.

Collection Contents

Miscellaneous financial papers

b. 1, f. 1 - 34	1765-1805	
b. 2, f. 35 - 49	1806-1838	
b. 2, f. 49a	Letters	1812, 1824
b. 3, f. 50	Account book	1783-1792

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
General stores
Merchants

Geographic Names

Connecticut
New Haven (Conn.)
Southbury (Conn.)
United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca.
1600-1775
United States -- History -- Revolution,
1775-1783

Genres / Formats

Account books

Names

Hinman, Truman, b. 1731
Osborn, Erastus, b. 1785
Osborn, Shadrach, 1747-1838

Corporate Bodies

Yale University. School of Medicine
Yale University -- History
Yale University -- Students