

# Guide to the Elisha Lord Cleaveland Papers

MS 139



compiled by Marguerite S. Witkop and Janet Elaine Gertz

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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 139

**CREATOR:** Cleaveland, Elisha Lord, 1806-1866

**TITLE:** Elisha Lord Cleaveland papers

**DATES:** 1834-1866

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 11 linear feet (32 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers deal chiefly with his ministry in the Third Congregational Church of New Haven and include diaries, account books, clippings, lecture notes, and sermons. The 1,300 sermons make up three-fourths of the papers. His diaries (1850-1864) are largely a record of his ministerial duties, but also contain an account of his brother's death (December 1863) and of his visits to a criminal condemned to be executed (July 1846). The lecture notes were apparently intended for use at the Andover Theological Seminary.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0139>

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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.0139>.

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 Ruth Cleaveland Monroe, 1959.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## 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Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain.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.

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## Preferred Citation

Elisha Lord Cleaveland Papers (MS 139). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Elisha Lord Cleaveland was born in 1806 and died in New Haven, Connecticut on February 16, 1866. He was a clergyman and author. He graduated from Bowdoin college in 1829, Andover Seminary in 1832, and attended Yale Theological Seminary.

Source: *The Geneology of the Cleveland and Cleaveland Families*, by Edmund Janes Cleveland, 1899.

For a chart outlining the genealogical relations of the Cleaveland family, please consult the [Genealogical Chart](#).

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## Scope and Contents

These papers of Elisha Lord Cleaveland deal largely with his ministry in the Third Congregational Church of New Haven, Connecticut, from 1833 until his death in 1866. Three quarters of the papers consist of sermons by Cleaveland in a series numbered up to 1,402; approximately 1,300 are preserved here. Other writings by Cleaveland include notes on various subjects, and a number of lectures, some bound in notebooks and apparently intended for use at Andover Theological Seminary.

Three diaries, a record of ministerial duties, and a journal provide insight into Cleaveland's ministry. All five volumes detail church activities, texts of sermons preached and heard, visits to parishioners, and so forth, as well as occasional personal matters such as his reading, his health, and visits to neighboring towns. Some family events are recorded, including the prolonged illness and death of his brother, John, in December 1863 (folder 4). While routine church duties form the bulk of the contents of these volumes, there are some unusual items. The record of ministerial duties provides an account of Cleaveland's visits to a condemned criminal and of his feelings while officiating at the execution (folder 3a, Jul 1846), and an account of a daughter's mystical experience (Feb 1848).

Other miscellaneous items contained here are: an account book of the Third Congregational Society of New Haven; a personal account book; clippings about the Third Society and copies of other newspaper articles; and a certificate recording Trumbull Cleaveland being made a church member.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in two parts: Diaries, accounts, and related materials; Sermons.

## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1834-1866

11 linear feet (32 boxes)

#### Diaries, accounts, and related materials

##### Diary

b. 1, f. 1	1850-1855	1850-1855
b. 1, f. 2	1855-1860	1855-1860
b. 1, f. 3	1864 English	1864
b. 1, f. 3a	Record of ministerial duties	1845-1850
b. 1, f. 4	Journal [of ministerial duties]	1860-1866
b. 1, f. 5	Account book kept with the Third Society of New Haven	1842- 1866
b. 2, f. 6	Account book	1856-1866
b. 2, f. 7	Clippings concerning the Third Congregational Society of New Haven	Undated
b. 2, f. 8	Certificate of Trumbull Cleaveland's having been made a church member	1866
	27 sermons [by ELC's uncle, John Cleaveland, 1749/50-1815?] Transferred to John Cleaveland Papers (MS 882), 1983 Jan 7.	1807-1810
b. 2, f. 10	Copies of newspaper articles, 1774-1776	1863
b. 2, f. 11	Notes	Undated
b. 2, f. 12	Unidentified address "In Behalf of Seamen"	Undated
b. 3, f. 13	Unidentified notebook for lecture Andover Theological Seminary, Professor [Moses?] Stuart	[Circa 1810-1848]
b. 3, f. 14-17	Unidentified notebooks for lectures [Andover Theological Seminary?]	[Circa 1810-1848]
b. 4	Lectures by ELC	1839-1840, 1851
b. 5	Sermons	
b. 5	<i>Catalog of Sermons</i> , vol. I, nos. 1-517 English	1832-1844
b. 5	<i>Catalog of Sermons</i> , vol. II, nos. 518-899 English	1844-1853
b. 5	Nos. 59-78	
b. 6	Nos. 79-80, 82-100	
b. 7	Nos. 107-112, 118, 120-133	

## Sermons (continued)

b. 8	Nos. 134-138, 140-155
b. 9	Nos. 156-179
b. 10	Nos. 180-186, 188, 190, 223-231, 233-237
b. 11	Nos. 238, 240-244, 267-286
b. 12	Nos. 287-319
b. 13	Nos. 320-327, 329-335, 337, 339-370, 373-374, 378-381, 383-386
b. 14	Nos. 391-392, 398, 403, 405-406, 409-410, 413-416, 419, 425, 428, 432-433, 435, 437, 442-444, 446-448, 452-453, 456, 481-484, 487-489, 491-492, 496-497, 501-511, 513-515, 576-589
b. 15	Nos. 591-592, 595, 597, 599-600, 602-603, 606, 610-623, 625, 627-632, 636-676
b. 16	Nos. 677-688, 690-710, 712-719, 721-727
b. 17	Nos. 729-762
b. 18	Nos. 763-789, 792-793, 795-796
b. 19	Nos. 799-804, 806-810, 812-813, 815, 829-847
b. 20	Nos. 849-855, 857-880
b. 21	Nos. 881-886, 888-922
b. 22	Nos. 923-925, 927-957
b. 23	Nos. 958-975, 977-990
b. 24	Nos. 991-999, 1034, 1036-1059
b. 25	Nos. 1061, 1063-1065, 1067-1071, 1073-1100
b. 26	Nos. 1101-1120, 1122-1131, 1133-1135
b. 27	Nos. 1136-1150, 1152-1166
b. 28	Nos. 1167, 1169-1187, 1189-1197, 1199-1200, 1233-1239
b. 29	Nos. 1240-1256, 1259-1265, 1267-1275
b. 30	Nos. 1276-1293, 1295-1305
b. 31	Nos. 1306-1330, 1361-1368
b. 32	Nos. 1369-1370, 1372, 1374, 1376-1402

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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.

### **Subjects**

Clergy  
Congregational churches -- Connecticut  
Death  
Executions and executioners  
Theology -- Study and teaching

### **Geographic Names**

New Haven (Conn.) -- Religion

### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries  
Sermons

### **Names**

Cleaveland, Elisha Lord, 1806-1866

### **Corporate Bodies**

Andover Theological Seminary  
Third Congregational Church (New Haven,  
Conn.)  
Third Congregational Society (New Haven,  
Conn.)